



ENGLISH RUGBY COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

Counties in Membership

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Cheshire
Cornwall
Devon
Durham
Eastern Counties
Essex
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Hertfordshire

Lancashire
Middlesex
North Midlands
N.L.D.
Oxfordshire
Somerset
Staffordshire
Surrey
Sussex
Warwickshire

Associate Members

Derbyshire
Lincolnshire
Nottinghamshire

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fiveways Old Edwardians RFC at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday 6th September 2015

Counties represented:

Jonathan Dance	Berkshire	David Herriman	Lancashire
David McAteer	Berkshire	Brian East (Secretary)	Middlesex
Anthony Flack	Buckinghamshire	Peter Grace (Chairman)	North Midlands
Peter Rhodes	Cheshire	Charlie Hemmings	North Midlands
Richard Simeons	Cornwall	Norman Robertson	N.C.A.
Alan Mitchell (Treasurer)	Cornwall	Colin Baldwin	Oxfordshire
Gordon Roulinson	Derbyshire	Paddy Gregan	Oxfordshire
John Drew	Devon	Simon Mead	Somerset
Peter Williams	Gloucestershire	Rob Forsyth	Staffordshire
Gary Doherty	Hampshire	Charlie McGinty	Warwickshire
Jed Stone	Hampshire		

1. PRELIMINARIES

The meeting stood in memory of our late President, Jim Bambrick, and of Peter Grindle, President of Cornwall CRFU.

The chairman, Peter Grace, welcomed all to the meeting and paid tribute to Jonathan Dance for all his work as the Berkshire CRFU representative on the RFU Council and for his year as the President of the RFU.

2. APOLOGIES were received from:

David Butt	Devon	Rob Briers	Lancashire
Roger Pierson	Eastern Counties	Steve Guy	North Midlands
Ivor Smith	Essex	Bill Beaumont	RFU Chairman
David Roberts	Hertfordshire	Malcolm Wharton	RFU Chairman of CGB
John Greenwood	Lancashire	Malcolm Caird	Surrey
David Hodgson	Lancashire	Andy Shorney	Somerset

Des Chalmers
Frank Edmonds

Somerset
Sussex

Roger Edmundson
Ken Nichols

Sussex
Sussex

3. **MINUTES** of meeting held on 21st June 2015

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

4. **Matters arising from previous meetings**

4.1 **Payment of Players Task Group**

Norman Robertson spoke on this topic. There was no news to report since the Group were waiting for the completion of the Adult Competition review report.

4.2 **Medical Provision**

Charlie McGinty reported that the situation had not changed.

4.3 **Changes to the International Tickets provision**

Charlie McGinty reported that consultation had taken place throughout the Counties and also the task group had looked at the licensed operator's processes. It was confirmed that clubs will get the same current allocation but cannot sell them onto to licensed operators. These "surplus" tickets will now be returned to the RFU with the resale prices agreed. There will be a facility for debenture holders to purchase such tickets.

Colin Baldwin stated that the new processes will apply from the 2016-2017 season and does not exclude clubs selling tickets to their sponsors. The current procedures are included in the regulations which will change.

Jonathan Dance confirmed that clubs will still get the same quantity and quality of tickets.

Details of the new policy will be circulated to members when available.

5. **Steering Group Notes**

5.1 The minutes of the Steering Group held on 27th July 2015 had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. It was confirmed that Malcolm Wharton was to be invited to our next meeting in January.

6. **Topics covered in the notes from the RFU Council held in July 2015 and prepared by Middlesex.**

6.1 3G AGP strategy – In response to a question Colin Baldwin spoke about the project to install 200 AGP (Artificial Grass Pitches) over the next 2 years. Various concerns were expressed about the management of such facilities and their ownership.

6.2 Delivery of a National CB Conference – Given that the last 2 conference had been run by the RFU Peter Grace said that ERCA should offer assistance in the running of any future conferences and that the appropriate people from the CBs should attend

7. **The late Jim Bambrick**

7.1 Peter Grace reported that he had corresponded with Tracey, Jim's daughter.

7.2 It was agreed that there was no plan to elect a new President of ERCA

8. **CB Roles and responsibilities**

- 8.1 Colin Baldwin reported that the paper issued by the RFU defining the roles of the CBs and their responsibilities was advisory and not compulsory. Members agreed with this statement and hoped that the document would remain so. It was to be hoped that this should be the subject of a vote of the RFU Council.

9. **PFR Going Forward**

- 9.1 Colin Baldwin reported that there was planned to be a survey of CBs to determine how successful the PFR process was.

David McAteer said that this topic had been discussed at the recent RFU Council meeting.

Peter Williams spoke on this topic. He indicated that the PFR had encouraged new management practices within CBs both in the planning and in the delivery stages.

Colin Baldwin stated that Oxfordshire had a PFR plan although the delivery still needed some work.

Richard Simeons commented that this was also true in Cornwall.

David Herriman said that the plans did not take into account changes that occurred after the plans had been agreed.

10. **County Championship**

- 10.1 Colin Baldwin confirmed that the RFU Council had agreed an extra £2000 for each CB (excluding Oxford and Cambridge Universities) for the U20s for the current season.
- 10.2 Charlie McGinty said that Rob Briers was in the process of planning for the 2016-2017 season. A report had been prepared but not yet voted on by RFU Council.

11. **RWC2015**

- 11.1 Peter Grace asked members for their RWC experiences. It was generally felt that the legacy projects were slow to start and driven by volunteers. The quality of the offerings varied around the country and the legacy groups were to be disbanded in March 2016

Some members reported that there was very little connection between RWC2015 and the clubs and CBs

12. **Adult Competition Review**

- 12.1 Charlie McGinty reported that the surveys were about to be sent out with the deadline for replies in November. The survey questions had been compiled by the Competition Review Group and IPSOS. The results will be available at the Review Group's meeting in January 2016 with possible decisions in April 2016.

- 12.2 An animated discussion took place with various scenarios and questions considered but not answered or agreed.

What happens if the North do not agree with the recommendations?

Will the leagues stay at 14 teams or 15 teams or will variations be allowed?

Will 2nd teams be allowed to participate in the leagues up to Level 7?

What happens to the budget of circa £1M allocated to the RFU Cups in 2016-2017 if the cups do not take place?

How were the players involved in the study selected?

13. **Treasurer's report**

- 13.1 The subscription invoices for this year had been sent out. There was £2082 in the bank account. A vote of thanks to the treasurer was made.

14. **Any other Business**

- 14.1 It was reported that Pat Murphy had retired from the RFU Ticket Office
- 14.2 Charlie McGinty replied to a question about extra Nat West Task Force Kits – each CB was awarded 10 sets and CBs could purchase extra sets if required.
- 14.3 The following meeting schedule was agreed (all to take place at Fiveways Edwardians RFC)
- Steering Meeting – Thursday 7th January 2016
- Full Meeting – Sunday 17th January 2016
- Steering Meeting – Thursday 26th May 2016
- Full Meeting and AGM – Sunday 5th June 2016

The meeting closed at 13:10 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Signed by Peter Grace, Chairman, as a true record of the meeting

_____ Date _____