

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC on Monday 5th October 2015

Present: Mr D.N. Herriman in the Chair, Messrs, M.J. Worsley, J.T. Hughes, P. Saunders, R.T.J. Briers, K. Andrews, T.D. Stirk, S.M. Briers, H.M. Whittle.

In attendance: Messrs, T. Fitzgerald, S. Urquhart, G. Glenn, & D. Southern

Apologies: Messrs, B.H. Stott, J.S. Greenwood, M. Downs, & Mrs C.A. Baker

World Cup

KA had circulated RWC Headlines and reported:

1. A drive to encourage clubs to continue to use fanzones and to get behind the home nations left in the competition
2. Two RWC Champions meetings planned for November to include clubs.
3. Preparations for the Junior World Cup

Financial Situation Report

SMB reported:

1. The PFR is signed off. Budget holders will shortly receive copies highlighting their areas of spend
2. The 14/15 accounts are nearly ready but, there are some matters still to be resolved. The Chairman will speak to the Hon. Secretary and arrange to postpone the Financial EGM from 25th November 2015 to a date to be determined in January 2016
3. He would meet with HMW outside of this meeting to action various matters requiring attention.

HMW Reported:

1. HMW would step down as Chairman of the Finance and Funding Committee and would withdraw from all County activity as soon as the 14/15 accounts are ready to be presented. SMB said that he would-be willing to continue as Assistant Treasurer but, he urged the Board to find suitable candidate(s) to Chair the Finance Committee and fill the vacant post of County Hon. Treasurer.
- 2 He recommended that advice be obtained on appointing professional help to input and prepare accounts.
3. The previously reported situation in respect of debtors and creditors had not yet been resolved.

The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to HMW for all his work in preparing the accounts. SMB added his personal thanks to this for the help which he had received.

HMW & SMB left the meeting at this point.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the prospects of finding a volunteer(s) to fill the vacant post of Hon. Treasurer. The Chairman and other Directors would discuss the post with a number of contacts who might be interested. MJW strongly recommended employing a firm of accountants to provide a full service package inputting and preparing accounts. It was resolved to carry this matter forward for discussion at the next meeting.

RDO Report.

SU Reported:

1. 20 clubs had been successful in bids for RWC give away kit
2. There had been an Intermediate Leagues meeting on cry offs.
3. There would be Junior RWC Cluster meetings in Lancashire & Cheshire. RFU Marketing Department representatives would be in attendance to outline plans

DS Reported:

1. There would be a RFU Coaching Conference in the Manchester in June 2016 to capitalise on the Junior World Cup Period
2. Permission was asked for and granted for the RDO reports to be moved from monthly to a quarterly period

GG Reported:

1. General update on the Manchester fanzone. There had been a good response from primary and secondary schools. There had been a good take for staffing the fanzone from Lancashire clubs in the Manchester area. For the England game at the weekend, there would be a minimum of one RDO and 3 to 4 CRCs manning the inflatable pitch and working the club area.
2. There was confirmation that 4+ England Players would be present at the community engagement event at Eccles on Friday. Participants in the All Schools Project had been invited and there was good take up. There would also be teacher rugby training sessions at the event.
3. There was further discussion outside of the recent exchange of emails on designing and purchasing A frames. Subject to the wording being changed to read young player, GG was authorised to place the order.
4. Broughton Park RFC are trying to engage Uruguayan supporters with a community event
5. There is a Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor of Manchester to welcome the Uruguay rugby Team on Wednesday, several Lancashire RFU representatives are invited

SU, GG & DS left the meeting at this point

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 7th September 2015 (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising

Governance Committee Report - page 3 item 3 of the previous minutes refers. TDS requested a minor amendment to the wording to read World Rugby has taken up RFU suggestions for Age Grade sanctions for Age Grade Players. The amendment was requested to highlight the significant achievement of the RFU in campaigning for this. The proposed Amendment was approved.

RFU Report

RB reported that there had been no meetings of Council since the start of the RWC. There had been no developments of significance following on from the report on the 4th of September Council meeting presented by KA at the last Lancashire RFU Management Board meeting.

RDC Report

TF had circulated the RDC report prior to this meeting. There was a discussion on the nomination, trials and selection process for Junior Age Grade rugby. Team Lancashire Committee would receive a report from the 7-16 committee at the next meeting on 9th December 2015 - recommendations and action would follow on from this.

Club and Community Rugby

MJW had circulated the Club & Community Rugby report prior to this meeting. He briefly reviewed the main points of the report. There were no questions raised

Volunteering

DH reported that a meeting was scheduled with the Volunteer Co-Ordinator to progress matters in development. A number of volunteers have expressed a wish to become more involved in county work.

Marketing & Media

PS Reported:

1. The website would be up and live by Friday with a soft launch to be followed by higher profile launch later
2. Guidance was asked for on an offer received to provide a set of playing shirts for a County Age Grade squad. The Board decided not to accept this offer to avoid conflict with other potential sponsorship offers under development; the proposed period of three years exclusive usage of the shirts coupled with a financial penalty if the shirts are not used was also unacceptable
3. There was a discussion on the state of the playing shirts for the U17-18s squad. The number seven shirt was missing, some shirts were said to be in need of replacing. It was decided that the number 7 shirt should be replaced with a shirt as close to the original as possible. It was decided that it would not be necessary to replace the full set of shirts. TF informed the meeting that there were other age groups with shirts that had been on issue far longer than the U18s shirts and that those age groups felt that they had a stronger case for replacement shirts. All Junior Age Group and Women & Girls shirts had not been replaced on schedule due to action pending on sponsorship; a matter which had been under review for a number of years by previous administrations
4. The Board accepted the Marketing & Media Committee recommendation that only recipients of awards and the President and his Lady should receive free places at the Annual Awards Diner

Cup and Competitions

The 2nd Round of the Trophy Competition has been moved to 28th November 2015

Governance

TS reported that there was nothing to add to reports and information previously circulated

Discipline

It was noted that business continued as normal

Unity Project

DNH reported the difficulties experienced communicating with our partners in Portugal. The Lancashire, Cheshire and RFU partnership had offered to take a team of 10 to Portugal for a weekend at the end of the season to deliver a coaching, refereeing and administration road show and workshops; there had been no response to date. The RFU had been informed of the situation by letter and a response from the RFU is pending

New Members

There had been nil applications received

50:50 Draw

The draw was postponed until the next meeting when the Hon. Secretary would be present

Date of next meeting

Next Meeting: Monday 2nd November 2015

Any other Business

TH gave a brief update on the N.W Intermediate League and action regarding a team which was too strong to participate in games at this level

Dates for a number of representative side games were discussed. Arrangements were made for officials to attend and show support.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10pm

_____ Chairman Date _____