

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 14th May 2024

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

In Attendance:

Apologies: Messrs C.A. Baker, B.H Stott, G.A. Burns & A. Soutar.

CB Relationship Managers Report.

See Appendix 1. Report from B. Dale.

DC had a catch up meeting with AS.

1. Schools - Clubs Link. Development team given a lot of support to do the work. The School Rugby review of last summer led by John Cole highlighted a need for local intervention but there are too few staff. The report was fairly negative but from our perspective via Robbi Jones the outlook in Lancashire is positive.
2. MJW - A lot of schools are stopping playing rugby due to parental concerns.
3. Hopefully the T1 format of the game will help stop the drift away from Rugby in schools.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 15th April 2024, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

1. MJW commented that there were no ladies on the Vice Presidents list. There was a frank discussion with accusations aimed at individuals and the Board as a whole.
2. MD explained the nominations had been requested from all members of the Board and none had nominated ladies for the full list that had been discussed in the Zoom call to produce a short list.

There were no questions to written reports.

Finance Report – Appendix 2

PD circulated a written report.

RFU Update.

There had been no council meeting since the last Board meeting.

1. Professional Game Partnership (PGP) - DC noted that there was still a stand off between the Premiership and Championship clubs. Many Championship clubs could be forced out due to lack of facilities where 5000 seat stadiums are required.

2. MJW - Where do good U20s players play when there are only 10 Premiership clubs ?. The idea is to improve the Championship clubs for them.
3. Future Competition Structure (FCS) review - There are to be no major changes apart from asking Counties to hold another vote of their clubs to get lower XVs in to the RFU leagues.

Representative Rugby.

HH Reported.

1. U17s had played Yorkshire and lost 31-15. Their next game would be Cheshire at Winnington Park.
2. U20s had beat Northumberland and now face Cheshire on the 19th May, a win would see them move to the semi final stage.
3. The Mens and Womens Campiagns start on the 18th and 19th May respectively against Somerset and Gloucestershire. Entry fee for the Mens game would be £10, £5 under 16s & OAP free, the Womens game would be £5 and Under 16s and OAPs free.
4. KB - commented that the Womens squad were confident and looking forward to the games.
5. MJW questioned if the County only selected from Semi professional clubs. It was explained that this is not a directive but as we are in the top division we select from clubs at level 3 down.
6. MJW questioned is semi professional clubs receive an international ticket allocation - answer is yes.

Age Grade Calendar.

1. KB confirmed once the reference was removed for the Girls DPP then the Calendar was approved.

Annual General Meeting.

1. MJW - Wants there to be a post of Director of Rugby for Women. DC noted that this discussion had taken place in the past and there was a majority against. The subject had also not been raised during the review of the Board that had been accepted and was being placed before the AGM to be ratified.

Correspondence.

There was non appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

None.

50:50 Draw

May 24	Value
P. Hanson	£53.70
J.E. Nixon	£8.95
G. Spenglar	£8.95
P. Sanders	£8.95
R. Brookes	£8.95

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 3rd June 2024 at Liverpool St Helens RFC.

Any other business.

KB - had a meeting with RFU regarding preparation for the Womens RWC2025. Lot of people had volunteered and their details have been noted. This is being lead by the RFU.

HH - provided a Social Media report with engagement statistics - See Appendix 3

JTH - Commented that he finds it difficult to navigate the Lancashire website.

MD - preparations were being made to collate the Annual Report.

MD - requested that the Club & Community Committee take on the Annual Awards Evening as currently there is a large work load. MD will assist. MJW to speak to C&CR.

MD - Had requests to change the Board meeting to online Zoom calls. As there was a low number of Directors at the meeting MD will create a poll on the Whatsapp group.

Meeting ended at 7:45pm



Chairman

Date

3-6-24.

Appendix 1.

