

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

### Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Present: Mr D.N. Herriman, in the Chair, Mrs C.A. Baker & Messrs P. Deakin, K. Andrews, R.T.J. Briers, T. Fitzgerald, J.B. Morgan, J.T. Hughes, M.J. Worsley & M. Downs.

In attendance: Messrs D. Clarke, S. Urquhart & D. Southern.

Apologies: Messrs S.R. Blackburn, J.S. Greenwood, A.S. Kerboas & B.H. Stott.

#### RDO Report.

SU reported:-

1. Professional staff are working on the transition of players from U16s > Colts > Seniors by using the initiative of joint training sessions. It is easier to retain than recruit.
2. The next Inner Warrior window to grow the Womens game by club supported initiatives is 13<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April. Leyland Warriors have been successful using this with 10 new players creating a squad of 25
3. Natwest Rugby Force – 26 Applicants, 15 plus a reserve have been selected.
4. Issues had arisen with the booking of the AGP at Preston. Several people in the County had to open accounts to book and were using their own credit cards to cover costs. As of the new financial year (1<sup>st</sup> July) the RFU have offered a certain number of hours in credit which the finance team will set up a system and control.
5. Steve Borthwick will present a course on Principles of Lineout at Preston Grasshoppers on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

DS reported:-

6. Held a good meeting with the referees societies to get students in to referring as well as playing and coaching. The three university clusters had been created, Merseyside, Manchester and North Lancs.
7. Sale Sharks have been very supportive in forming mixed ability rugby groups at West Park, Oldershaw and Aldwinians.
8. Project Rugby – a PRL and RFU partnership focusing on social and ethnic minorities with initiatives at Wythenshawe, Bury/Sedgley Park & Broughton Park.
9. Held a meeting with John Powell of NOWIRUL. Highlighted issues with lower level cheshire leagues and had a productive meeting with some of the players at those clubs. The players suggested starting the season in October.

DS & SU left the meeting.

#### Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

#### Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## RFU Report

A written report was given to the meeting by KA as below:-

1. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - RFU's GDPR toolkit for clubs, referee societies and Constituent Bodies currently in trial and due for release very soon.
2. On 25th October 2018, the UK will adopt new laws to bring into effect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). GDPR builds on existing data protection law to give individuals more rights in relation to their data, and places an increased onus on all organisations, whether commercial companies or not-for-profit organisations such as rugby clubs, to secure individuals' data.
  - The RFU has created a toolkit to help clubs, referee societies and CBs in the following ways:
  - to understand what the new data protection laws require;
  - to provide practical steps to achieve compliance; and
  - to signpost to further resources to help achieve compliance.
3. Community Club 'Health of the Game' Consultation Roadshow 2018  
During April and May this year RFU will be embarking on a community club consultation roadshow around the country, speaking to club committee members, international ticket officers, and members of constituent body executive committees / boards. This will provide clubs with the opportunity to consider the latest National Rugby Survey results, discuss the health of the community game, and review proposals as to how **international tickets** may be allocated to clubs in the future based on the amount of rugby being played.  
**Lancashire Roadshow- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Preston Grasshoppers RF 6.30 to 9.30 pm**
4. Regulation change around 'Out of Season' activity  
Following approval by RFU Council, the important changes to regulation 15 concerning Out of Season activity are effective immediately and therefore covers Summer 2018.
  - *In summary the following is permitted:*
  - *At U11 and below, non-contact training only;*
  - *At U12 and 13, in addition to the above, non-contact matches and competition (if approved by the CB or CSU);*
  - *At U14, 15 and 16, in addition to the above, XRugby7s contact matches and competition and preparation\* (if approved by the CB or CSU);*
  - *At U17 and 18, in addition to the above, 7-a-side contact matches and competition and preparation\* (if approved by the CB or CSU).*
5. Insurance support for clubs' tour programmes  
Full details of the specialist travel cover Howden have designed with the RFU, to dovetail with club combined liability and personal accident insurances, can be found at [www.englandrugbyinsurance.co.uk/tours](http://www.englandrugbyinsurance.co.uk/tours)
6. Inaugural Tyrrells Premier 15s Final  
The inaugural Tyrrells Premier 15s final will be held at west London club, Ealing Trailfinders on 29th April (3pm kick off, live on Sky Sports Action & Sky Sports Mix).
7. 'The future of Girls CB rugby and player pathway' roadshow  
The roadshow has been designed to allow those involved in the delivery of Girls CB rugby in England, to attend a regional evening event and discuss the overview of Women & Girls action plan and player pathway. The meeting will be held at Broughton Park RFC Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

There were no questions against the RFU report.

