



ENGLISH RUGBY COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT – JAMES BAMBRICK ESQ.

Notes from the Steering Group meeting held at Five Ways Edwardians RFC on Thursday 7th January 2016

Present

Peter Grace	North Midlands	Chairman	
Colin Baldwin	Oxfordshire	Immediate Past Chairman	
Charlie McGinty	Warwickshire		Midlands
Alan Mitchell	Cornwall	Hon. Treasurer	South West
Brian East	Middlesex	Secretary	London & South East

Apologies were received from Peter Rhodes, Cheshire and North Representative

1. Artificial Grass Pitches

Details of the recent RFU papers discussed. There was uncertainty about how the choices of the grounds were determined.

2. PFR Survey

A questionnaire from Neil Hagerty had been sent out in December to all geographic CBs. The Midlands CBs had met on 6th January 2016 and the following points were made:

- Held on 6th January 2016 and attended by 7 CBs
- 2 year plans preferred to 4 year plans
- Relationship with Area managers variable
- PFR should cover existing topics/areas and should not be extended
- More flexibility required to take in new ideas that arise outside of the plans
- Time taken by volunteers to produce and deliver the plans needs to be appreciated
- Less criticism of failed ideas/deliverables
- There were too many questions in the PFR survey
- Money for representative rugby should be outside the PFR
- CB should determine the money they spend on outside services and it should be assumed as part of the PFR. This expenditure must remain under the control of the CBs
- CBs should contribute to the review of each Area Manager
- The roles and responsibilities document sent to each CB should be aspirational and not contractual or compulsory

3. Adult Competition Review

There is a meeting being held on 17th January 2016 to consider the lower league structure. Items on the agenda are:

- Update on success so far this year

- GMS Competition Tool, data and how the RFU use it
- Lower XV Competition Review implementation - updates on pilots and other work
- Planning and needs for next year
- Update on club based support offered by the Field Team

Other news – recommendations will be put before the RFU Council meeting in February

4. County Championship Review

Latest update – there will be a change to the structure from 2016-2017 when players will/can be selected from Level 3 and below. The current 3 levels of the competition will be removed.

5. CB Conference in April 2016

CB Council members are not invited

ERCA as yet have not been invited to make any contributions although several ERCA reps are involved.

6. RFU

Agreed to ask Malcolm Wharton to update the meeting on any possible impact on the Community game from the of the future PRL arrangements (meeting appreciated that this topic is still being negotiated and no detail is available)

7. Volunteer awards

News that the RFU President's Awards would not be taking place this season.