

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
LANCASHIRE COUNTRY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED**

HELD AT LIVERPOOL ST HELENS RFC ON 25th NOVEMBER, 2015 AT 7.00pm

Apologies for Absence:- HM Whittle, SM Briers, SM Parker, M Hornby, A Bower, D Todd, P Saunders, P Elliott, H Duggan, TW Alexander, A James, K. Jones.

The President opened the meeting by thanking clubs who had hosted him during the season to date and praised all our clubs and their outstanding volunteers. He welcomed the immediate Past President, David Matthews, to the meeting.

The President noted that he preferred to be made aware of any other business at the start of the meeting so as to be able to prepare.

Bill Lowe (Eccles) requested the percentage of RWC ticket cost that would go to Ticket Master, RFU Reps to try to gain information.

1. **Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting** held on Wednesday, 24th June 2015 at Tyldesley RUFC, previously circulated, were approved.

2. **Matters arising.**

The President noted that this meeting was to be the Financial AGM but that again that had to be postponed until the March General Meeting. This was due to a re-organisation of the Financial committee. Paul Deakin was introduced as the new Honorary Treasurer and welcomed by the President. M Downs outlined the make up of the new Finance Committee, to which Peter Hughes BEM questioned if it wise that there were members of the same family on the same committee. M Downs re-assured the meeting that there would be no conflict of interest, whilst Paul Deakin insisted that there would be new levels of transparency and oversight.

Tim Stirk noted that whilst the RWC had gone badly for England on the field, on the whole the tournament had been a great success.

3. **RFU Representatives Report.**

RTJ Briers delivered part of the report:

- The RWC had been the biggest and best ever with over 98% capacity, record financial returns, much of which would feed back in to the grassroots game. Volunteers had been outstanding. The Trophy tour had been an amazing success, especially in Lancashire.
- A review group had been set up immediately prior to the RWC, this would have been done as a matter of course, and Stuart Lancaster stood down by mutual agreement. New coach had to be someone with international experience and Eddie Jones was offered and accepted the post.
- Assets from the RWC had been distributed to clubs who applied. Some were retained for the U20s WC.
- At forthcoming council meeting artificial pitches would be looked at and how RFU can invest in 100 across the country.
- Natwest Rugby Force launches on 1st December.
- RFU AGM on 3rd June 2016

Questions and comments

- Natwest Rugby Force is on same weekend as U20s WC Final
- A Ingram – RFU objected to Chorley 3G application due to loss of grass pitch, RTJ Briers to investigate
- Burnage happy to share their experience of 3G and expertise.

K Andrews delivered part of the report:

- Trophy Tour a great success in Lancashire and a vote of thanks minuted to all participants.
- Clubs appeared to do well on the finals day even though England were not in it. Touchline magazine had requested RWC stories and photos from clubs.
- The RWC Steering group would stay in place and work towards the U20s World Cup to be held in Manchester.
- U20s World Cup had good prices and would be held between 7th June – 25th June. We need to enthuse people, RFU are to produce marketing material.

Questions and comments

- Ian Scott- Brown, 40% of RWC volunteers were non rugby people, any update. – They are being mapped and pointed towards clubs.
- RDOs think that each club has benefitted from 10-12 new players per club, Carol Baker noted that many of these will be Mini & Junior.
- Peter Hughes – Board minutes received but not other committees- David Herriman noted that these would be put on the website which was under construction, there would be a full launch in March.
- Tom Fitzgerald noted that the web site shop was functioning, all profits go to rugby development.

4. Sub-Committee Reports

a) Management Board:

No report other than published minutes.

b) Finance and Funding:

David Herriman thanked Mel Whittle for all his help in the financial running of the County whilst we were without a Treasurer.

Paul Deakin – only had just over 2 weeks as Treasurer and was settling in. Accounts will be ready and approved early in New Year. Spend is in budget and there are no underlying issues. 2015=16 accounts are running in parallel and so they will be on time. We will be running “No Surprise Finance” with good governance and transparency.

c) Discipline:

BH Stott – Business is brisk.

d) Rugby Development Partnership:

Rob Briers reported that a meeting had been called with player development, coaching and Team Lancashire to discuss issues with Age Grade Rugby and Sale DPP. The current structure is blurred as both County and Sale run district structure. There is confusion over who does what.

We have the best young coach development in the Country, the coach mentoring scheme is something other CBs do not do.

e) Marketing and Media:

Peter Saunders reported – 75% of money gained for new website remained and would be used for a rebranding exercise. Michelle Leavsley the web site consultant aims to get Lancashire £20k sponsorship per year.

The Awards Dinner will be looked at to be improved and there is a plan to hold a Lancashire ball.

f) Club and Community Rugby:

Malcolm Worsley reported – 2 meetings had been held this season and the committee were working with clubs at risk.

An RFU pitch maintenance event was to be held at Leigh in May 2016.

Steve Blackburn would be the new secretary to the Club & Community committee.

County volunteer awards evenings to be held on 19th April at Blackburn and 21st April at Leigh.