## Finance & Funding Report

PD presented the Board with the Balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year to date.

## RDC Report

TF presented a written report to the meeting:-

1. Planning has started for a Lancashire RFU sponsored Student 7s festival to be held in April. The festival will be at TMV. Male and female teams from a number of universities across the County have expressed an interest in entering. Referees will be provided by the student societies. This follows on from the success last month of the Manchester Student 10s – also Sponsored by the Lancashire RFU Rugby Development Centre.
2. Information was received regarding a proposal to form a Lancashire RFU approved academy for female players. Following on from Lancashire RFU enquiries, the proposed academy will not be going ahead. A coach associated with the preparations was identified as having been a coach with a Lancashire Girls squad until the end of the squad's current season in November.
3. Lancashire RFU has been invited to participate in the Children's Village at the Royal Lancashire Show in July. The aim is to highlight children's activities in the County including taster sessions for a range of sports. If the Board agrees to exploratory talks taking place with the organisers (including appropriate safeguarding checks on them), my advice to the Board would be for Lancashire RFU to jointly with the RFU Professional staff resurrect the RFU road show/taster activities of previous years and put that project to the organisers for consideration.
4. The Lancashire website now carries an introduction and links to RFU resources to help volunteers in clubs including a number of coaching specific ones. These are largely within the Keep Your Boots on Website <http://keepyourbootson.co.uk/> where there is a bank of materials for Coaching, Rugby Safety and Match officiating. The Managing Coaches Section <http://keepyourbootson.co.uk/rugby-coach/managing-coaches/> provides tips and advice on recruiting and working with coaches; the Video Library contained there gives ideas and material for coaches <http://keepyourbootson.co.uk/kybo-video-library/> - the Game Changer series will be of use to coaches in all age grades seeking new ways to develop their squads.
5. The Lancashire Coaching Group will be launched by the end of March 2018. Warren Spragg will coordinate it under the leadership of the Lancashire Rugby Development Centre. The aim of the group is to identify and work with adult club 1<sup>st</sup> XV coaches. The purpose is to provide a support and development forum for coaches and give them a point of contact with colleagues who are facing similar issues weekly. There will be regular opportunities for interaction and the exchange of ideas. The group will be used to introduce participants to the variety of technical resources available including the keep your boots on and web videos mentioned above. There will be workshops and regular meetings. Arrangements are now being made to invite coaches to participate; we will also include County Team Coaches at U20 and Senior Level. Target clubs are: National 1 (level 3) National 2 N (level 4) Northern Premier (level 5 ) North 1 W (level 6) North Lancs. /Cumbria (level 7) South Lancs. /Cheshire (level 7) – that would be a total of 30 clubs : Fylde (Level 3) Sedgley Park (4) Preston Grasshoppers (5) Rossendale (5) Vale of Lune (6) Firwood Waterloo (6) Blackburn (6) Warrington (6) Burnage (6) Manchester (6) Rochdale (6) Tarleton (7) De La Salle (7) Oldham (7) Fleetwood (7) Aldwinians (7) Bolton (7) Trafford MV (7) Eccles (7) Burnley (7) Littleborough (7) Broughton Park (7) Leigh (7) LSH (7) Sefton (7) Man Medics ( 7 ) West Park (7) Southport (7) Widnes (7) Tyldesley (7). Subject to confirmation of the league level of teams listed on the WRFU website, coaches from adult 1<sup>st</sup> XV from female teams would be eligible to join the group. As the group develops associate membership will be offered to wider range of coaches involved in the delivery of the adult game and the possibility of inviting university coaches to join the group is being considered

6. The RFU is running masterclass sessions on AGP's throughout the Country. As part of this, Preston Grasshoppers has been selected to host a masterclass on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 @ 7-9pm with England and Lions Forwards Coach Steve Borthwick. The session will also have a member of the Professional Match Official team on hand to work with referees. The cost for delegates will be £15 and bookable online. Local members of the RFU delivery team will be there on the evening to facilitate. No further details of the session are available at this time.
7. Games are still being scouted for the Male Senior XV County championship programme. Players are now confirming their availability and response has been good from both seasoned veterans and players who are new to Lancashire. The W & G Section has, as yet, to report their preparations for the Womens County Championship this season.
8. The U20s started their campaign in the U20s County Championship programme with a resounding win over Staffordshire with a score of 69 – 0. The U17s have also had a successful start to their season with a win over Cheshire
9. TF will meet with the CB Hon. Medical Advisor next week to progress the implementation of the CB Medical Steering Group. A number of development, training and deployment matters have been highlighted. Further reports will be available as matters progress.
10. A group from the Lancashire Show had approached the County to see if there was an interest in taking a stand and promoting rugby in some way. The Board approved that the RDC should progress this and support if appropriate.