Club Developer Update – 05/24

Adult Male Recovery

- Summer touch funding opportunity has been sent out to clubs. We will continue to push this out individually with clubs that we think may benefit such as Blackpool, North Manchester, Broughton, Garstang, and Orrell
- Majority of focus clubs on Project Phoenix have improved match completion on last year. Colts transition work with focus clubs is ongoing, and may be supported more widely by targeted support over the summer for coaching ages 14-18.
- Potential new club in Tameside (East Manchester RFC) looking to form. Currently fact-finding on this development.

Women and Girls Growth

- New women's teams in Clitheroe, Wigan, and potentially Burnley looking to enter the leagues or Inner Warrior
- Preston Grasshoppers, Burnley, and Fylde looking to cluster girls next season to improve player experience. Some concern over this, as Preston and Burnley perhaps ought to look to stand alone, especially at U16, but definite benefits to player experience for all three clubs. Fylde are looking for funding for a set of match shirts.
- 33 applications so far on coaching and refereeing vouchers. We will continue to push these out in focus clubs.
- Girls competition planned for next season

AOB

- Adult Male Registration conversations underway, mostly positive in terms of clubs getting on with checking email verifications. Some queries around issues such as player transfers.
- Working with Fylde Rugby Foundation to organize club cluster meetings on the Fylde coast (Fylde, Garstang, Fleetwood, Blackpool, Thornton-Cleveleys)

Appendix 2.

Lancashire County RFU Spend and Funding Report 2023/24

<u>Funding</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Spend (Net Of VAT)</u>	<u>Monthly Spend</u>
<u>PFR Core Funding - £28,530</u>	<u>July</u>	Hands-On-Computing	Remote Server Support Package	£ 2,079.00	
		Alexander Hough	Storage Fees July	£ 100.00	
		Preston City Council	Social Lottery Fee	£ 20.00	
		Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£ 80.00	£ 2,279.00
	<u>August</u>	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£ 160.00	
		RFU	Presidents Ticket Eng V Fiji	£ 127.83	£ 287.83
	<u>September</u>	ERC Accounting	Prep of Minutes for Filing	£ 65.00	
		Alister Reid Ties	Presidents Ties & Other	£ 328.60	£ 393.60
	<u>October</u>	Partners& Ltd	Youth Trust Trustee Liability	£ 223.97	
		Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin	£ 280.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Orrell Primary Schools Program	£ 540.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Leigh Primary Schools Program	£ 540.00	
		Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£ 160.00	£ 1,743.97
	<u>November</u>	Hands On Computing	Sage Monthly Subscription	£ 84.00	
		Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£ 80.00	
		ERC Accounting	Preparation Of Accounts	£ 1,975.00	
		LSH RUFC	Lancs Board Meeting Sept	£ 55.00	
		LSH RUFC	Lancs Board Meeting Oct	£ 55.00	
		LSH RUFC	Lancs Community Meeting	£ 40.00	
		ADM	Carol Baker - Presidents Shirt/Jacket et	£ 160.72	
		Tyldesley RUFC	Mental Health Initiative Support	£ 150.00	£ 2,599.72
	<u>December</u>	Alister Reid Ties	Royals Ties	£ 375.50	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Blackrod Primary School Programme	£ 360.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Whitefield School Programme - Sedgel	£ 420.00	
		Leigh RUFC	Refs Expenses - Royals	£ 70.00	

