

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING AND  
FINANCIAL AGM OF  
LANCASHIRECOUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD  
HELD AT CHORLEY RUFC 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

1. **Apologies:**

Ernie Neely, Geoff Perks (Warrington), Dave Herriman, Martin Griffiths (Widnes), Helen Duggan, Mike Dale, Dave Phillips (Tyldesley), Steve Blackburn, Malcolm Phillips, Allen Bower (AUL), Tim Stirk, Ian Bailey (Didsbury Toc H), Alec Graham (Rossendale), Nick Ingham (Rossendale), Preston Grasshoppers, John Greenwood, Phil Mahon (Anti-Assassins), Clive Ennis (Madrefs), John Bradbury (West Park).

2. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Tyldesley RUFC**

These were accepted.

3. **Matters arising**

Peter Hughes wished it to be noted that the Lancashire Youth Policy has been extended.

4. **Financial AGM and Presentation of Accounts for 2019-2020**

Paul Deakin, the County Treasurer presented the accounts to the meeting.

The continuing reduction in funding mean that this year there was less money., there had been a reduction of 30% in money from the RFU.

Of the money that had been received it was intended to allocate it as below:

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 16K | Targeted Development Fund   |
|     | Participation of 14 – 16 year olds  |
|     | (Senior Schools Programme)  |
| 2K  | Young Individuals – to include Young Referees                                     |
| 3K  | Mental Health support for U18 ( each club to have their own qualified MH advocate |
| 4K  | Womens and Girls Game   |

There was also money for administration to include:

- Coaching Conference
- Grassroots Rugby
- Host events such as Touch/Walking rugby
- Cluster group in South Lancashire eg Vets Competition – pie and a pint

Anyone wanting to be involved then please let the County know.

The County Championship campaign was also continuing and the County are working to develop a successful County Championship.

Bolton/Blackburn and Broughton Pk were also working on Diversity and Inclusion where their aim is to change the perception of Rugby in different communities.

The Cauliflower Ear Campaign was also ongoing with 5 one hour sessions budgeted for for people in need.

The County had worked with Club Champions in order to try and secure some sponsorship but this had not been particularly successful. The emphasis now needed to be on clubs getting sponsorship which would link back to the Community events.

The accounts would be published on the website in due course.

Comments from the floor included that clubs were impressed with what was on offer.

There was also a comment referring back to Mental Health campaigns, the RFU were keen to support this and link back to the Mini and Junior sections. Each club should have a series of posters, these had been distributed in the past but if any club needed new ones then they should contact Gary Morgan at Lancashire County RFU.

## **5. RFU Representatives Report**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

There was a Council Meeting the following Friday.

KA addressed the meeting with a few highlights:

- Congratulations to the Red Roses. A superb event which had shown how the Women's game had moved on.
- With regard to Worcester Warriors the RFU had supported them despite the information that had been in the press.
- Wayne Barnes was congratulated on receiving his 100 caps.
- Schools Section. Lancashire were looking to see what they could prioritise in order to support schools. The RFU were conducting a semi independent review. With regard to state schools the game is not yet back to pre pandemic levels.
- County Championship. The Bill Beaumont and Gill Burns Senior Cups were to continue but there was disappointment that The Jason Leonard U20s Competition was to be run alongside, in addition the option for choosing players had also been altered, Cheshire and Lancashire had objected to this at Council but Council would not allow the debate.
- Although crowds were now coming back to Twickenham the RFU were not debt free, there was still the Professional game negotiation also to be decided.
- Energy Bills and player Insurance had taken a sizeable chunk of the money available.
- The RFU were not looking at targeted funding rather than just 'dishing out' money.
- The stadium was also under consideration.
- The RFU were also addressing the issue of Head Injuries, PH queried the players already injured and were they being monitored. With regards to Steve Thompson no papers had yet been served. Council were working on an answer.

- It was acknowledged that schools were missing the RDOs who used to organise the games etc.

## 6. Committee Reports

- a) Management Board All minutes are on the website.
- b) Disciplinary

There was still concern about the amount of abuse that was aimed at Referees , particularly in the U18 Age group., Coaches at U15/U16. There was a need to protect the referees as without them there would be no game but also a need to educate the players, parents , coaches etc who were involved in rugby, It was hope that the Club and Community group would take this on next year.

There was a query about how many clubs had been fined etc to which BS gave a full reply, also adding that fines were not necessarily the answer.

There was also concern about the use of Home and Away areas and a document had been sent out to clubs so that they are aware of expectations.

