

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 2nd October 2023

Present: Mr D Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs, J.T. Hughes, H. Hughes, M.J. Worsley, K. Bennetta, C.A. Baker, P. Deakin, G.A. Burns & M. Downs.

In Attendance: Mr A. Soutar & Ms B Dale.

The Chairman welcomed the new season and the new Senior Vice President, Brian Hurst, to the meeting.

Apologies: Messrs B. Hurst & B.H. Stott..

CB Relationship Managers Report.

AS reported.

1. CB National Call – 12.10.23 – 6pm
 - Agenda TBC
2. CB Drop in – 30.10.23 - 7pm / 1.11.23 – 12pm
 - Hampshire TDF & Innovation
 - CB Volunteer Induction
 - Effective Communication & Marketing
 - Schools review finding
3. Funding for Adult Male Recruitment fund will be on the next payment run (15k)
4. First Aid Vouchers from the RFU have landed with CB Rugby Safe leads to support clubs
5. Age Grade Player Affiliation numbers (see attached)
 - 4.7% increase from this time last year (+289)
 - Below/attached shows clubs who have increased/decreased numbers from last year (snapshot below)

	23 / 24	22 / 23		
Wythenshawe RUFC	9	23	-14	-61%
Burnage RFC	71	153	-82	-54%
Blackpool RUFC	1	2	-1	-50%
North Manchester RUFC	32	63	-31	-49%
Rosendale RUFC	65	116	-51	-44%
Heaton Moor RUFC	120	193	-73	-38%
Liverpool St Helens FC	162	255	-93	-36%
Warrington RUFC	137	210	-73	-35%
Wigan RUFC	185	263	-78	-30%

	23 / 24	22 / 23		
Tyldesley RUFC	149	167	-18	-11%
Aldwinians RUFC	223	247	-24	-10%
Sedgley Park RUFC	238	262	-24	-9%
Crosby St Mary's RUFC	22	24	-2	-8%
Blackburn RUFC	166	179	-13	-7%
Burnley RUFC	232	242	-10	-4%
Lancashire Constabulary RFC	1	1	0	+0%
Colne & Nelson RFC	8	7	1	+14%
Widnes RUFC	115	100	15	+15%

6. Inner Warrior open for clubs to apply has closed. The following events at clubs have been arranged.

Clitheroe RFC	18 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Bury RUFC	25 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Fylde RUFC	24 October 2023	Girls (Age 11 - 17)
Bolton RUFC	15 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
University of Liverpool RFC	15 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Rochdale RUFC	29 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Didsbury Toc H RFC	28 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Sedgley Park RUFC	29 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Edge Hill University RFC	14 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Broughton Park FC	19 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
Vale of Lune RUFC	21 October 2023	Women (18 and above)
University of Manchester RFC	21 October 2023	Women (18 and above)

7. Girls U12s Funding

- More funding has been sourced, meaning that grants/packages will be awarded to a more clubs, the NEW additional clubs are in bold italics.

Aldwinians

Broughton park

Didsbury

Eccles

Liverpool Collegiate

Sedgley Park

Trafford MV

Burnley

Littleborough

8. Only 8 CB's had applied for the RFUs Central pot for Adult Recovery funding. Lancashire applied and received £15k to distribute to club members, some of who have already applied.
9. We should hold 48 First Aid Course vouchers, possibly with Gary Morgan the Rugby First lead.

BD Reported:-

10. Work is starting on the Phoenix Clubs who have been identified as "at risk"
11. Clitheroe have been working with local schools, specifically for Girls rugby with a view to forming a "Town Team" to play a fixture with Burnley.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

RFU Report.

1. DC reported that in future there will be a centralised report of Council Meetings produced by the RFU to be shared with CB Boards and Clubs.
2. MJW felt that currently the RFU seemed to be in turmoil. DC felt that a lot of this is the fact that the Board do not give Council full information.
3. PD felt that press reports of a Council revolt were a little exaggerated. MJW wanted to know how the rebellion was stopped. DC – Rob Udwin promised to do a review in the year of his presidency on how the RFU is working. The letter to the RFU Board was then rescinded.
4. There is a £50 million project on IT to be considered. Tom Ilube feels this is important to identify what platforms rugby will be accessed from in future.
5. MD – It would appear that staff levels are back to the same numbers from before the cull of all the field staff but the new positions are predominantly Twickenham based.
6. DC – Ring fencing of Premiership 1 & 2 could be in place by the end of the year.

