

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 4th December 2023

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

In Attendance: Messrs B. Hurst, B.H. Stott, A. Soutar, C. Hall & Ms B. Dale.

Apologies: Mr P. Deakin.

CB Relationship Managers Report.

Appendix 1 – Report from AS, BD & CH.

1. AS – requested details of any success stories from clubs who had received Adult Male Targeted Delivery funds.
2. AS – Thanks to CAB for the excellent RFU Safeguarding Audit, Discipline Audit will be between Jan and March 2024.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Questions to written reports.

Appendix 2 – Written Report from C. Jones update on Rugby United Project.

Appendix 3 – Written Report from C. Jones update on Mixed Ability Rugby Project.

RFU.

1. DC – Council meeting held on Friday 1st December.
2. DC – decision has been reversed whereby level 3 & 4 players cannot play for the U20s as long as they have not played for the first team in the club.
3. DC – discussion on the data and digital project, new RFU website by August 2024, investing £50 million. Expected to payback in 10 years and make £12 million per annum thereafter.
4. MJW – are discussions ongoing at Twickenham regarding the pending legal cases covering head injury claims. DC – the cases is being delayed due to delays of information from the players legal representatives to the judge.

Representative Rugby.

1. HH – U18s Boys first game cancelled due to weather.

2. HH – Royals nominations have gone out and response is good so far. Royals match v Anti Assassins will be held at Leigh.
3. HH – Lancashire and other Counties will now stay in the U20s Competition after the regulation changes.
4. HH – U17s Boys start later in 2024.

Womens & Girls Rugby.

KB reported:-

1. U16s game is on 28th January, then potential multiple county festival on 18th Feb.
2. U18s game against Yorkshire at Trafford MV on 17th Dec. Final game is a tri-fixture against Cumbria and Durham on the 14th Jan at Preston.
3. DC requested HH & KB compile a list of fixtures for distribution.

Discipline Report.

Appendix 4 – Written Report from BHS on Discipline.

Structure Review.

BHS gave a presentation on the 1st part of the review covering the Board.

1. BHS – The proposal would see the number of Directors lowered from a maximum of 12 to a maximum of 9.
2. A new structure for the Presidential ladder was proposed following the RFU model of Junior VP, Senior VP & President.
3. A discussion took place regarding whether the Womens and Girls Rugby should be a separate Directorship with strong opinions on both sides.
4. MJW Suggested that there should be a director of Discipline.
5. CAB questioned if removing Council Members as Directors would dilute the information fed back. DC reiterated that the RFU now produce Council meeting briefing notes.
6. The review document is to be shared so that comments can be received

Correspondence.

None appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

New Club Membership application Blackley RUFC Approved.

MD gave background details to the board that this would be initially a Junior section based at Blackley Cricket Club.

50:50 Draw

Dec 23	Value
P Hanson	£53.70
D Poppitt	£8.95
P Saunders	£8.95
P Saunders	£8.95

S Knowles

£8.95

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 8th January 2024 by Zoom.

Any other business.

DC – as a County we were invited to a meeting to discuss our number of reported cases of racist/homophobic incidences during play. There has been a big rise in cases across the RFU. This rise could be that there is a rise in reporting. RFU would like to introduce “Bystander Training” to Lancashire. MJW to look at potential candidates for Bystander Training.

BHS – update on the Littleborough disciplinary case against the Club, not against any individual.

CAB – First aid vouchers, there are 100 still available.

Meeting ended at 8:10pm



Chairman

Date 8th January 2024

pp

Constituent Body Regional Manager Report – 1st December 2023

1. CB National Call – 9.11.23 – 6pm
2. 8 CBs applied for funds to support the Adult Male game via the funds available (100K) - funding has been paid. (please check)
 - o 4 North CBs
 - o 1 Midlands
 - o 1 London & South East
 - o 2 South West

3. CB Drop in – 27.11.23 - 7pm / 29.11.23 – 12pm
Notts, Lincs, & Derby - Youth Council - MOGP.

Breakout rooms:

Women & Girls update

Safeguarding

Council Members Election

4. First Aid Vouchers from the RFU have landed with CB Rugby Safe leads to support clubs
5. Girls U12s Funding
More funding has been sourced, meaning that grants/packages will be awarded to a more clubs.
Clubs in green additional clubs
Aldwinians, Broughton Park, Didsbury, Eccles, Liverpool Collegiate, Sedgley Park, Trafford MV, [Burnley & Littleborough](#).