	Leigh RUFC	Players Drinks	£	201.66		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	120.00	£	1,547.16
<u>January</u>	Mark Downs	Zoom License	£	129.90		
	TryIt Rugby Academy	2 x 6 week programs - Croft Primary	£	420.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	160.00		
	Hayley Rose Sumner	Royals Physio	£	100.00		
	Big Wave Media	Web Hosting	£	218.00	£	1,027.90
<u>February</u>	Collins & Darwell	Lancs County Schools Festivals Certs	£	295.00		
	Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin	£	300.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	320.00		
	SDL Group Ltd	Age Grade County Cup Medals	£	6,001.08		
	Fylde RUFC	U18s Schools Cup Final	£	200.00	£	7,116.08
<u>March</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	St Basils Primary School Widnes	£	420.00		
	TryIt Rugby Academy	Oakdene Primary School Ormskirk	£	420.00		
	Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin	£	125.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling - Feb	£	320.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling - Mar	£	360.00		
	SDL Group	Medals/Engravings	£	361.99	£	2,006.99
<u>April</u>	Collins & Darwell	Certs Lancs Schools Festival 2024	£	265.00		
	Collins & Darwell	Programmes Lancs Colts Finals	£	245.00		
	Tyldesley	ADM Silver Cup	£	71.49		
	Chris Barrett	Lancs Colts Cup Engraving	£	60.00		
	Catherine Briers	Admin Support	£	100.00		
	Mersey Medical Services	Medical Cover At Junior Festivals	£	880.00		
	ERC	ERC - Tax Investigation Service	£	240.00		
	SDL Group	Junior Medals	£	792.48		
	Alexander Hough	Storage	£	100.00	£	2,753.97

Total Spend	£	21,756.22
Remaining Fund	£	6,773.78

Adult Male Recovery Funding £15,000			
<u>September</u>	Wigan RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 250.00
	Heaton Moor	Adult Participation Grant - Vets/Touch	£ 500.00
			£ 750.00
<u>October</u>	Liverpool Collegiate	Adult Participation Grant - Touch	£ 500.00
	Aspull RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 500.00
	Wigan RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 250.00
			£ 1,250.00
<u>November</u>	Warrington RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets/Touch	£ 500.00
	Blackburn RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Touch Rugb	£ 500.00
	Tyldesley RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 250.00
			£ 1,250.00
<u>December</u>	Clitheroe RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 500.00
			£ 500.00
<u>January</u>	Oldham RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 500.00
	West Park RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets	£ 500.00
	West Park RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Player Rete	£ 500.00
	Rossendale RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Third Team	£ 500.00
			£ 2,000.00
<u>February</u>	Aldwinians RUFC	L&G Tournament	£ 500.00
	Old Bedians RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Vets/Touch	£ 500.00
			£ 1,000.00
<u>March</u>	Sedgley Park RUFC	Adult Participation Grant - Touch Rugb	£ 500.00
			£ 500.00
			£ 7,250.00
			£ 7,750.00

Girls DPP Funding £10,000			
<u>November</u>	Ethan Brazo	Physio - Girls u16s	£ 99.00
	Ethan Brazo	Physio - Girls u16s	£ 201.20
	Ethan Brazo	Physio - Girls u16s	£ 115.50
	Hugh Lane	Physio - Girls u16s	£ 198.00

	ADM	Girls DPP Essential Kit	£	1,647.00	£	2,260.70
<u>December</u>	ADM	Various	£	383.76	£	383.76
<u>February</u>	ADM	Girls DPP Essential Kit	£	1,229.49	£	1,229.49
<u>March</u>	RS Tyrer	Coach to Northern RFU	£	1,200.00	£	1,200.00
<u>April</u>	ADM	Girls DPP Essential Kit	£	261.30	£	261.30
				Total Spend	£	5,335.25
				Remaining Fund	£	4,664.75

<u>Targeted Delivery Funding - £8,401</u>	<u>September</u>	Burnley RUFC	Schools Programme	£	350.00	£	350.00
	<u>November</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	Sedgeley Parrenthorn Schools Program	£	2,860.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Tarleton All Hallows Schools Programn	£	3,360.00	£	6,220.00
	<u>December</u>	Burnley RUFC	Schools Programme	£	350.00	£	350.00
	<u>March</u>	Blackburn RUFC	Schools Programme x 130	£	551.87	£	551.87
	<u>April</u>	Blackburn RUFC	St Albans School Programme	£	225.00	£	225.00
					Total Spend	£	7,696.87
					Remaining Fund	£	704.13

<u>Boys U17 & 18 CB Rep Funding - £2,000</u>	<u>November</u>	ADM	Cool Performance Fit Rugby Shirts	£	700.00		
		ADM	Coaches Jackets & T-Shirts	£	477.96	£	1,177.96