Discipline.

BHS report Appendix 1.

1. MD – The majority of disciplinary charges season to date have been for Match Official abuse and not the expected High Tackle law changes.
2. MJW – Clubs need to be hit with harder sanctions. JTH – The Disciplinary Committee need to follow guidelines for sanctions.

Womens & Girls Rugby.

KB reported:-

1. 65 Girls were in attendance at Trafford MV for the DPP trial. Coaches analysed the core group who were of a good standard. 40 have been invited back for the 21st October session. Feedback from the Girls was very good.
2. Carol Isherwood attended the session and assessed the coaches. She will attend and help as and when she can.
3. Budgets – There is a £12k budget from the RFU to run the DPP. As with the Boys DPP and County Age grade squads the girls will be expected to contribute to kit.
4. £50 per session paid to Trafford MV for hosting the DPP.
5. HH – may have a playing kit that can be used to save funds
6. HH – a good social media response with regard to the U16s Girls DPP.

Mixed Ability Rugby

Catherine Jones report Appendix 2

1. After the resignation of T. Coffey, Catherine Jones of Try It Rugby had offered to help with the Mixed Ability Rugby Project as well as the Rugby United program. M. Downs suggested that this could be a more permanent role with Catherine reporting to the Board on Mixed Ability through MD and on Rugby United through PD. This would not be a Board position to ensure no conflict of interest with Catherine as an employee of Try It.

Approved

Correspondence.

Email note of resignation from the Board, from Directorship and from Membership of the County by T. Coffey.

New Members.

No New Members

50:50 Draw

Oct 23	Value
JE Nixon	£53.70
G Spenglar	£8.95
GA Burns	£8.95
P Hanson	£8.95
DN Harrison	£8.95

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 6th November 2023 by Zoom.

Any other business.

CAB – Met with Dave Westhead and North Manchester where there seems to be some relationship issues between Juniors and Senior Club.

CAB – Vale of Lune are being very proactive in trying to restart Womens and Girls Rugby.

CAB – Paul Woodward has run a Y6 Open & Funday at Widnes which was very successful.

BD – questioned if clubs have their own CRC do they register with the County. Its not mandated but good to know.

GAB – Caps could be offered to all senior mens players who had represented the County. The caps would be different from the official ones. This is on hold as it was felt this may dilute the honour of the official 10 appearance cap.

HH – U18 male trial at Tyldesley on 29th October

HH – Under 20's coach appointments, there are three potential candidates.

Meeting ended at 8:03pm

Male Some Chairman Date 6th November 2023
pp



Disciplinary Committee

Board Report

September 2023

At the start of the season the main concern was where we going to see a large number of red cards for tackle offences as you can see from the attached table this has not been the case. There have been four red cards one of which was dismissed.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of Match Official Abuse and the following tables show a more detailed breakdown of the season to date.

Type	Law	Offence	Suspension	Suspended for 1 Year
Red Card	9.28	Failure to respect	1 week	0 weeks
Red Card	9.28	Verbal Abuse	3 weeks	3 weeks
Red Card	9.28	Verbal Abuse	3 weeks	3 weeks
Charge	5.12	Failure to respect	1 week	0 weeks
Charge	5.12	Written Abuse	6 weeks	6 weeks

Type	Law	Offence	Number	%	Total Cases	22
Red Card	9.28	Failure to resepect	1	4.55%		
Red Card	9.28	Verbal Abuse	2	9.09%		
Charge	5.12	Failure to resepect	1	4.55%		
Charge	5.12	Written Abuse	1	4.55%		
Total			5	22.73%		

As you can see from the above table nearly a quarter of the cases relate to offence against match officials.

The use of suspended suspensions on matters involving coaches has seen an improvement in coach behaviour. This has been recognised by the RFU who have amended the regulations to enable us to do the same with players in addition to their suspension.

