



LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD
General Meeting 21st November 2018
RFU Representatives Report

Headlines of the RFU Council meeting held on Friday 5 October 2018

1. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman's written report was noted. The Chairman noted that that Phil de Glanville had joined the RFU Board of Directors following Jeff Blackett's departure. The strength of the Board was emphasised, particularly the members' well-balance range of skills and experience.

The Chairman noted Francis Baron's report and addressed the key matters raised. He noted that the most appropriate way for issues concerning the Union to be raised was through the Council, who are the elected representatives of the Game.

The Chairman updated Council on the important work the Union was carrying out, drawing specific attention to the East Stand Development. The Chairman thanked Geoff Irvine for his tireless support throughout the process.

2. CEO REPORT

The CEO's report was noted. Stephen Brown noted that it had been a challenging time following the redundancy process and outlined the stakeholder engagement activity taking place across the organisation to reinvigorate and re-engage staff.

Brown updated Council on key activity taking place across the business. Brown noted the upcoming departure of Lucinda Pullinger (HR Director) and explained that a process was underway to recruit her successor. Brown highlighted the recent announcement of the professional contracts for members of the women's 15s squad noting that it was a milestone which should be celebrated. Brown also drew attention to the achievement of the British Airways deal and the positive impact it will have on the organisation. Finally, Brown referred to the East Stand test event the following day, emphasising that it was an extremely positive investment.

3. Q4 REPORT

The Q4 report was noted. The notable change in budget was the increase in professional rugby spend for the men's 15s team which Council were informed about in June. Sue Day stressed the tight processes in place to ensure this situation does not happen again.

4. FINANCIAL FLASH REPORT

The report was noted. Sue Day (CFO, RFU) highlighted the £0.1m behind on budget due to actions taken to make necessary savings, but assured that plans were in place to return to the baseline.

5 COUNCIL RECOGNITION & REWARD REVIEW GROUP UPDATE

Malcolm Caird (Surrey) confirmed that the CRRRG would consider Council's comments from the consultation meeting and would provide new options at the November Council meeting.

6 TICKET ALLOCATION PROPOSALS

Charlie McGinty (Warwickshire) and Nigel Gillingham (Gloucestershire) updated Council on the proposals for ticket allocation distribution before formal proposals were brought to Council in November. Gillingham explained that the aim was to implement the proposals by the Autumn Internationals 2020.

7 COMMUNITY GAME BOARD REPORT

The report was noted. Rob Briers (CGB Board of Directors) drew attention to the cutbacks taking place within the community game, noting that CGB need to make important and difficult decisions relating to programmes for 2019-20. He highlighted that CGB were exploring new ways to take the community game forward in an environment with less staff and resource which involved devolving more decision-making responsibility to CBs.

8 PROJECT RUGBY

Stephen Pearson (Oxford University) provided context around the project, noting that it was entering its third phase which would last for a two year period. The success of the project was emphasised, particularly around the transition rates. It was noted that the aim for 2018/19 was to engage over 17,000 participants and around 7,000 at retention sites.

9 DIVERSITY & INCLUSION UPDATE

Genevieve Glover (Diversity & Inclusion Chair) stressed the importance for the RFU to be more diverse and inclusive, primarily to grow the game by making it more accessible. Glover explained that strong leadership will champion this work and thus the Council and Board play a huge role in ensuring the RFU are the leading NGB in this area. Glover outlined that the key areas to move the work forward centred around recruitment, selection & awareness.

10 UPDATE AND Q&A WITH ENGLAND SENIOR MEN'S HEAD COACH

Eddie Jones (England Senior Men's Head Coach) stressed that it was his chief priority to win the World Cup and discussed his three key areas of focus in the run up to the tournament: selection, strategy and unity. Eddie confirmed that the England Team could win the World Cup.

11 DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL SEASON UPDATE

Nigel Melville (Director of Professional Rugby, RFU) informed Council that the domestic and global seasons were being reviewed as part of building sustainable success in the professional game. Melville discussed the ideas being considered for the domestic game and stressed that the priority focus was to ensure player welfare of international players and the use of sports science data to support with this. Melville explained that good progress had been made and the changes would shortly be announced.

12 GOVERNANCE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was noted. Chris Cuthbertson (Middlesex) noted that the committee were reviewing the governance and regulations programme. He also noted that the club audit would be reviewed on an annual basis.

Cuthbertson informed Council around the implementation of the payment of player regulations and the importance for clubs to complete the declaration in order to secure funding from the RFU for the following season.

13 NOMINATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee report was noted. Andy Shorney (Somerset) explained that the committee were reviewing Privilege Membership criteria and aim to present formal proposals for approval at the February Council meeting. Shorney highlighted that there were several roles which would need to be filled during the season.

The Committee unanimously recommended to Council the appointment of Louise Latter as the Women and Girls Council Member.

APPROVED: Council ratified the appointment of Louise Latter as the Women and Girls' Representative on Council for the 2018-2019 season.

14 AOB

Maggie Alphonsi (National Member) asked whether the England Senior Women's Head Coach could be invited to present at a future Council Meeting. Chris Kelly (President) agreed that this was a good idea and confirmed that it would be looked into.

Rob Udwin (Middlesex) thanked those in the room who had contributed generously to the fundraising event for the Injured Players Foundation at the Grand Union Down, noting that £9,000 had been raised. Council Members applauded Udwin for his efforts.

Malcolm Caird (Surrey) raised the County Championships, noting that it was anticipated there would be a change to the A league players regulations and that there would be a formal version of regulations presented at the February Council Meeting.

Rob Briers/Ken Andrews