

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD**

HELD AT TYLDESLEY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB TYLDESLEY

ON WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE 2024

Apologies for Absence:

Sir Bill Beaumont, Alan Marsland, John Bullough, Margaret Chappell , Alison Stirk ,Tim Stirk , Rob Briers , Alex Speed , John Huyton, Jim O Connor , Neil Sinclair , David Herriman . Margaret Herriman , Gary Melling , Roly Heptonstall , Ann Andrews, Malcolm Phillips , Malcolm Worsley.

The minutes of the previous AGM were on the website.

There was a query about the Promotion and Relegation statement where clubs had been notified prior to Christmas but this was explained that the notification had gone out by Social media but was in the Regulations.

1. Annual Report.

This had been circulated and was available to view on the website. There were no comments or questions.

2. To consider the proposal to amend the Rules and Regulations of Lancashire County RFU.

All the changes were accepted which then changed the dynamics of the meeting, Consequently the nominations for the Sub committees would be sent out with the calling notice for an EGM in four weeks. It was agreed that the meeting would be via Zoom.

3. Election of Officers

a) President. Brian Hurst

Brian Hurst was invited to take over from Carol Baker who handed over the Badge of Office. Brian Stott introduced Brian Hurst and said he would be recognised as a long standing stalwart of Littleborough Rugby Club. BH thanked everyone for the honour of becoming President and thanks Carol for her time in Office.

b) Senior Vice President John Greenwood

Ken Andrews proposed John Greenwood as this year's Senior Vice President and spoke about the time and length of service that John had given to the County and to the game of Rugby.

c) Honorary Secretary Mark Downs

This was a Management Board Proposal and Mark would now be in post for three years. At this point Brian Stott stepped forward to ask that it be noted, rightly so , that Lancashire County RFU are lucky to have Mark as Secretary and would like to thank him for all that he does for the County and the game of Rugby,

d) Honorary Treasurer Paul Deakin

In post until 2025

e) Honorary Chairman Dave Clarke

In post until 2026

4. Election Of Directors

a. Director of Rugby

Howard Hughes Management Board Proposal

b. Director of Club and Community Rugby

Malcolm Worsley Management Board Proposal

c. Director of Governance Within Rule changes this position does not exist.

d. Director of Volunteering

Gill Burns MBE Management Board Proposal

e. Two Directors without Portfolio

Kate Bennetta Management Board Proposal

Tommy Hughes Management Board Proposal

5. Appointment of Independent Examiners

Paul Deakin has nominated ERC and Stephen Briers Seconded the Proposal so ERC appointed.

6. Election of:

I. Assistant Honorary Secretary

Brian Stott proposed by Mark Downs

II. Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Stephen Briers proposed by Paul Deakin

III. Vice Presidents:

Mark Nelson

Robbie Jones

Ken Andrews spoke about the role that Robbie had played over the years. Ken had known Robbie for over 30 years having originally met him in Middlesex. However the North had called an d Robbie had moved North to continue his teaching career. He had been involved with the Age Grade Governance at the RFU , Involved with Lancashire County U18 as a Selector and Coach and was also involved in the North West Regional Pathway. Now retired from teaching he continued to be involved and numbers were currently growing under his guidance.

Ian Spivey

Mark Downs spoke about Ian 's role in the County.

'Ian was originally a long serving County Rep for his club , Aldwinians and for many years before becoming involved in Age Grade Rugby in 2011 – that's minis and Juniors to you and me. He became Chair of the Age Grade Subcommittee in 2013 and has remained constant through the changes our Governing body have made in that time. During this period our Age Grade Competitions have shown growth in the number of teams entering.

Ian has worked with Robbie and John O Ryan to strengthen the Age Grade Rugby and Schools partnership. He is our County lead for the Age Grade Calendar which is a task to bring all our sections including Colts, DPP , Girls and Representative sides to harmony

Ian is the Chairman of the ADM Leagues and sits on the adult Competitions sub committee. He is focusing on the Girls Junior Competitions and is a great help to his long serving Secretary , Christine, on Safeguarding issues.