	<u>December</u>	ADM	Essential Kit	£	1,234.50	£	1,234.50
	<u>January</u>	Helena Walker	Physio Cover	£	300.00		
		Helena Walker	Physio Cover	£	100.00	£	400.00
	<u>February</u>	Broughton Park	Cheshire Post Match Meal	£	380.00	£	380.00
					Total Spend	£	3,192.46
					Over Spend	-£	1,192.46

Girls U18 CB Rep Funding - £2,000	<u>December</u>	ADM	Essential Kit	£	1,121.75	£	1,121.75
	<u>January</u>	Hugh Lane	Training Physio Cover	£	49.50		
		Ethan Brazen	Pitchside Coverage	£	49.50		
		Ethan Brazen	Pitchside Coverage	£	66.00	£	165.00
	<u>March</u>	MADREFS	Refs Expenses Cumbria/Durham	£	37.00		
		Preston Grasshoppers	Post Match Meals	£	323.33	£	360.33
					Total Spend	£	1,647.08
					Remaining Fund	£	352.92

U20s CB Rep Funding - £2,000 (RFU)	<u>January</u>	ADM	Coaches Kit	£	719.95	£	719.95
U20s CB Rep Funding - £6,750 (Lancs)							
Total Budget - £8,750	<u>February</u>	Collins & Darwell	Yorkshire Match Tickets	£	45.00		
		Alister Reid Ties	U20s ties x 40	£	335.00		
		ADM	Essential Kit x 35	£	3,114.25		
		ADM	Coaches Kit	£	361.30	£	3,855.55
	<u>March</u>	Hayley Rose Summer	Physio - 18/02/24	£	100.00		
		Hayley Rose Summer	Physio - 25/02/24	£	100.00		

	Hayley Rose Summer	Physio - 28/01/24	£	100.00		
	Tyldesley RUFC	U20s	£	335.60		
	Sedgley Park RUFC	U20s	£	1,138.41		
	Wigan RUFC	U20 Training	£	75.00	£	1,849.01
April	RS Tyrer	Coach to Hartlepool	£	850.00	£	850.00
				Total Spend	£	7,274.51
				Remaining Fund	£	1,475.49

Senior Ladies CB Rep Funding - £2,000 (RFU)	ADM	Coaches Kit	£	524.56		
Senior Ladies CB Rep Funding - £6,100 (Lancs)	ADM	Ladies Essential Kit	£	1,829.00		
Total Budget - £8,100					£	2,353.56
				Total Spend	£	2,353.56
				Remaining Fund	£	5,746.44

Senior Mens CB Rep Funding - £2,000 (RFU)	Greg Littler	Physio	£	273.12	£	273.12
Senior Mens CB Rep Funding - £5,750 (Lancs)						
Total Budget - £7,750						
				Total Spend	£	273.12
				Remaining Fund	£	7,476.88

Girls U12 Grant Funding - £2,500	February	TryIt Rugby Academy	Yr7 Cent High, Lancaster, Vol x 27	£	945.00	£	945.00
	March	TryIt Rugby Academy	Yr7 Outwood Academy, W.Prk x 24	£	840.00	£	840.00

				Total Spend	£	1,785.00
				Remaining Fund	£	715.00

<u>Rugby United - £37,973</u>	<u>March</u>	One Voice	Transport to Bolton RFU	£	150.00	£	150.00
	<u>April</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	Bury Church Girls to Bolton	£	2,100.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Mileage to Birmingham Mosque	£	78.30	£	2,178.30
				Total Spend	£	2,328.30	
				Remaining Fund	£	35,644.70	

