

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC on Monday 2nd September 2019

Present: Mr D Clarke in the Chair, K Andrews, CA Baker, R.T.J. Briers, P Deakin, H Hughes, JT Hughes, M.J. Worsley,

In attendance: S. Urquhart, G Burns

Apologies: M Downs B.H. Stott, D. Southern. JT Morgan

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He also reported that John Morgan had requested to step down as a Director of the Lancashire management Board. John has recently become unwell and he needed the time to recover. The meeting agreed that a temporary replacement should be found and Carol Baker was tasked with drawing up a short list of candidates for consideration.

RRDM Report.

In the absence of D Southern, Stuart Urquhart reported the following.

- Age Grade courses:
A number of Age Grade courses aimed at Club Mini/Junior coaches have been planned and some delivered. Courses are held in the three areas of Lancashire but there is co-ordination to allow coaches to attend a course convenient to them.
- World Cup 2019 events:
Support has been given to a number of clubs who have planned events around the Rugby World Cup weekends, notably Typhoons, Colne & Nelson, Sefton, PGH, Trafford MV and Mossley Hill. Funding to help with event ends on 6th September
- Player registrations:
This been causing some problems especially with U17s playing in adult rugby teams. These problems are slowly being addressed especially with regard to safeguarding issues, DBS checks and establishing who in clubs are in positions of trust. All clubs should have had safeguarding in place even before the U17 situation arose. CAB stated that these issues are to be addressed at the Safeguarding Conference to be held on Saturday 21st September at Firwood Waterloo RFC. MJW asked whether those with DBS clearance could be responsible for any indiscretions by others occurring at individuals clubs. It was stated that only the persons responsible for the indiscretion would be liable however, clubs need to be vigilant and be sure of a robust safeguarding programme.
- Women's Merit Leagues:
Eight Merit Leagues aimed at encouraging competition at the low end have been organised across the North of England with three of them within Lancashire. Clubs involved being: Colne & Nelson, Bolton, PGH, Leyland, Fleetwood, Ormskirk, West Park, Sefton, Liverpool Collegiate, Eccles, Manchester, Broughton Park, Bury, Rochdale, Aldwinians. Vale of Lune will join the Cumbria League and Littelborough with clubs from West Yorkshire. These are in addition to those clubs already playing in RFU Leagues.
- AGPs
There are opportunities for clubs to hire the AGP at PGH for £1. The offer will be from 12th August until 9th November.
KA raised the issue of the cost of hiring the AGP for County activities. Currently any Lancashire RFU activity is at the special RFU rate whereas the local DPP sessions are charged at a higher rate. As the DPP is now defined as a CB activity the cost should be at RFU rates. KA will raise the issue at Education and Age Grade Sub Committee, Playing

Development Sub Committee and also with Simon Hughes who oversees the AGP programme.

- Payment of Players;
SU reported that five Lancashire Clubs are listed as either not filed a declaration or has filed an incomplete declaration and therefore will lose RFU Benefits for the 2019/20 season. Carnforth, Chorley, Merseyside Police, Pendle and Vale of Lune.

SU was thanked and he left the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 1st July 2019, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Questions to written reports

RFU

RTJB reported:

- The next RFU Council meeting will be held on Friday 13th September at Twickenham.
Notable items on that agenda will be:
 - International Rugby & Broadcast Strategy Update
 - Adult Competition Review- to be reported to CGB by December 2019

KA spoke to his paper on notes from the NW Regional Player Pathway Group (RPPG) meeting.

- The RPPG meeting had expressed their disappointment and concern that Lancashire had considered withdrawing the U15 and U16 representative teams.
Following discussion it was agreed that The Board would support two teams at both U15 and U16 to fulfil the agreed fixtures for the 2019-20 season. This will be cost effective to the county and an increased financial support from parents. HH agreed to look to appoint the coaches for the squads.
- From 2020-21 the Player Pathway will see changes to the focus of the DPP. It will now be termed as England Rugby Developing Player Pathway (ERDPP) and there will be increased focus of delivery through the CB in co-operation with Sale Sharks Academy. The playing opportunities will also change. Therefore a working group from Lancashire, Cheshire and Sale Sharks Academy Has been set up to develop those opportunities for next season. Carol Baker and Robbie Jones (Schools) will represent Lancashire with support from Howard Hughes.
- KA has proposed to set up an Lancashire County Age Grade Committee which will bring together the interests of Schools, Clubs Junior Sections, Colts and Representative teams to ensure that we all have the interests of the young players at the centre. KA will lead on this new committee.

HH reported on the Coach Development programme:

- The Coach Development centres has delivered a number of coaching course for club and school coaches. Organised by Mark Nelson and delivered by a quality coaching staff including an input from Brian Ashton was declared another success. Disappointingly, out of 61 registered only 41 attend the first session. The next held at Burnley on 5 attended. Excellent session but it was agreed that a review of how these are delivered. Time of courses, location or perhaps the course being held at individual clubs to engage more people. Overall a fantastic event and free!
HH also reported that the RFU are certainly taking note on what we are doing- Lancashire at the forefront again.

Correspondence.

KA reported no correspondence appertaining to this meeting.

New Members

One new membership application. However further investigations are being taken and the application will come back to the next meeting.

50-50 Draw

It was agreed to hold this at the next meeting

Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 7th October 2019 at 6.30 pm

AOB

Schools programme:

PD had met with Stuart Holland at West Park regarding county support for their excellent schools programme. The programme had had great returns with up to 60 youngsters from local schools now involved at the club. Also the mixed ability and walking rugby is expanding.

PD announced the support for West Park as:

£1000 per term for the Schools coaching programme from reserves

£500 per term for the mixed ability programme from PFR with the proviso that the programme expands and playing opportunities against other clubs are sought.

RTJB, MJW and KA expressed conflicts of interest as members of West Park RFC.

RTJB stated that funds from the Youth Trust Fund had been made available

Age Grade Rugby Committee

TH asked who would represent the Colts Section as most of their business covers the North West.

KA assured that the interests of the Lancashire Colts team will be represented by Chris Barratt.

U18 Rugby

HH informed the meeting of the situation with the coaching team at U18 and U17. It had been agreed that the current coaches would stay at their respective age groups for two years. The U18 team were happy with that and are willing to continue this season. However there were some issues the coaches involved with the U17s having not read or responded to emails with the result being that both coaches now stepping away from the role. It was also reported that certain messages had been sent to U17 players on WhatsApp against the specific instruction that no Social Media group messages should be used. As this is a safeguarding issue an investigation has been launched.

Lancashire will host an incoming touring teams from Buenos Aires National Academy at U18 and U20 level. The games will be played on Friday 7th February 2020 with the U18s at 5.30 pm and U20s at 7.30 pm.

MJW asked about the whereabouts of the Lancashire Gazebo. Investigation to its whereabouts is being made.

MJW also reported on a very successful visit to West Park RFC by the Illinois Chiefs from the USA. A great occasion of rugby activity including walking rugby.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20pm

D. [Signature]

Chairman

Date 7-10-19.