6. Adult Male Recovery fund (15K)

A mini report will be due end of January to what has been delivered / spent

Funds will not be able to be carried over to season 2023/ 24

Do you have any MOGP to share with other CBs?

7. Adult Male Targeted Delivery Funds (£8,401)

Similar to above half season update due in January to what has been delivered/amount spent.

This season all funds must be spent by end of the season.

8. CB Drop in / National Calls

No national calls or CB drop in December

9. Age Grade Player Registration

1.9% increase from this time last season (+141)

AGE GRADE REGISTRATIONS PLAYERS OVER TIME



10. Community Support Fund

The following clubs applied to receive funding via the community support fund, numbers were low for Lancashire:-

Aspull RFC

Orrell RUFC

The purpose of this fund is to support voting member clubs, CBs and referee societies who are in greatest financial need. As with last year, the turnover threshold is £125,000.

Lancashire CB Update – December 2023

Inner warrior

- Sedgley Park – unfortunately not successful. Have offered further support for the January window
- Didsbury Toc H - We ended up having to move our camp. So we did a free half term camp on the 24/25th and had over 45kids down. Then we ran a inner warrior senior session with some of the Sale women.
- Broughton Park - It was a great session, high energy and lots of smiling faces. The senior girls got really stuck in to peer to peer coach the new people who came down to join us, helping us to develop strong friendships and encourage them back.
- Fylde – recruited 4 new girls
- Vale of Lune - We ran the camp on Saturday 14.1.23 - which was perfect as after the camp we were able to feed all participants and most stayed and socialised whilst watching the men's sides at home

January Sign Ups

- Fylde
- Didsbury Toc H
- Oldham

Volunteer Recruitment Fund

Applications from:

- Eccles – Thursday brunch for two month period in the new year to recruit local retiree's to assist with groundskeeping.
- Firwood Waterloo – Social media recruitment video
- Liverpool Tritons – “Turn up and try” family fun event around Easter
- Southport – Social media campaign for their “Clean up, Catch up and Coffee” group
- Trafford M.V – Social media campaign and club T shirts to volunteers
- West Park – Volunteer fair/ open day with paid advertising via social media
- LJMU – Social Media recruitment
- Clitheroe – family fun day during preseason 2024
- Colne & Nelson - social media campaign supported by an event around Thursday Club
- Didsbury Toc H – paint and BBQ event to repair flood damage
- Old Bedians – monthly work parties
- Sedgley Park – Leafleting and free match tickets
- Thornton Cleveleys – publicise a maintenance day through traditional local media and social media, and provide refreshments on the day
- Warrington – volunteer work party to install floodlights

Despite applying Waterloo and Trafford aren't eligible as they were awarded the funding last year.

Project Phoenix

Liverpool Collegiate – The club is engaging with the process well and has developed with regards to adult male recruitment and retention. They are however, reaching their capacity with regards to their facility for M&J and I have begun discussions with both the club and facilities team on how to find a solution. Transition – The club's colts section train at the same facility as the senior section and at similar times to help bridge the gap between the sides.

Littleborough – some concern around turmoil at the club which may interfere with our work on colts transition. Delta and Bulak plan to meet with the club on Tuesday 05/12

North Manchester – separation of senior and age-grade sections may make the adult male recovery piece less complicated. The club unfortunately did not respond to an offer of bespoke social media and marketing support.

AOB

Newton Le Willows

Are growing their Juniors section and have qualified coaches in place. They appear to be doing a good job with it and I'll work with them to expand their offer in the off season.

