

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting at Liverpool St Helens FC
Monday 12th September 2022

Present: D. Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs, J.T. Hughes, H. Hughes, G.A. Burns, P. Deakin, M.J. Worsley, B.H. Stott, G.J. Morgan & M. Downs.

In Attendance: Mr A. Soutar

Apologies: Messrs, R.T.J. Briers, K. Andrews, J.R.S. Greenwood & C.A. Baker.

A minutes silence was held to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

CB Relationship Managers Report.

AS Reported:-

1. The Age Grade numbers for Lancashire are looking very good. Most clubs with Junior sections are showing an increase in affiliated players compared to same time last season.
2. Coach & Referee Course bookings are also high within the County with 366 course booking made.
3. There have been 6 applications for the Network Leaders Course. The candidates are a high standard.
4. Project Phoenix – This is work looking at potential at risk clubs identified from RFU Data Analysis. Club Developers have been contacting clubs with good response but 5 clubs have not engaged at all so far.
5. An online Targetted Funding drop in will be held on 26th and 28th September.
6. BHS – Requested an update on the numbers of qualified 1st Aiders, GJM noted that Lancashire had been offered 58 free 1st Aid Courses at a cost of £60 each, plus 12 x £250 bursaries toward defibrillators.
7. GJM – Not many clubs had completed the Risk Assessment which is to be completed by all clubs by March. Perhaps the offer of a free 1st Aid course could be used as an incentive.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

RFU.

No report.

Lancashire Facilities Meeting.

MD reported on a quarterly update meeting with Matt Coglan to discuss the progress of club projects – Appendix

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Safeguarding Conference.

GJM reported on the success of the conference at Liverpool Collegiate. The focus was on Mental Health awareness with some very powerful speakers. CAB report Appendix 2

County Championship.

DC – Had received a note from Tim Miller advising that Counties should enter the competitions and wait to see the structure.

U20s have a ceiling of Level 5 to select from. An objection is being planned for the Council meeting in September.

Correspondence.

None appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

Annual – Benjamin Thomas Sheard Approved.

50:50 Draw

Aug 22	Value	Sept 22	Value
M Cornelia	£53.40	PE Hughes	£53.40
P Hanson	£8.90	P Hanson	£8.90
P Hanson	£8.90	P Saunders	£8.90
H Henderson	£8.90	S Knowles	£8.90
B O'Driscoll	£8.90	RTJ Briers	£8.90

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 3rd October 2022 at Liverpool St Helens FC.

Any other business.

- MJW Club & Community meeting to be held at Liverpool St Helens on 21st Sept at 7:00pm
 - GAB A club member had been proposed for the RFU Presidents volunteer award.
 - GJM Although clubs have to conduct the risk assessment, Constituent bodies do not.
 - BHS Do juniors have to produce match cards ? They do in Lancashire cup games currently. AS to check with RFU if there are issues with GDRP.
 - BHS The Honours tie still needs to be presented.
 - GJM had received one comment that the Cauliflower Ear posters only portrayed men.
 - HH U18's to start in October with trials on the 30th and squad development day on 6th November.
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|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| To Play 4 th December | Cumbria at Billingham |
| 18 th December | Yorkshire at Carlisle |
| 8 th January | Cheshire at Lymm |
- A request had been received to play a South African touring side in December.
We are currently looking for a U18's team manager.

- HH Radical changes made to U17's program
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| 15 th February | Backs Assessment Day |
| 22 nd February | Forwards Assessment Day |
| To Play 21 st May | Carlisle at Tyldesley |
| 28 th May | Cumbria at Penrith |
- DC Had written to Eccles with regard to them not running the Red Rose Competition.
- HH New Junior Challenge website and work done is excellent. Thanks to Ian & Christine Spivey and Phil Lord.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:00pm

D. 

Chairman Date 3-10-22.

Appendix 1

Lancashire Facilities Meeting Notes (Zoom Call – 7th Sept 2022)

Present MD, PD, Matt Coglan (RFU)

Projects update

Club	Project
Aldwinians	Additional changing rooms
Ashton-Under-Lyne	Security of tenure
Blackburn	New floodlights, clubhouse extension
Blackpool	Site purchase
Burnage	AGP Resurface
Clitheroe	Improved Pitches at Giggleswick School
Colne & Nelson	Exterior social space
Didsbury Toc H	Perimeter fence
Littleborough	Pitch drainage works
Liverpool St Helens	Additional land, changing room refurb & clubhouse improvements
Manchester	New changing rooms
North Manchester	New entrance & security of tenure
Old Bedians	New bolier(s)
Orrell RUFC	New site with pitches & clubhouse
Sedgley Park	Energy efficiency
Southport	3G pitch at School
Tarleton	Lease of additional land
Thornton Cleveleys	Relocation
Trafford MV	New car park, floodlights & pitch perimeter
University of Liverpool	New 3G pitch
Warrington	Levelling pitches & new car park
West Park (St Helens)	Relocation
Wythenshawe	Changing room & social space refurb

Not Started

In Process

Complete

- 66% response to facilities survey by Lancashire clubs, others will be followed up.
- The RFU Rugby pitch adviser (North) is Ian Summerville who is based on the Wirral.
- £15m is being held by the Football Foundation for pitch improvement grants during April/May 2023 and is available to RU, RL & Cricket as well as Football.
- Womens RWC 2025 will generate Leadup & Legacy funding. Details will be released in Sept 2022 but the funding will be available over a 4 year period.