Board Report Statistics 2023-2024				Heard
				22
				Dismissed
				5
9.11 Reckless play, including leading with the forearm or elbow				
9.12 Bite				
9.12 Contact with Eye - Intentional				
9.12 Contact with Eye - Reckless				
9.12 Contact with Eye Area				
9.12 Strike Punch	6	27.27%		
9.12 Strike with Open Hand				
9.12 Strike with Arm				
9.12 Strike with Elbow				
9.12 Strike with Shoulder				
9.12 Strike with Head				
9.12 Strike with Knee				
9.12 Stamp or trample				
9.12 Trip				
9.12 Kick				
9.12 Other Physical Abuse				
9.12 Verbal Abuse				
9.13 Dangerous Tackle	4	18.18%	1	
9.13 High Tackle				
9.13 Tackling Early Late or Dangerously				
9.14 Tackling player without the ball				
9.15 Hold, push, obstruct a player without the ball				
9.15 Charging a player without the ball				
9.16 Dangerous charge or knock down of player with no attempt to grasp				
9.17 Tackling the player in the air				
9.17 Charge, pull, push or grasp the player in the air				
9.18 Tip Tackle - lift and/or drop/drive opponent				
9.18 Lifting and/or dropping/driving opponent				
9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum				
9.20a Charge into a ruck or maul (contact made without binding onto another player)				
9.20b Contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders in a ruck or maul				
9.20c Collapse a ruck or a maul intentionally				
9.20d Drop their weight onto the jackler or target the lower limbs in a ruck				
9.25 Late charge on kicker				
9.27 ACTGS Hair Pulling				
9.27 ACTGS Spitting				
9.27 ACTGS Grab twist or squeeze of genitals				
9.27 ACTGS Other				
9.27 ACTGS Two Yellows	3	13.64%	2	
9.28 Misconduct Failure to respect referee	1	4.55%		
9.28 Verbal abuse of a match official	2	9.09%		
9.28 Physical contact with a match official				
9.28 Threatening words or actions to a match official				
9.28 Physical abuse of a match official				
5.12 Match Official Abuse - Physical				
5.12 Match Official Abuse - Verbal & Written	2	9.09%		
5.12 (Other)	4	18.18%	2	
TOTAL	22		5	
Dismissed	5	22.73%		

Disciplinary Committee

Monthly Hearing Budget Report

Season to Date

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Hearing Costs</u>	<u>Equipment Costs</u>	<u>Conference Costs</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>Surplus/Deficit</u>
Budget	£400.00	£30.00	£25.00	£55.00	£110.00	£345.00
Actual	£640.00	£25.49	£9.37	£49.00	£83.86	£605.14
Difference	£240.00	-£4.51	-£15.63	-£6.00	-£26.14	£260.14
% Difference	60.00%	-15.03%	-62.52%	-10.91%	-23.76%	75.40%

30 September 2023

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Hearing Costs</u>	<u>Equipment Costs</u>	<u>Conference Costs</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>Surplus/Deficit</u>
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% Difference	60.00%	-15.03%	-62.52%	-10.91%	-23.76%	75.40%

Appendix 2.

Mixed Ability Rugby with Lancashire.

Clubs have been identified who would like to participate and have the facilities to host mixed ability rugby.

Aldwinians – already have a few players who are currently going along to the walking rugby, I am just waiting on the chairman for a date to have a meeting with them all.

Sedgley Park – They have agreed to hosting a team. I have already had a couple of meetings with disability groups around the area and we are going to one on Thursday to do a bit of a taster session with the members.

Preston Grasshoppers – I have had the all clear from the chairman that they would like mixed ability, I have a few groups ready to contact to do the same as I have done with Sedgley. They have looked at availability of the pitches and said they can facilitate.

Bolton – they currently are running a very successful team for training, but it was agreed that we would still support them, and look at using them as the first club to start a junior mixed ability team.

Tracey and I put the bid in for Sport England which as I am aware off we haven't had an answer back. I can send over if you need it.

I have spoken with IMAS about training for the coaches which we are in the process of sorting out.

As ideas I have also spoken with Nathan Wilson about contacting the RFU injured players group, and I am thinking of looking at ex veterans who were injured on duty. As well as contacting the local leisure centres to look at people who are rehabbing injuries.

On the 15th October Tryit Rugby will be attending the Sale Sharks v Northampton Saints game, which is televised with a gentleman called Graeme, who has MND and also on the spectrum. Sale have agreed for him to present the match ball, as well as a couple of other things as he really wants to be a referee. We have invited the clubs and will have representation from Lancashire and The RFU on the day. We are still waiting for confirmation from Andy Burnham to attend with us. We are looking at using this day as a launch of mixed ability in Lancashire as we also have the support from Sale Sharks now.

Catherine Jones.