Mossley Hill

Have recruited well and have talented individuals in volunteer roles at the club. Specifically local students running the social media and recruitment initiatives for the club.

West Park

Are looking to build a girls section in the new year and have strong links to local schools.

Firwood Waterloo

Alongside improving their schools engagement through the appointment of a part time internal schools coordinator role they're also currently developing a girls section through a girls only session on Sundays.

Fylde

Working on developing their schools offer around girls competition to support the growth of Fylde, Fleetwood, and Garstang girls sections.

Active Lancashire

In conversation around tying in with various development projects such as their work with Muslim communities around Preston and Blackburn, work projects in Rossendale, and Beat the Street in the Pendle area. Looking over the next few months to also engage with them over schools delivery and competition offers.

Appendix 2.

Rugby United Update 4th December 2023.

All 3 clubs have submitted the Club Report, Bolton and Broughton Park have sent them directly and Blackburn told me that Becca will be doing it for them. The deadline was the 3rd December.

Bolton

All information and plans have been sent to Becca. I have had a catch up with Mark and happy for them to carry on as they are. The sessions for home schooling will start again next year once the weather and pitches are better. As well as some more school sessions in designated schools. They would like to know how much of £7500 they can have towards making the outside bar alcohol free to make the facilities more appealing. I have said I will need to find out how much they have already had, although I think this is a great idea to move the club forward and make it more inclusive. I have another meeting with Mark next week to get some dates and schools confirmed for after Christmas.

Broughton Park

All information and plans have been sent over to Becca, I have a meeting with Phil Clarke at Active Manchester, unfortunately I am still not getting much response from Graham Higginbotham from Broughton. There were a few details that I queried on the plan for after Christmas, I am happy with the figures and plan as long as they are funded for Broughton Park and I am kept in the loop regarding the date of sessions and where they will be held, so that I can attend some of them as Lancashire representation. We are still waiting for confirmation from everyone as to how the sessions will work and how things will be run back at the club.

Blackburn

I have had a meeting with Becca and Alex, we were struggling a little bit with this as Blackburn do not have a girls team at present and are not really looking at forming one. Alex also said that Blackburn/Dino are not overly fussed about an external party helping to run any of the school sessions. I have spoken directly with The Director Of Rugby Dino at Blackburn and he is more than happy for some assistance in the schools.

One voice Blackburn are really happy with the weekend sessions that Sam is delivering and would like to add a Wednesday session on too. They have 7/8 girls who really want to play rugby but as already stated Blackburn do not have a girls team. I am speaking directly with One Voice to firstly see if the girls are happy to do contact and secondly where they go to school as there might be a club nearby that could accommodate them. We spoke about maybe getting the girls all together and going to watch a ladies match at Sale3, Becca and I decided that this will depend on what type of rugby the girls want to play. We will be looking at working closely with One Voice as the work they are doing is amazing.

Appendix 3.

Mixed Ability Update 1st December 2023

I have had a zoom meeting with Newcastle Falcons and Sale Sharks regarding working together to promote mixed ability rugby. Newcastle are looking at getting some fixtures together which I have spoken to Bolton about and they are keen to get something sorted. I will be speaking with Newcastle again next week. We are also looking to take some players up to Falcons to play before a game and then a reverse fixture at Sale. This could possibly be before a ladies game now that they are also televised.

I am still working alongside the clubs and will have more of an update on this after Christmas when I am able to get people back to the clubs.

The mixed ability festival at Leigh RUFC on the 26th May has been confirmed and we already have 3 teams registered, and emails have gone out to more teams. Teams are really grateful for the opportunity to play a festival like day and show that we are inclusive in what we offer.

I have spoken with IMAS and we are getting together some dates for us to do the training which is possibly going to be a day and a half, this could hopefully be at Sedgley Park as we wouldn't have to pay for the facilities. We will be looking at approximately £1500 for the training, and I will open up the offer for the clubs involved to bring representation so that we are all know what we are doing. We are looking at a memorandum of understanding partnership with IMAS so that TryIt will be the main provider of mixed ability rugby in Lancashire.