

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD**

**HELD VIRTUALLY BY 'ZOOM'  
ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Mark Downs, Hon. Secretary introduced the meeting and explained that this was a first for the County and hopefully all would go well. He introduced Gill Burns, Lancashire President, to welcome everyone and explained that because of the current situation then Gill would continue as Lancashire President for the 20/21 Season.

Gill then welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that although a disappointing end to the season because of the C19 virus the Age Grade rugby that had been played had produced some good results. She thanked the Board for their support and was looking forward to seeing everyone once the situation improved.

Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

The minutes of the previous AGM and were on the website. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**1. Annual Report of the Board..**

This had been circulated by post with the calling notice. There were no comments or questions regarding the report.

**2. RFU Representative Report.**

There were several questions relating to the situation with the RDO/CRC roles that were currently only review. KA replied that the process was not yet finished and most staff were still on furlough, there may be more news shortly but nothing had yet been finalised. There was a Council 'catch up' meeting due to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> September when more information may be available.

MD reported that all the RDO/CRC staff were being made redundant and would be replaced with a new staff workforce.

There would be approximately 81 new posts which was an approximate reduction of 101.

Job Descriptions were not yet available but notes received from Steve Grainger reported that the workforce in Lancashire would mean that the 6 current areas would reduce down to 4 areas.

In the North this could possibly be

- 1 CB Relations Manager
- 1 Volunteer Manager

- 5 Club Development Staff
- 2 Facilities Managers
- 1 Club Developer
- 6 Coach Development
- 1 Training Manager

Two staff would be dedicated to our area but the rest would be shared throughout the North. KA then replied to a question about where we were up to on the Return to Rugby. The Chairman of the CGB was hoping to move to Stage E on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October with full contact on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the RFU are pressing for things to progress but it all has to go to the Government for approval. It is hoped the Leagues may start on the 1<sup>st</sup> January along with the Age Grade but it is all dependent on the Pandemic situation. There was then a query that had been submitted before the meeting from Ernie Neeley regarding the League sizes in the new structure as there was some concern about League sizes being reduced. Unable to reply as such at the moment as the review is still ongoing but there had been a decision made to defer the vote re the review to the November Council Meeting.

It was then re iterated that any Return to Rugby must follow the guidance from Government and also any local lockdown rules that may be in place Carol Baker said that any clubs with specific queries should contact the RFU for more specific Information.

There was also a query regarding playing Contact as if only resuming on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, would there be enough time for players to 'be fit' DC reported that at the current time 15 mins of contact training was allowed.

Trafford MV then explained that they had had a successful Ready for Rugby tournament at their place the previous Saturday but local neighbours had reported them to the Police because of the numbers but all was fine as sporting events are exempt, but any clubs planning to do this would perhaps be wise to let any local people know that this was happening. DC reiterated that any events must fit in with local restrictions, eg Rule of 6. And to ensure that Track and Trace information was collected. KA also advised that not too much too soon. Mark Nelson also reminded people about the fact that changing rooms would not be available.

### 3. Management Board Proposals:

The following proposals were put to the meeting which were then followed by a vote

#### **Proposal 1.**

That all members of the Lancashire Board and sub-committees remain in post for the 2020-2021 season. Rationale for the proposal: Due to the severity of the ongoing Covid crisis the County needs stability and volunteers who are aware of the current situations in the Rugby landscape. This proposal is only for the 2020-2021 season and will revert back in June 2021.

**This was passed unanimously 100%**

#### **Proposal 2.**

That the members handbook be issued as a digital document and not in hardback form for the season 2020-2021. Rationale for the proposal: As there is very little rugby activity forecast for the season 2020-2021 there will be little content in this seasons handbook. The handbook incurs a cost

which in current times, where our RFU funding has been severely cut, can be used for rugby activity in the County. This is a temporary proposal and will be reviewed.

**This was passed unanimously 100%**

#### **Rule Change Proposals 2020 to be put to the AGM**

#### **Proposal to change Item 13 of the Articles of Association.**

##### **Current form.**

13. All general meetings, other than annual general meetings, shall be called extraordinary general meetings.

##### **To become.**

13. All general meetings, other than annual general meetings, shall be called extraordinary general meetings. In determining attendance at an annual general meeting or extraordinary general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.

##### **Rationale for the proposal:**

The emergency government legislation allowing companies to hold virtual annual general meetings is temporary and will come to an end. This addition of wording will allow the county to hold virtual meetings in the future should the need arise.

**This was passed unanimously 100%**

All proposals would come into effect immediately.

#### **4. Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence appertaining to this meeting.

#### **5. AOB**

Peter Hughes would like it put on record many thanks to Lancashire CB for organising the AGM and would like to congratulate Mark on how well it had gone. Peter would also like to congratulate Rob Briers on his success on becoming the RFU Junior Vice President and looked forward to seeing him in post in 3 year's time.

Mark Downs thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.53pm.

#### **Attendance:**

Gill Burns	President
Brian Stott	Senior Vice President
Mark Nelson	Vice President
Carol Baker	Vice President
John Greenwood	Vice President
Alan James	Vice President

Rob Briers	RFU Junior Vice President
David Herriman	Past President
Ernie Neeley	Past President
Malcolm Worsley	Past President
Peter Hughes	Past President
Tim Stirk	Past President
Tommy Hughes	Past President
Ken Andrews	RFU Council Member
Dave Clarke	Chairman
Mark Downs	Secretary
Paul Deakin	Treasurer
	Director of Rugby
Howard Hughes	Development
Andy Kerboas	Director of Volunteering
Gary Morgan	Co-opted Director
John Bullough	County Hon. Solicitor
	Deputy Safeguarding
Christine Spivey	Manager
Chris Smail	Chairman of Finance
Paul Weare	Anti Assassins RFC
Stephen Bailey	Aspull RUFC
Eddie Wiles	Birchfield RUFC
Paul Westhead	Blackburn RUFC
Ernie Haynes	Burnage RUFC
Mick Nichols	Burnley RUFC
Ian Bailey	Didsbury Toc H RUFC
Don Edmondson	Eccles RFC
Brian Hurst	Littleborough RUFC
Aysha Devine	Liverpool Collegiate RUFC
Dennis Woodcock	Liverpool St Helens FC
John Jeskins	MADREFS
Tim Harper	Manchester FC
Fred Swarbrick	NOWIRUL
John Powell	NOWIRUL
Nick Middleton	Oldham RUFC
Roly Heptonstall	Oldham RUFC
Brian Stevenson	Ormskirk RUFC
Graham Winstanley	Orrell RUFC
Iain Crosley	Preston Grasshoppers RUFC
Rich Culver	Trafford MV RFCC
Chris Goulding	Typhoons RUFC
David Hodgson	Vale of Lune RUFC
Geoff Perks	Warrington RUFC
Tony McClure	Waterloo RFC
Colin Hilton	West Park RUFC
John Bradbury	West Park RUFC

David Todd  
Ian Scott-Brown  
Jim Hainsworth  
Julian Kearney  
Kate Bennetta  
Robert Grant

Heaton Moor RUFC  
Individual Member  
Individual Member  
Individual Member  
Individual Member  
Individual member