Report. LANCASHIRE CLUB SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE

Saturday 10th September 2002. Liverpool Collegiate RUFC.

TURN A SCRUM FROWN - UPSIDE DOWN

The conference went ahead despite the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II
(As per guidance from RFU at Twickenham)

In my opinion, it was a successful informative and very well received conference. The subject matter was at times difficult to hear and witness, but no apology is made for focussing on mental health issues. That was the theme of the day

Congratulations are sent to the wonderful and amazing resources available to members of the rugby family of Lancashire CB, especially via committed and passionate CSO's.

"In It Together" from Aspull RUFC, "Andy's Man Club" at Leigh RUFC and the Cauliflower Ear Programme provided by Lancashire CB; are available resources and support for those who need it.

I believe that each and every person in attendance benefitted and took support and a networking opportunity away from the day around the arena of Mental Health.

There were presentations from TRY IT Rugby Academy and Josh Jones was very well received and many clubs are wanting to engage with the Lancashire school's programme.

As well as a brief impromptu input from Lisa Johnson CSO at Littleborough talking about neuro diverse children playing rugby <https://www.englandrugby.com/news/article/rugby-a-lifeline-for-ellis-family>

ACORN Counselling who travelled down from Hexham Newcastle-upon-Tyne, had a dreadful journey having been parked in traffic on the M6 for three hours. Sarah herself needed counselling when she arrived after her seven and half hour journey to join us. Thanks are extended to Gary Morgan who liaised with Sarah and arranged the printing and distribution of the Cauliflower Ear Programme Posters and handouts. As well as Liverpool Collegiate RUFC for use of their facilities and excellent catering.

Assistant Chief Constable Sarah Jackson had to reluctantly pull out of the day due to Operational duties and being Gold Commander for Greater Manchester Police, in charge of all things relating to the death of Queen Elizabeth II and planning and being on duty. She has asked that she be invited to speak at the next occasion or conference.

More than ABLE replacing ACC Jackson on the 11th hour was Dave Gibbons from Aspull Rugby club who has set up the "In It Together" mental health awareness training and support. All I can say is THANK YOU for the honesty and eye-opening bravery shown. For the delivery and information shared.

So to Simon and Morgan from Andy's man club. Simon again sharing his very real challenge with mental health illness. Bravely and honestly sharing his continuing battle with the conference attendees. I am hopeful that more rugby clubs from within Lancashire and beyond may consider opening their spaces for these Monday night meetings.

Thanks also to Lancashire President Brian Stott for his attendance; jokes and witticisms to lighten the mood.

The initial conference was postponed from January 2022 due to the increase and covid spike following Christmas 2021.

Initially RSVP acceptances for the September date; were very slow in being returned. Following a fourth reminder and a demand for an RSVP, the numbers of attendees increased and 30 club indicated their intention to attend.

Apologies were received from 16 clubs. (prior to 4th September date of reminder).

Sadly, on the eve and day of conference 11 of these clubs who intended to attend, sent apologies.

13 Clubs or nominated CSO's failed to make contact or respond to any communications whatsoever.

Burnage, Bury, Clitheroe, Colne & Nelson, Crosby St. Marys, Eagle, North Manchester, Old Bedians, Ormskirk, Ruskin Park, Warrington, Wigan and Wythenshaw. To say the least I was disappointed.

What was highlighted on the day that there was a lot of support and referral pathways for adults within the rugby community.

I do acknowledge that we in rugby safeguarding and welfare, are a point of contact and not a service provider; however, It highlighted that Mental Health counselling and intervention for young persons is sadly missing. Acorn counselling agree that persons under the age of 12 miss out on a similar support. This was highlighted on the day and when two new CSO's identified themselves as working in Children's mental health arena and have offered to train (with possible financial help if possible, from Lancashire county ?) to fill this gap and supplement /enhance Cauliflower ear programme.

I wish to send my thanks to the board for their support and agreement to run these conferences.

To treasurer Paul Deakin for agreeing and managing a safeguarding budget, I personally think that no price is too high if we can save a life. This event highlighted how important it is that we continue to develop our CSO's and clubs. It is just a shame that so many missed out on the opportunity by choosing or being unable to attend.

I hope that Gary and Brian can answer any questions that may arise at the board meeting tonight. My apologies for not being able to attend as I had already sent acceptance to the NWPGG meeting.

Thank You

Carol Baker Lancashire CBSM.