If his after dinner speeches are as long as his telephone calls many clubs are in for a tortuous evening ! Ladies and Gentleman I commend Ian Spivey to you '

Stephen Godfrey

Howard Hughes introduced Stephen to everyone. Stephen began his 'career' in Berkshire working with them and the South West Counties starting at Loughborough in 1972. He had been involved in the England U23 squad. He moved to work at Arnold school where he then became involved in the North U15. He was also club coach at Fleetwood for a time before becoming involved in the Schools Committee, the North Division and is currently a Schools Committee member.

7. Nominations for Sub committees

These will now be taken forward to the EGM with the date to be advised.

8. Correspondence

There was none appertaining to this meeting.

9. AOB

Dave Clarke spoke about the Lancashire Cup Competitions. Letters had gone out to the clubs asking for them to enter. He had phoned all the Senior clubs to ask about them entering the Lancashire Cup Competition but with little success. There was a decision to be made as to whether to move the Cup Competition down a level as only two clubs appeared interested in entering. Currently waiting for an update about which clubs had entered the Competitions. Rohan Whittle asked if the names of the clubs could be publicised to see who had entered

There was then a query regarding the Regulations from the Colts, Brian Stott explained the Regulations had been passed and accepted. Guidance would be issued to clubs to ensure that there was no ambiguity. The Regulations had to be in line with the RFU Regulations. All the Regulations discussed and voted on would be in the guidance.

DC spoke briefly about the RFU Update that had been issued and asked for people's views on Lower XV s in the Leagues. MD will send out a note asking clubs for their views , if 6 clubs reply Yes then there will have to be a more formal County Vote but if not then we will carry on as we are. At the last ask 92% clubs did not want Lower XV s in the Leagues. Other Counties may want them but Lancashire can still refuse.

The review of the Papa John Cup had now taken place. It will be changed to a knock out Competition. 6 dates to be set out, H/A aggregate score then SF then Final.

PH asked for clarification on point 8:1 on the Council 'handout' It was not the intention to affect the CB but the fine detail had not been discussed but it was expected that the CB would carry on as we do.

Meeting closed at 20.05pm

Attendees

President	Carol Baker
Senior Vice President	Brian Hurst
Past President	Peter Hughes BEM
Past President	Ken Andrews
Past President	Tommy Hughes
Past President	Steve Blackburn
Past President	Gill Burns MBE
Past President	Brian Stott
Hon Secretary	Mark Downs
Hon Treasurer	Paul Deakin
RFU Representative	Dave Clarke
RFU Representative	Paul Deakin
Chairman of Finance	Chris Smail
Director of Rugby	Howard Hughes
Director	Kate Bennetta
Aspull	S Bailey
Birchfield	E Wiles
Blackburn	P Westhead
Burnage	R A Haynes
Burnley	M Nichols
Didsbury Toc H	C Smail
Eccles	C Gaffey
Firwood Waterloo	T Mc Clure
Fleetwood	S Doherty
Heaton Moor	D Todd
Leigh	T Hughes
Littleboro'	B Hurst
Liverpool Collegiate	C Lloyd
MADREFS	Clive Ennis
Manchester	T Harper
Ormskirk	B Stevenson

Rochdale	S Blackburn
Rossendale	P Johnson
Sedgley Pk	R Berry
Trafford MV	C Farmiloe
Tyldesley	D Phillips
Vale Of Lune	A Perry
Warrington	G Perks
West Pk	R Whittle
Widnes	M Griffiths
Wigan	D Clarke

Schools	R Jones
	S Godfrey
Colts	C Barrett
Mini and Junior	I Spivey
Safeguarding	C Spivey
	C Baker
League	K Potter
	D Clarke
Finance	P Deakin
Individual Members	C Smail
Individual Members	I S Brown

A Clarke
V Blackburn