

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC

Monday 7th December 2015

Present: Mr D.N. Herriman in the Chair, Messrs, T.D. Stirk, P Deakin, M.J. Worsley, J.T. Hughes, R.T.J. Briers, K. Andrews, M. Downs.

In attendance: Messrs, T. Fitzgerald, S. Urqhart.

Apologies: Messrs, S.M. Briers, Mrs C.A. Baker, P. Saunders, J.S. Greenwood, B.H. Stott & D. Southern.

RDO Report.

Stuart Urqhart reported:-

1. RDO/CRC Targeted work had been identified for next season. We should know the level of investment coming to the County from the RFU by 22nd January.
2. There will be an investment in the Return to Rugby initiative to reengage ex players.
3. FE Collages are nationally struggling with Rugby due to staffing non participation.
4. Bids are to be submitted for further O₂ touch centres.
5. NatWest Rugby Forces has been launched and closes on 14th Feb. 200 clubs to be awarded £500 with further awards available.
6. RFU Energy Club launched to give clubs collective energy purchasing via ZTP Brokers.
7. Artificial Pitches - £70m to be invested by RFU over 4 years at 60 clubs and 40 community sites. Area 5 pilot scheme will be at PGH and should be complete by Sept 2016. All will be managed by an external management team and will be open to use by other clubs and the community. Other clubs should email Tom Bartram directly.
8. University games finder had been successful.
9. Garstang had been badly affected by the recent flooding.
10. The quarterly report was due to be published.

SU left the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising

A correction to the Cup and Competitions minute of the October meeting was to be made. The minute stated that the next round of the Senior Competitions was to be played on 22nd November, this should have referred to one game, not all.

RFU Report

KA Reported that there had been a Council Meeting since our last Board Meeting:-

1. Whilst there was disappointment with the England performance the tournament as a whole was a great success and there would have been a review into the performance as a matter of course, this was called by and will be reported by Ian Ritchie.
2. The World 7s would be held at Twickenham on 21-22 May and would be re-branded as a food festival due to fan behaviour at past events.
3. Kids First launch will be in Jan 2016.
4. Age Grade changes are to be implemented.
5. East Stand project - £28.5m for improvements to hospitality and debenture holders, plus conference facilities, set for completion spring 2018.
6. AGM to be held on Friday 3rd June.
7. Community Game Board – Adult Competition Review survey closed on 22nd Oct and there was to be a debrief in Jan 2016 with recommendations to be put to Council in Feb. Approx. 5000 response that covered 95% of clubs, with 2400 players responding from 223 clubs.
8. West Carpark security set up would remain the same as at the RWC.
9. President Awards would continue.
10. QBE internationals would now be the Old Mutual Wealth Internationals.

Finance & Funding Report

PD Reported:-

1. 2 of the quarterly VAT returns were late, one of these for July had been submitted and the November one would be with the revenue before Christmas.
2. The accounts were now with the external examiner ERC and would be signed off by the end of January.
3. There would be monthly management accounts going forwards based on the balance sheet.
4. There would be much more transparency going forwards with no one single person being able to make payments.

RDC Report

TF had circulated the report to the board, notably:-

1. Team Managers and Coaches of Lancashire squads would be appointed on 2 year basis on application and successful selection. All coaches should be qualified and there would be a review of the 2015/16 season. James Walker would co-ordinate the U13-16 County and sub County rugby and would be appointed to all appropriate committees.
2. Winter Coaching programme will start in Jan and Charley Hodgson had agreed to be key note speaker at the Annual Aug conference.
3. An ideal coaching structure for County squads has been proposed and would be worked towards.
4. A recent Sale DPP Forum had been poorly attended due to bad communication, only 10 with 3 from Lancashire and 2 from Cheshire attending, the rest were Sale Academy / RFU presenters.

5. KA commented that we need to clear up the confusion of the Sale DPP and Lancs DPP. PD as an area coach noted that there had been much improvement over the initial set up. It was also commented that Sale are looking for a new Academy Manager.
6. Howard Hughes has been appointed manager of North U20s.

Club and Community Rugby

MJW reported:-

1. A meeting had been held on 17th November and the minutes circulated.
2. Volunteer recognition evening to be held again at Blackburn & Leigh Clubs and would be announced to clubs via KA.

Volunteering

DNH reported that there had not been a meeting and one would need to be arranged.

Marketing & Media

DNH reported on a meeting on 24th Nov:-

1. Feedback from the website had been sought from various sources. Whilst not complete seemed to be working well. There would be an official launch to coincide with the marketing of the U20s World Championship, by which time all information and formatting should be complete.
2. Michelle Leavesley is to develop a branding strategy to be issued to all parties and also write a mission and values statement.
3. The Annual Awards Dinner to be held at PGH needed to be planned early. TDS had been unable to arrange his proposed speaker.
4. Limited edition prints of the programme cover would be available to purchase.

Cup and Competitions

1. There may be a fixture clash in forthcoming rounds due to weather backlog.

Governance

TDS reported:-

1. U16s unofficial County team that had been proposed by parents had dissipated.

Discipline

No report.

Unity Project

TDS noted that Surrey were having similar problems with Poland as we were with Portugal. Portuguese President perceives their future in 7s.

World Cup

KA reported:-

1. A legacy review would take place.
2. A steering group meeting was scheduled to take place.

Correspondence.

MD reported there was no correspondence appertaining to the meeting.

New Members

No new member requests.

50:50 Draw

December

£52.2 = No 33

£8.70 = No 161

£8.70 = No 108

£8.70 = No 171

£8.70 = No 98

Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 4th January 2016

Any other Business

KA - Lancs Girls U15s & U18s would play Northumberland at Druid Park on 13th December.

KA - A CB Leaders conference was to be held on 9th – 10th April, DNH, MD & PD to attend

MJW - asked if club subs were up to date, PD felt that a lot of the arrears were paid.

TF - County Championship home fixtures need to be arranged, Board handed responsibility for this to MD & TF

TF - A new strip of playing shirts are required. Board thanked MJW who kindly agreed to cover this.

TDS - Had enjoyed the Southport dinner

JTH - had been approached by a supplier of Entinox, a pain relief gas used for on pitch injuries, Board felt that this should only be used by qualified medical personnel.

DNH - Presidents Volunteer Awardees should be sent to JL by 11th Dec – Action MD

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm

_____ Chairman Date _____