

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 6th November 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: Messrs B. Hurst, B.H. Stott, D. Westhead & Ms B. Dale.

Apologies: Mr A Soutar.

CB Relationship Managers Report.

1. BHS – asked if there was any further reports on issues with Juniors and seniors at North Manchester. This is ongoing and an internal club matter.
2. DW – Aaron Howarth’s temporary position as Competitions Officer has been extended to March 2025.
3. BD – Sedgley Park had run a successful Inner Warrior Camp, others had been called off due to bad weather.
4. BD – still promoting the Adult Male Recovery Funding to Clubs. Some already actioned including Aldwinians organising Vets matches.
5. BD – Volunteer Recruitment Project response is still not high but a further push will be put in place.
6. DC – we need to know how many First Aid course vouchers we have for this season and left over from last season so that we can distribute to clubs. We also need to know the mechanism for distributing them. DW will action this.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Discipline.

BHS report Appendix 1.

1. BHS – there are concerns at the number of U18s coaches and their abuse of match officials . Players are generally being well behaved but coaches and parents are not so. The Disciplinary Committee have started to hand partial suspended sentences in the hope that a “Sword of Damocles” effect will happen.
2. MJW – questioned why clubs as a whole are not sanctioned for this behaviour. BHS – 2 clubs have been sanctioned and are due to be heard.

Mixed Ability Rugby

Catherine Jones report Appendix 2.

1. MD – explained that several clubs had received or were to receive grants for their Mixed Ability work but that Bolton RUFC were advanced in their project. There are looking for 3 levels of sponsorship for the kit for their MA Team and a request was made that the County become a Bronze sponsor for this. **Approved.**

RFU.

1. DC – No Council Meeting recently, only one small update from Sue day on finance.
2. PD – A small group of 5 Council Members had been formed recently to meet regularly with Sue Day with a view to holding RFU Finance accountable. An outcome is that running Rugby is profitable but strategic growth investments lead to losses and potential losses.
3. Next RFU Council meeting

Structure Review.

1. BHS – Will report to the Board imminently but there does seem to be duplication in work done by the Board.

Womens & Girls Rugby.

KB reported:-

1. U16s program has been running for several weeks and from 40 Girls have selected 2 teams. Girls have been selected from 11 different clubs.
2. DPP is now running well.
3. U18s were struggling to get nominations but now have 34 nominated. James Wright and Rhianne Boag will run and coach the squad.
4. HH – We will need kit sizes soon to get in time. HH has a set of playing shirts that can be used. Kit contribution is £45 per player.
5. KB – there will be a meeting regarding the Womens World Cup at Trafford MV on 7th Nov.

Correspondence.

No new membership applications.

New Members.

No New Members

50:50 Draw

Nov 23	Value
P Saunders	£53.70
S Knowles	£8.95
BJ O'Driscoll	£8.95
AT Rowntree	£8.95
RTJ Briers	£8.95

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 4th December 2023 by Zoom.

Any other business.

BHS – A problem is growing with clubs not following regulations on the cancellation of league fixtures. There are sanctions and fixtures will be reversed.

JTH – at the recent Club & Community meeting there was a discussion on who would run the Senior Womens team. HH confirmed that Mike Dale would continue as Senior Ladies Manager.

MJW – No seen a recent financial statement. PD will send out.

HH – U18s Boys squad has been selected. 82 at initial trial with 55 invited to an assessment day. Now selected a 25 player squad from 15 different clubs and 16 different schools.

HH – U18s Boys initially had 3 match days that were festival format. Both Lancashire and Cheshire were un happy with the format as it would have seen us play each other at Whitley Bay. Fixtures are:-

3rd Dec v Yorkshire at Vale of Lune

17th Dec v Cheshire at Broughton Park

7th Jan v Durham at Keighley

HH – Colts Leagues, The Age Grade Structured Season sets aside dates for County activities. The colts leagues have let clubs play on these dates. Cheshire have a similar issue.

HH – U20s still waiting on eligibility regulations , but its likely that ourselves and Cheshire will not be entering the competition.

HH – Still having GMS problems with ADM leagues.

KB – All DPP players need to be registered as a County team. MD to check KB access levels for GMS and change where needed.

Meeting ended at 7:37pm



Chairman Date 4th December 2023

pp

Appendix 1

Board Report Statistics 2023-2024				Heard
				36
				Dismissed
				10
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	8	22.22%		
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	1	2.78%	1	
9.12 Trip				
9.12 Kick				
9.12 Other Physical Abuse				
9.12 Verbal Abuse				
9.13 Dangerous Tackle	6	16.67%	2	
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	4	11.11%	2	
9.28 Misconduct Failure to respect referee	1	2.78%		
9.28 Verbal abuse of a match official	3	8.33%		
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	5	13.89%		
5.12 (Other)	8	22.22%	5	
TOTAL	36		10	
Dismissed	10	27.78%		

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	£800.00	£60.00	£50.00	£110.00	£220.00	£690.00
Actual	£1,080.00	£45.99	£15.62	£101.00	£162.61	£1,018.39
Difference	£280.00	-£14.01	-£34.38	-£9.00	-£57.39	£328.39
% Difference	35.00%	-23.35%	-68.76%	-8.18%	-26.09%	47.59%

31 October 2023

	<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	£440.00	£20.50	£6.25	£52.00	£78.75	£413.25
Difference	£40.00	-£9.50	-£18.75	-£3.00	-£31.25	£68.25
% Difference	10.00%	-31.67%	-75.00%	-5.45%	-28.41%	19.78%

Appendix 2

Mixed Ability Update

Lancashire have won a £14,500 Sport England Grant for mixed ability rugby in Lancashire.

Tryit Rugby have already delivered sessions to local community groups and have more booked in for after Christmas for Sedgley Park. We have got the backing of the club to start running sessions which is looking at being after Christmas. Sedgley have given free tickets to all groups too for people to go and watch the first team.

I have had a meeting with Aldwinians who would like sessions after Christmas, there plan is to add members to their already growing team, who currently train with the walking rugby. They would like to do it after Christmas that way its leading up to the 6 nations and then the mixed ability festival in May, location TBC but it will be on the 26th May. There was also talk about Aldwinians looking at starting a junior mixed ability team.

Bolton already have a team, I will be sending out an email to them over the next few days to see how we can work with them and see if they would like any sessions in the community to help grow their team. I think it would be great if we could do the bronze sponsor package for part of their new kit.

Preston agreed to hosting a mixed ability team, but since the initial contact with the chairman they haven't really engaged. I am next week for an event so will chase when I am there.

Now the sport England grant has come through I can carry on working alongside the clubs and get into more community clubs.