#### Club and Community Rugby

No Report.

#### Cup and Competitions

DC Reported.

1. Broughton Park had advised they would not be able to field a team for the Trophy final as they were on tour, they had requested a postponement of the final.

#### Governance & Safeguarding

No report.

#### Discipline

BHS presented a written report to the meeting:-

1. There has been an increase in cases so far this season.

Senior Cases	99 Cases
Junior Cases	26 Cases

An initial review of the statistics does not show that the increased sanctions for contact with the head has not reduced the number of cases.

One of the concerns within the statistics is the number of cases involving match officials.

Senior Cases	9 Cases
Junior Cases	2 Cases

This is approximately 10% of all cases. These figures do not take into account verbal abuse of match officials post red card.

For this reason it has been decided by the Committee to bring in the following,

- Verbal Abuse of a Match Official will have an additional sanction of 2 weeks.
  - Any player who verbally abuses a match official post red card will be charged with a separate offence.
2. There are six clubs who have reached the criteria for a poor disciplinary record. They will be appearing before a disciplinary panel over the next few weeks.
- De La Salle RUFC
  - Liverpool St Helens FC
  - Preston Grasshoppers RUFC
  - Trafford MV RUFC
  - Widnes RUFC
  - Wigan RUFC

### Strategy Planning Discussion

An open discussion took place over our strategy and priorities, who our stakeholders were and how we should approach their issues that had arisen over time and via the recent survey. The following points were summarised after the meeting but the areas highlighted in red were deemed as the priority areas to focus on.

1. **Our Purpose**

To encourage rugby, and it's values, to flourish across the County

2. **Our Values**

Teamwork  
Respect  
Enjoyment  
Discipline  
Sportsmanship

3. **Our Strategic Priorities**

Protect - Protecting everything that makes rugby in Lancashire so special.

Engage - Engaging and inspiring new audiences, while developing deeper relationships with those already involved in the game.

Grow - Providing more rugby through more opportunities for more people

4. **Our Enablers**

Innovation - Developing a culture and environment that encourages innovation will enable us to be best in class.

People - Being a sport renowned for its excellence, that embraces diversity and inclusion while attracting and developing talent.

Technology - Using technology to leverage competitive advantage both on and off the field.

5. **Our Stakeholders (Priority)**

**Schools**

In membership, Non membership

**Clubs**

All clubs

**Individual County Members**

**Universities and Colleges**

In membership, Non membership

**Professional Staff**

**Coaches**

Schools, Clubs, Representative

**Referees**

**Players**

L5 and above, L6 and below, Colts, Minis and Juniors, Representative, Ladies, Girls.

**Volunteers**

**Sale Sharks**

**The RFU**

**Supporters**

The Wider Community

**Sponsors**

**Past Members**

**Young Ambassadors**

As priorities are defined the next Board meeting discussion topics will be how we deal with these areas.

Correspondence.

There was no correspondence appertaining to the meeting.

New Members

A new team had applied for non voting membership. Typhoons RUFC are an Open Rugby club to be based at Preston Grasshoppers, this application was approved by the Board.

50:50 Draw

Mar 18	Value
J Nixon	£53.10
P Saunders	£8.85
M Cornelia	£8.85
B O'Driscoll	£8.85
P Hanson	£8.85

Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Any other Business

1. KA – received a letter from Pip Ransom at Broughton Park who would like to push our 'Kids First' to other clubs. They will run a Happy Sunday at the club on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March, CAB will represent the county.
2. CAB – The 'Play it Safe' course has been rewritten and will be piloted on 17<sup>th</sup> April at Preston Grasshoppers at 9;30am. The 'Rugby Safe' course will be run at Liverpool St Helens on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm.
3. CAB – Leadership Academy celebration evening to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Leigh Sports Village.
4. MJW – Jayne Dolloway had published a new blog. The North Cluster should be arranged for April.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm

 Chairman Date 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018