It was noted that there is a nationwide shortage of referees and clubs needed to reinforce the Core Values of Rugby and also to possibly help with identifying new referees.

- c) Governance

CB reported that there were a lot of new CSO but thanks to everyone that was engaging with the new online 'service' with regards to Age Grade players.

- d) Rugby Development

A company called the Try It Project were continuing to work with Lancashire and this was helping with M and J Numbers.

There had been a Coaching Conference held , 94 people had registered in line so consequently the County had catered for 100. On the day 35 had attended with 9 apologies sent. This was a concern , partly due to the cost of catering which was wasted and partly but people had wanted to come but couldn't as course was judged full. This would be looked at again next year as the participants who had attended had thoroughly enjoyed the course.

- e) Club and Community – Nothing to report
- f) Competitions Committee.

More clubs had entered this year and all the Preliminary rounds and First rounds had been played. With regards to the Bowl Competition the first Finalist was already in place and Thornton Cleveleys would play either Old Bedians or Birchfield.

KA was the Competitions Chair , The Colts Competition was going well with 90% games having been played. Most clubs were field an U17/U18 side.

The Junior Challenge game was also progressing wit the Half Game rule going reasonably well.

There were 34 schools involved with various age groups and some new schools had also become involved.

The U12 girls were also involved in Touch rugby in 17 schools.

## 7. Playing

There was no U16 representative side .

The U17 representative side's games had been moved to the end of the season, starting in May with Games against Cumbria at Penrith and against Cheshire at Tyldesley.

The U18 programmes was about to start. There had recently been trials with 108 players attending all showing a decent standard.

There would be 3 games

Cumbria – game to be playing at Billingham

Yorkshire - game to be played at Carlisle

Cheshire – game to be played at Lymm

The U20 had been planned for but the eligibility criteria had been changed. It would not now be possible to select from Fylde/Preston or Sedgley. We were in a pool with Northumberland/Durham/Yorkshire and Cheshire.

The Royals also had a game planned against the Anti Assassins at West Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> December. This would involve players from L6 -L10

The nominations information had been posted on the website and Social Media

The U18 Girls team had just been selected and they would play Durham, Northumberland and Cheshire.

The Senior Teams games will take place in May and June and there would be more details regarding games etc nearer the time.

## 8. League Reports

There had been 700 fixtures with 23 walkovers.

It was mentioned that a note had been sent to clubs regarding their copy of the Floodlight certificate would need to be seen if they intended using their floodlights.

The closing date for the Papa Johns Cup needed to be in by the end of November.

Lancashire may run a League Cup Competition at the end of the season but that would depend on the Take up of the Papa John Competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> round is on the 25<sup>th</sup> March when most clubs will have finished their season.

The ROC recommended to leave L5/L6 as it is but lower leagues games to be spread throughout the season.

There was some discussion about the ongoing problem with Match cards and the fact that the helpline in place did not always get back to people. The system was going to revert back to only accepting registered players as there had been a problem with affiliated players being accepted when not registered.

## 9. North Report

As above.

## 10. Correspondence

There was nothing appertaining to this meeting.

## 11. Date and Time of Next meeting

TBC

## 12. AOB

The meeting closed at 8.47pm. Gill thanked everyone for attending.

### Attendees:

President	Brian Stott
Vice President	Alan James
Past President	Rob Briers
Past President	Ken Andrews
Past President	Tommy Hughes
Hon Secretary	Mark Downs
RFU Rep	Dave Clarke
RFU Rep	Ken Andrews
D O Volunteering	Gill Burns MBE
D O Rugby Dev.	Howard Hughes
Aldwinians RUFC	D Hardy
Aspull RUFC	S Bailey
Blackburn RUFC	P Westhead
Bolton RUFC	A James
Broughton Pk FC	A Marsland
Broughton RUFC	Ian Mac
Burnage RUFC	E A Haynes
Burnley RUFC	M Nicholls
Eccles RFC	D Edmondson
Firwood Waterloo	T Mc Clure
Heaton Moor RUFC	D Todd

Leigh RUFC	T Hughes
Littleborough RUFC	B Hurst/L Johnson
LSH RFC	John Williams
Manchester RFC	Tim Harper
Nth Manchester	Ian Mac
Ormskirk RUFC	Brian Stevenson
Orrell RUFC	Graham Winstanley
Sedgley Pk RUFC	R Berry
Tyldesley RUFC	H Hughes
Wigan RUFC	D Clarke
Individual Members	I S Brown
Colts	A James
Safeguarding	C Spivey
League	I Spivey