Please forward nominations.

g) Competitions:

Rob Briers chairs a group at the RFU looking at County rugby and for the first time ever there will be a Womens County Championship.

h) Coaching:

Tom Fitzgerald reported – The club coach mentor scheme has a group of high quality coaches who will give 5 free sessions to clubs. There are 12-15 clubs in the scheme with room for more, aimed at 1st XV coaches.

Rugby Development Centres arrange conferences, training days and workshops.

i) Governance:

Tim Stirk noted that Age Grade Dispensations have been granted where appropriate.

j) RDO: No Report.

5. Playing Report.

a) Senior XV

No report – season starts in May

b) U20s

Howard Hughes reported a trial had recently been held which was very successful. A 28 man squad had been selected. The trial had attracted 62 players from 17 clubs and 7 colleges. A warm up game was arranged against Cheshire. John Greenwood thanked Howard Hughes and Warren Spragg for their work with the U20s.

c) U18s

Tommy Hughes reported that the U18s season had almost been completed. They had won their warm up game against Warwickshire at Kenilworth.

In the first North festival at Liverpool St Helens Lancashire beat Northumberland 24-12.

At the second North festival at Morpeth Lancashire lost to Yorkshire 21-10.

The final game is to be played against Cheshire at Wilmslow on 29th November.

d) U16s No Report.

e) Schools

Ken Andrews reported that affiliations from Schools to County had increased, due in part to the efforts of the professional staff. 400 schools across the country had taken up rugby due to All Schools project

Tom Fitzgerald commented on the success of the County Town Teams Competition.

f) Womens & Girls

Helen Duggan reported by email – All aspects of the Womens and Girls game in the County was growing with some clubs fielding a senior 2nd XV.

A Womens & Girls Committee was to be formed and always looking for volunteers. Also recruiting for a County Senior XV Coach.

Lancashire players had represented England U18s 7s team and 2 players selected for England U20s.

The Senior Lancashire Cup would be restarted and the Senior County Championship would be formalised for the first time.

Vote of thanks for Helen.

6. League

Dave Clarke reported that there had not been too many weather cancellations.

Clubs need to ensure they complete their online registration, non registration of players can lead to points deductions.

The RFU are to rerun the Adult Competition Review survey using IPSOS Mori.

The restructuring of Levels 8 & 9 had resulted in one complaint from a Lancashire club, any changes brought about by the ACR would be deferred for 1 season.

The proposal to allow 5 substitutes at lower levels to help teams ensure players got a game had been rejected by the North.

Peter Hughes complimented the restructuring that was ensuring clubs played rugby every week.

7. ERCA

David Herriman reported that ERCA was proving to be a good forum for discussing rugby and they were very vocal in their support of the County Championship.

8. Correspondence. There was no correspondence appertaining to this meeting

9. Date & Time of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 23rd March 2016, 7:00pm at Preston Grasshoppers RFC

10. AOB.

- a) David Herriman presented an Honours Tie to Tim Stirk as a representation of his office as President.
- b) Mark Downs noted a vote of thanks to Tom Fitzgerald who had recently retired as County Operations Manager, Tom had been a great help personally to Mark in the office of Secretary but had been a great administrator for the County. Happily he will stay involved and continue as Senior Vice President.
- c) There being no further business the meeting ended at 9:10 pm

Record of Attendance

President	T D Stirk
Senior Vice President	T Fitzgerald
Vice President	G Burns MBE
Vice President	S Blackburn
Vice President	D Clarke
Past President	H E Neely
Past President	P E Hughes
Past President	R T J Briers
Past President	D N Herriman
Past President	K Andrews
Past President	J T Hughes
Past President	M J Worsley
Past President	D L Hodgson
Past President	D W Matthews
Chairman	D N Herriman
Hon Secretary	M Downs
Hon Treasurer	P Deakin
RFU Representative	R T J Briers
Director	J R S Greenwood
Director	J T Hughes
Anti-Assassins RUFC	P Mahon
Blackburn RUFC	G Bancroft

Burnage RUFC	E Haynes
Burnley RUFC	G. Downey
Bury RUFC	A Brazendale
Chorley RUFC	A Ingham
Eccles RUFC	W Lowe
Firwood Waterloo RFC	P Mahon
Fleetwood RUFC	S Doherty
Fylde RUFC	M Hornby
Heaton Moor RUFC	J James
Leigh RUFC	J T Hughes
Littleborough RUFC	B Hurst
Liverpool St Helens FC	D Woodcock
Oldham RUFC	R Heptonstall
Ormskirk RUFC	G Bleasdale
Pendle Phoenix RUFC	S Moss
Rochdale RUFC	S Blackburn
Sedgley Park RUFC	J Widdup
Southport RFC	P Andrews
Tyldesley RUFC	B Belcher
West Park RUFC	J Bradbury
Widnes RUFC	G McLean
Wigan RUFC	D Clarke
Safeguarding	C Baker
League	D Clarke
League	K Potter
Seniors	J R S Greenwood
U20s	H Hughes
Individual Members	I Scott Brown