<u>Mixed Ability - £14,450</u>	<u>September</u>	Sale Sharks	Tickets for Mixed Ability Launch	£	133.00	£	133.00
	<u>November</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	Coaching in the Community - Bury	£	280.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Rugby Balls with Bells	£	33.50		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Rugby Balls with Lights	£	96.00	£	409.50
	<u>January</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	Disabled Toilets For Festival	£	200.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	6 Sessions for Jigsaw Charity	£	210.00		
		Coach Options Ltd	Coach to Newcastle Falcons	£	950.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Equipment for Mixed Abilities Teams	£	250.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Taster Sessions in the Community	£	280.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Rugby Balls for Mixed Ability	£	40.00	£	1,930.00
	<u>February</u>	IMAS	Introduction to Mixed Ability Rugby	£	500.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	10 MAR Sessions at Bridge College	£	350.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	8 MAR Sessions at Aldwinians	£	280.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	9 MAR Sessions at Castle Knights	£	315.00		
		TryIt Rugby Academy	MAR Taster Sessions x 4	£	140.00		
TryIt Rugby Academy		10 MAR Sessions at Bridge College	£	350.00			
ADM		T-Shirts x 45	£	297.35			

	ADM	Jacket & T-Shirt x 2	£	155.30	£	2,387.65
<u>March</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	Aldwinians Mixed Ability	£	280.00	£	280.00
<u>April</u>	TryIt Rugby Academy	Active Tameside Delivery	£	270.00		
		Jigsaw Delivery	£	210.00		
		Castle Knights Sessions	£	280.00		
		Bridge College Sessions	£	560.00		
		Sedgley Park Mixed Ability	£	210.00	£	1,530.00
		Total Spend			£	6,670.15
		Remaining Fund			£	7,779.85

Total 2023/24 Budget - £145,454	Total Spend	£	67,562.52
	Total Budget Remaining	£	77,891.48

<u>General Reserve</u>	<u>July</u>	MAD Refs	Referee Recruitment Grant 2022/23	£	1,135.00	
		MAD Refs	Supply Of Refs 22/23	£	360.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Sedgley Park Cluster Event.	£	140.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Oldham Year 9	£	35.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Dovedale Primary School Yr 6	£	210.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Ph2 U12 girls program	£	210.00	
		TryIt Rugby Academy	Newton-le-Willows Recruitment Event	£	300.00	£
						2,390.00
	<u>February</u>	Alexander Hough	Storage Costs 2022	£	500.00	
		MADREFS	Referee Exchange April 2023	£	78.00	£
						578.00
		Total Spend			£	2,968.00

Grand Total Spend	£	70,530.52
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Appendix 3.

The Board may recall back in 2017 we made an effort to improve our Social Media Footprint as most organisations these days don't tend not to function without the relevant exposure these "Streams" bring. Our starting point was Twitter account with just over 3100 Followers and a Facebook account lacking regular updates with 2,200 Followers.

The immediate plan was to provide relevant information on County subjects and promote the myriad of county events we run/host and ensure maximum exposure. We did this by a series of posts and giveaways i.e "Follow us and we will randomly select a new Follower to receive a Lancashire Bobble hat or Tee Shirt". That worked well, and we continued to collect new followers. Knowing our Target Audience at particular times of the season also increased the traffic and our profile in both Twitter (X) and Facebook. Recently we added an Instagram Account to our Portfolio but its very much in its early days.

So, have we been successful?

We are the number one County Twitter Account in England and have been in Terms of Followers since late 2020. The number of Followers on Twitter has now risen to 7.4K whilst our Facebook followers now stand at over 4500. Instagram is still fairly new but we have garnered over 500 Followers to date.

How do we compare to other Counties?

Twitter(X)-wise no one comes close apart from the "country" of Cornwall with 6.5K Followers.

The best of the rest :-

Gloucestershire RFU 5.9K

Yorkshire RFU 2.8K

Cumbria RFU 2.4K (Cumbria decided to setup a separate Women's Account which now has 800 Followers, this seems to have removed some "clout" from the main X Account and only averages 3 Posts a YEAR!!!)

Cheshire RFU 1.8K

Warwickshire RFU 201 (Yes just over 200 Followers)

The other **RFU 27 Constituent Bodies in the Country** have a combined following on X of **37,451** we have **7408** and therefore in terms of CB Rugby social media we are massive and continue to lead the way in promoting our CB and continue to show growth.