

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBYFOOTBALL UNION
HELD AT LIVERPOOL ST HELENS ON 5TH APRIL 2022**

President Gill Burns MBE welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Rob Briers, Peter Hughes, Alec Graham(Rossendale), Nick Ingham(Rossendale) Steve Bailey(Aspull), Ernie Haynes(Burnage) Ernie Neeley(Sedgley Pk), Malcolm Phillips , John Dewhurst, Ken Andrews, Gary Morgan, Don Edmondson(Eccles).Iain Crossley(PGH), Kate Benatta , Frank Morgan,John Jeskin, Helen Duggan,Tony McClure

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held at Preston Grasshoppers RFC on 24th November 2021

All minutes have been circulated and they are on the Lancashire County RFU website.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. RFU Representatives Report.

This report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

5. Committee Reports.

- a) Management Board. All minutes are on the website. There were no questions.
- b) Finance and Funding. Paul Deakin reported that there was new potential funding but it was not what it used to be. It was also dependent on the County presenting a case for Funding with the emphasis being on Inclusion. There was a danger at the moment that the County would just become an admin service for the RFU.

Financially the County was in a good position as festivals were not taking place as they used to so perhaps being in a good position was not for the 'right reasons'

There was a new project being suggested by the RFU for a new Volunteer Opportunity , this would involve 10 individuals from 10 clubs within the County being eligible for a £3K 'bursary'. There was now a need to show accountability with what Lancashire et al were doing with their funding. This was not yet in place and there was a meeting this week to discuss further with the RFU. Lancashire also had a portfolio of events that would link to a sponsor , they would provide the 'job spec' and again this would need the approval of the RFU and would be discussed further.

PD also highlighted the success of the Primary Schools Project that had been running with Josh Jones, a total of 1000 children had been involved with Try It Rugby with 240 children then moving on to join clubs within Lancashire.

- c) Disciplinary. There continued the ongoing theme of problems with Match Official Abuse with the main culprits being the U18 and Coaches. Info was being sent out to all clubs regarding

the U18 National problem of Abuse against Officials.

Clubs were complaining about the standard of referees and this was now getting to a ridiculous stage.

There was also an increase in dangerous/high tackles.

Brian Stott also reminded clubs that if a player got a bang on the head then they must go off. There is no HIA and no questions. If a player gets a bang on the head he goes off and stays off. Reminder that a player did die as a result of this protocol not being followed.

The point was also raised about the number of players going to a Disciplinary Hearing with out any support from their club. In many case these were young players who perhaps needed that support and clubs should bear that in mind.

d) Governance.

Carol Baker reported that the Safeguarding Audit was above RFU expectations.

There would be a Safeguarding Conference on 10th September.

A reminder to continue pushing the Cauliflower Ear campaign as in these times there were a lot of concerns that might not necessarily be rugby related eg may be money/work etc but the option was still there to talk.

The W and G Age Grade dispensations had been approved and more information would be on the way shortly.

e) Rugby Development Committee. This was linked to the Finance Report and the programme with Josh Jones would continue.

f) Club and Community Committee. Malcolm Worsley said there was nothing to report. He asked that clubs get in contact with him if they had any ideas or topics that they thought that this group could help them with.

g) Competitions Committee. The decision was taken early season to play the games early in the season, however things had not quite turned out as planned because of various reasons. Consequently the SF between Blackburn and Preston , and Widnes and Rochdale would not be played on the 7th May so the Final could not now be played on the 1st May as originally planned. In the Plate Competition Eccles were through to the Final with the other Finalists yet to be decided. IN the Bowl Competition not one game had been played as the clubs in that competition had been unable to play the games. A decision would be made at Easter about what steps to take next.

6. Playing.

a) Seniors. This was currently being arranged as their competition had not yet started and was due to start in May.

b) U20 These were due to play Cornwall in the Jason Leonard Semi Final at Wigan RUFC on Easter Sunday. KO 1.00pm

c) U18 This squad had won all their games and 6 players had been chosen for the North Squad.

d) U16 This squad had had quite a good season. Players had been taken from the DPP which

involved Cheshire and Lancashire players. There was some concern that some players were not getting a chance if they were not involved with the DPP.

- e) Women and Girls – Nothing to report.

Howard also mentioned the U17 who had got 82 players attending for trials this weekend. There would be games against Cumbria, Yorkshire and Cheshire.

7. League and North Division Report.

Dave Clarke reported that since the meeting at Wigan Cheshire had voted for 2nd XV to be allowed to play in the RFU Leagues.

The RFU were working on their own structure regarding N2W and there was some concern about how many would be in that League , 7/8/9 ?

Nothing yet had been finalised with the Cumbria League as to some extent it depended on how Aspatria did. which may mean a 13/14 team League as Aspatria may get promotion.

The structure would be out as soon as possible.

There were no questions.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence appertaining to this meeting.

9. New Members .

No New Members

10. Date and time of next meeting

AGM Wednesday 22nd June 2022 Tyldesley RUFC 6.30pm

11. AOB

Carol Baker reminded everyone that the Age Grade Dispensation is for one year so must be 'renewed' in consequent years. A reminder also that to ask on a Friday evening for a dispensation to play on the Saturday was not acceptable and clubs should be more organised and proactive.

Ian Spivey asked it to be noted that there was some concern regarding the reporting of results of the 7 -16 competitions but hopefully this would improve in the future.

Howard informed everyone that the Lancashire County team had two games against Leicester and Yorkshire. Durham had withdrawn from the Competition.

7th May Lancashire v Leicester at Waterloo KO TBC

14th May Yorkshire v Lancashire at West Park Leeds.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Attendees

President	Gill Burns MBE
Senior Vice President	Brian Stott
Vice President	Brian Stott
Vice President	Alan James
Past President	Malcolm Worsley
Past President	Dave Herriman
Past President	T J Hughes
Hon Secretary	Mark Downs
Hon Treasurer	Paul Deakin
RFU Representative	Dave Clarke
Director of Rugby	Howard Hughes
Director	J R S Greenwood
Aldwinians	D Hardy
Broughton	A Melvyn
Burnley	M Nichols
Fleetwood	S Doherty
Heaton Moor	D Todd
Littleboro'	B Hurst
LSH	D Woodcock
Lostock	A James
Nth Manchester	I Mac
Orrell	G Winstanley
Rochdale	S Blackburn
Southport	P Andrews
Warrington	G R Penks
West Pk	J Bradbury
Widnes	M Griffiths
Wigan	D Clarke
Mini and Junior	I Spivey

Colts League	A James
Safeguarding	C Spivey
	C Baker
League	K Potter
	D Clarke
Finance	P Deakin
Individual Members	I S Brown
	A Clarke