



ENGLISH RUGBY COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

Notes from the Steering Group meeting held at Five Ways Edwardians RFC on Thursday 26th May 2016

Present

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

1. The way forward for ERCA

A discussion took place and it was felt that we need to improve the image of ERCA. At present we get good representatives and excellent debates. Was it time to consider rebranding the Association? How can we get the remaining geographic CBs involved? Might a name change help in this regard. Members were to be canvassed for suggestions.

The future of County CBs was discussed, given that there seems to be an emphasis by the RFU on "Areas"; e.g. the RWC2015 Legacy groups; these latter groups are now dormant.

2. CB Conference in April 2016

Overall reaction was that the conference was a success and there had been good interaction between the participating CBs.

Club Development group session was helpful and many ideas were exchanged. CB Leadership courses were considered to be very helpful in the development of people for both clubs and CBs.

3. County Championship Review

This season had produced a number of great competitive games and showed that CBs want to participate. The new structure from 2016-2017 has been published and allows players will/can be selected from Level 3 and below.

4. AGM

All current officers and steering Group members are prepared to continue.

5. Awards process

Consideration is being given by the RFU to holding Regional rather than National Awards events. Other volunteer awards were discussed.

6. **The dates for next season 2016-2017 were agreed.**

18th September 2016

22nd January 2017 (Under 20 County Championship permitting)

4th June 2017 (including AGM)

Steering Meetings

1st September 2016

5th January 2017

18th May 2017