

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING AND
FINANCIAL AGM OF
LANCASHIRECOUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD
HELD AT LIVERPOOL ST HELENS 20th NOVEMBER 2024**

There was a minutes silence at the beginning of the meeting to mark the passing of several members.

1. **Apologies:**

Dave Herriman, Brian Stott, Carol Baker, Mike Hull, Clive Ennis, Geoff Perks, Bob Wilinon, Tommy Hughes Sam Webb

2. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on Wednesday 24th June by Zoom**

These were on the County website.

3. **Matters arising**

No matters arising.

4. **Financial AGM and Presentation of Accounts for 2023-2024**

Paul Deakin welcomed everyone and then went on to explain the accounts. The Financial Statement had been uploaded on to the website.

As stated previously all money was invested back into the Community to include:

25K for Rugby United This was for the Adult Male Recovery Programme that started in September.

5 ½ K Girls DPP

Targeted Delivery Fund:

4K Age Grade

26K 3 Adult Sides

Lancashire were currently looking for Sponsorship to support all the activities that Lancashire were promoting to include:

2 ½ K U12 Girls

12K Rugby United

14 ½ K Sport England Mixed Ability Rugby

26K Adult Rugby

36K Insurance/medals /basic running costs

8K Player and retention to be split 4k specifically for Vets Start up Rugby and TI Rugby

4K Referee Recruitment

10K Girls DPP

2K Grant to support +23 Players at Uni

The County will continue to support County Rugby at all levels.

5. **RFU Representatives Report**

The Council Report had been distributed prior to the meeting. DC informed the meeting that in the season 25/26 the RFU were intending to implement a 'Devolution of Authority'. There would be 8 Regional bodies with a Regional Manager employed by the RFU for each area. The remit of these regions is to grow the game.

It was the intention of the RFU to set up a form to find out what the clubs want and there would be a push in schools. The RFU need to know what the clubs want as different clubs will want different things.

It is not yet known how the Regional groups will be put together, or how the CBs will be funded to grow the game. There is a Council Meeting next week when there may be more information.

6. **Committee Reports**

a) **Management Board**

All minutes were posted on the website.

b) **Disciplinary Committee**

Brian Stott had sent his apologies as he was not well but had sent in a message to say that business was brisk and highlighted the following.

- Junior matches continue to present a problem and challenge mainly because of parents.
- The tackle height change had not produced any significant change in the number of players being sent off.
- Referee abuse continues to cause concern particularly from parents and spectators.

c) **Governance**

Nothing to report for this meeting.

d) **Rugby Development Committee.**

Information later on in the meeting under the Playing report

e) **Club and Community Rugby Committee**

Had met once since the last meeting where they had discussed the plans of what they wanted to do.

f) **Competitions**

All competitions were not at the SF stage, subject to weather we should know by the end of November the finalists of each competition.

7. **Playing**

Seniors:

Nothing to report at the moment. The Bill Beaumont County Finals would be at Twickenham on June 21st 2025

Lancashire would play Yorkshire on the 31st May and Somerset on the 17th May.

U20

'Scotty' had now retired from coaching the U20s and the players would like it be noted that a vote of thanks should be recorded for his time with the U20s. They had won one final at Twickenham and been Runner up in a second one. Chris Johnson, Jack Weir and Mark Dickinson would work as a team coaching this season. The U20s were due to play Durham at home on the 16th March and away at Yorkshire on the 27th April. The Jason Leonard Final would be at Twickenham on 21st June.

Women and Girls

There had been a residential event at Barnard Castle for the Girls and Lancashire had provided the highest number of participants.

The U18 girls would start later in the season and would play Northumberland , Cheshire , Yorkshire and Staffordshire.

The Gill Burns Cup would start in May and they were due to play Away at Staffordshire and Northumberland and at Home against Yorkshire.

Lancashire Royals

Trials had been held at Wigan and a game was arranged to play the Ant Assassins on the 28th December. There was a possibility of playing at Vale of Lune in March and a game against Cheshire in May.

Bill Beaumont Cup

Games to be played :

Yorkshire 31st May

Somerset 17th May

Final 21st June

There would be jobs coming up to work with the U17 and U20 s shortly.

Schools – Rugby Review

There would be 5 appointments within Lancashire with some funding by the RFU. Managers would work with 15 Primary and 4 Secondary Schools. People would be invited to meet with Sale Sharks and the Academy

There would be:

U12/U14 Girls

U14/U18 Boys

There are 150 schools in Lancashire and we are looking to provide opportunities throughout Lancashire as at the moment things are concentrated on PGH so looking to spread further afield.

8. League and North Division Report

There was a problem with Registration at the beginning of the season. The entry to Papa Johns Cup had been the 22nd November 2024.

Halbro Leagues were continuing to cause a concern with regard to the mismatch of games.

Need to encourage clubs to register all players ready for next season when EMC will be extended.

17/23 clubs travelling to the IOM are from Lancashire.

There followed a lengthy discussion about the above situation but no consensus was agreed about what should be done.

9. Correspondence

There was nothing appertaining to this meeting.

10. **New Members**

11. **Date and Time of Next meeting**_____ Wednesday 19th March 2025

Liverpool St Helens RFC at 7.00pm

12. **AOB**

Kath from the Mixed Ability Rugby mentioned that the group was currently on a break at the moment so they were using their time to apply for grants.

Carol Baker brought up the subject of Mental Health following the recent deaths of players. She was currently working with Rugby Safe to promote the support that was available to people who may be struggling. Loose Head People are available and it is important to let players know that there are people to talk to .

A mind Map would be sent out to clubs letting them know ;its ok to be not ok;

Any e mails received will be treated in the strictest confidence . Any concern about children and Mental Health should be referred to CAMHS.

The President Brian Hurst thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Attendees:

President	Brian Hurst
Vice President	R Jones
Vice President	S Godfrey
Past President	Peter Hughes BEM
Past President	Dave Clarke
Past President	Ken Andrews
Past President	Steve Blackburn
Past President	Gill Burns MBE
Hon Secretary	Mark Downs
Hon Treasurer	Paul Deakin
Director of Rugby Development	Howard Hughes
Director	Kate Bennetta
Anti Assassins RUFC	R Heptonstall
Aspull	S Bailey
Birchfield	E Wiles
Broughton Pk	A Marsland
Burnage	E Haynes
Firwood Waterloo RFC	G Burns MBE
Heaton Moor RUFC	D Todd
Littleboro	L Johnson
Liverpool Referees	P Barnett
LSH	J Williams
Manchester Referees	D Guerin
Manchester RFC	T Harper
Mossley Hill	P Barnett
North Manchester	I Mac
Oldham RUFC	R Heptonstall
Orrell	D Robinson

Rochdale	S Blackburn
Sedgley Pk	R Berry
Sefton	P Merriman
Southport RUFC	P Andrews
Trafford MV	I Bridle
Tyldesley	D Phillips
Waterloo	T McClure
West Pk	R Whittle
Widnes	M Griffiths
Wigan RUFC	D Clarke
Schools	J O Ryan
Mini & Junior	Christine Spivey
	Ian Spivey
League	K Potter
Individual Members	Ian Scott Brown
Catherine Jones	
J L Jones	
Minutes	Anne Clarke