

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting held using Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Present: D. Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs P. Deakin, J.T. Hughes, C.A. Baker, H.H. Hughes, K. Andrews, R.T.J. Briers, M.J. Worsley & M. Downs.

In attendance: Messrs, G. Burns & G. Morgan.

Apologies: A.S. Kerboas.

Minutes of the last meeting.

A small correction was noted from ASK on a point in AOB

There have been 104 nominations who will all receive some form of RFU award and 6 will attend a Black Tie dinner. To be changed to *There have been 104 nominations who will all receive some form of RFU award and 2 will attend a Black Tie dinner.*

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 7th May 2020, (previously circulated) were then accepted and signed per procuracionem by the Honorary Secretary as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Questions & Comments to written reports.

RFU Representative Report – Appendix 1

1. KA – Some Payment of Players declarations are still outstanding.
2. MJW – Questioned if there was a stipulation when the Fyde club were given a recent grant that the funds would not be used to the payment of players. PD confirmed that there was no caveat but that coaches and players had been furloughed. Going forwards the club would be looking at their operating model.
3. RTJB – The RFU were considering 7 different financial scenarios for the forthcoming season. The most optimistic involves closed door northern hemisphere autumn international series with possibly a maximum crowd of 6000. Whilst low crowds this will attract TV and sponsorship deals.
4. RTJB – Looking at modified forms of the game and gaining feedback on World Rugby Law proposals.
5. DC – Competitions Advisory Group (ACAG) are looking to plan for 3 different options of when restart will take place and the format of the season.
6. RTJB – No final decision has been made but it is very unlikely that the County Championship will be played in season 2020-2021. Stipulated that any changes would be for 1 season as Steve Grainger is keen for it to continue. HHH questioned if age grade representative rugby would be played, RTJB response that U20s and Womens may not also.
7. KA – DPP is currently on hold.
8. DC – Merit table league funding balance was not going to be paid. DC phoned NOWIRUL who could manage, Colts League would be funded £600 from Lancashire and £400 from Cheshire.
9. PD – There had been no further requests for funding grants from Clubs. £30k distributed to 9 clubs in need. RTJB confirmed that no Lancashire club had applied for an RFU loan.
10. MD – We now have 2 CRC's working as Phill Mills and Callum York should not have been part of the furlough scheme due to short length of service.
11. MD – recent virtual cluster meetings had been successful as we are now in contact with other club members as well as the usual Chairmen & Secretaries.

Correspondence.

There was no correspondence appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

None.

50:50 Draw

June 20	Value
D. Poppitt	£53.40
D. Poppitt	£8.90
M. Cornelia	£8.90
J.E. Nixon	£8.90
T.D. Stirk	£8.90

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: To be confirmed.

Any other business.

GM – Received our first invoice from Acorn for services covering telephone counselling of one club member. RFU had covered the Cauliflower Ear campaign predominantly on the website.
HHH – Facebook reach had risen 333% and engagements were up by 239%, 26000 viewers. The twitter account now has the most followers of an CB in the RFU. The most recent podcast had had 1700 listens.
JTH – NOWIRUL were to arrange a zoom meeting to arrange fixtures.
CAB – Applications for playing down should be a new application each season, there would be no carry over.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:15pm

Malcolm Some P.P. Chairman Date 8th July 2020

Appendix 1 RFU Representatives Report

Community Game Updates

Since March 23rd when the lockdown occurred the RFU have produced twenty editions of the Community Game Updates on Tuesdays and Fridays. These have been sent to CB and Club Chairs, Hon Secretaries and Hon Treasurers

These have contained useful information, support and guidance for all our clubs to get through these difficult times. These updates have included:

- Current advice from Government regarding the use of facilities.
- Webinars- Club Support, Coaching & Referees
- Podcasts- one from Eddie Jones on coaching recently.
- Media Support
- Links to articles of CBs and rugby clubs doing great things including Lancashire's "Lend an Ear programme"

Adult Male Future Competitions Structure

Online consultation webinars will held during June. Key members from clubs especially players have been encouraged to register to take part in these consultation sessions. Those relevant to Lancashire are:

Wed 3 rd June	Level 3 & 4
Thurs 4 th June	Level 5 & 6
Mon 8 th June	Level 7 & below

The aim to provide further detail of the future competition structure and receive feedback and comment from stakeholders. Following a more formal consultation later in the summer the working group to make a final proposal for the October Council Meeting.

Payment of Players declarations

Clubs are now encouraged to complete their Payment of Players declarations before June 30th. In Lancashire 19 clubs completed, 17 clubs have submitted and 20 yet to start the process.

RFU Annual General Meeting

The RFU AGM will be held on Friday 12th June starting at 5.00 pm. For the first time in history the meeting will be held virtually from Twickenham. Clubs should have received their calling notices this week.

Professional Game Board – statement

Authorisation has been given for Premiership and Championship Rugby clubs to move to Stage 1 - Elite Sport Return to Training Guidance. In order for clubs satisfy a number of requirements to start Stage 1. A huge amount of work is currently being undertaken to enable a safe return.

Modified Game Working Group

Rob Briers as Chair and Ken Andrews are both on this working group.

In the event that rugby is unable to recommence on time and or in its usual format, the purpose of the group is to make recommendations on game adaptations in the community game.

The aim of this being to ensure as much permitted rugby activity as possible can take place in clubs to aid retention of players and protect club revenues

RFU Area and CB update meetings

Professional staff (not furloughed) Dave Southern, Phil Clarke and Matt Cogan (facilities) are conducting monthly virtual update meeting for Area 5 and weekly meetings for Lancashire. KA, MD, PD and DC are all involved in these meetings.