

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 8th January 2025

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

In Attendance: Messrs B.H. Stott, B Hurst, & A. Soutar.

Apologies:

CB Relationship Managers Report – Appendix 1.

A. Soutar

1. MD - are the club webinars in the report sent to the clubs ? they are shared on social media from the RFU staff it would be good if they could be sent to the county contacts also.
2. There is a change of staffing, Chris Hall contract has been extended by a further six months and he will work in the North Midlands. This means Aaron Howarth and Matthew Dent will be supporting Cheshire in the club development role as well as their own current roles. Rugby development is not been hit by the recent number of redundancies.
3. Didsbury ToCH - recent flooding could cause damage but we are a few cannot help with funding due to the club being on a floodplain.
4. Garstang - pitches have been damaged by heavy flooding and they are currently playing on the 3G pitch at Preston Grasshoppers which they're having to pay for.
5. MD - are the club webinars in the report sent to the clubs ? they are shared on social media from the RFU staff it would be good if they could be sent to the county contacts also.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2024, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed per procuracionem as a correct record.

Matters arising.

DC – School Rugby Manager County liason is yet undecided, PD suggested Bob Wilkinson.

Questions to Written Reports

Disciplinary – Appendix 2.

Finance – Appendix 3.

PD Commented further to the report.

1. We have in excess of £100k but at this time of year it looks good before spend starts. MD, PS, KB & HH had a meeting to discuss representative rugby budget. It will not be cheap this season with a Somerset away game and all three squads are looking strong. DC had spoken to Tim Miller about the date of the final who will look at this.
2. KB – On finance report there is £2k CB funding for the Girls U18s but 17s and 18s is £5.9k. PD – this is what we are given from the RFU.

RFU

1. DC – email sent to all clubs in Lancashire from PD & DC explaining situation of executive bonuses and asking for feedback for a Council meeting at Twickenham on 18th Dec. Two responses received from Tarleton and Rossendale. At the meeting on the 18th it was explained that the bonuses were a retention payment for keeping the executive for 3 seasons after the end of covid. This has been setup with an external consultancy. £1m shared by the executive, the CEO had the larger share. Even if it had been deferred to a profit making season it would still appear in this years accounts.
2. The meeting also shared that there were a number of as yet undisclosed new sponsors which is in main part due to the success of the Red Roses.
3. Notice of an SGM has been sent to all clubs in the Country. The request for this has been through the Referees Union in a note saying that Council members were keeping the truth from their Constituent Bodies. This is contradicted by the email sent to Lancashire Clubs by PD & DC above.
4. PD – Bill Sweeney and Tom Ilube needed to better communicate with media. Current media manager is leaving. Many of the Council members did not know of the LTIP Bonus.
5. DC – leaks to press do not seem to be coming from the Council.
6. DC – meeting on 10th Jan to ratify Sir Bill Beaumont as interim chair who will outline his vision of the future.
7. PD – personal view is to stick with what we have. The RFU is essential a not for profit organisation. Monies that it raises are distributed through the game as a whole. This could change with loss of funding if the Union became a profit making business. A new Chairman could potentially rip up the £120m coming to grassroots game over the next three seasons. Council does now have an opportunity to support Bill Sweeney with caveats on communications, and improved relations with Council. Getting rid would not be cheap as there is a years salary compensation.

8. There is work going on about the CB of the Future. The new regional bodies will be responsible for the growth of the game, the Counties will be responsible for keeping the players we have playing. One controversial issue is for the RFU to pay for CBs to have a paid General Manager. We don't have to do anything as we are an autonomous body and as yet there is no job description.

MD – who is ultimately employing them ? PD is we did decide it would have to someone self employed as we are not as a County employing staff.

PD – There is £800k available for all CBs over 3 years, a quick calculation would be £25k per annum.

MD – is unhappy at the time scale for this as all would need to be set up by July which is very short notice for volunteers during the busiest time of the season.

Mens & Boys Rugby.

HH Reported

1. U18s have played 2 and won 2 the last game being lost to the weather. 11 players selected to the North U18s.
2. U20s trial on 12th Jan at PGH.

Womens & Girls Rugby.

KB Reported

1. U18s game v Cheshire and Yorkshire at Eccles on 12th Jan.
2. Womens team structure is all in place. Home game v Yorkshire is to be held at West Park St Helens. The trial will be a 3 stage process based on playing level and past players available.

Correspondence.

1. There was none appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

There were no new member applications.

50:50 Draw

<u>Jan 25</u>	Value
S Knowles	£42.00
P Hanson	£7.00

E Neely	£7.00
P Hughes	£7.00
S Knowles	£7.00

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 10th February 2025 by Teams.

Any other business.

KB – received an email from J Foster that there is further event at Sale Sharks on the 18th January to promote the Womens World Cup. GAB – Doesn't feel the first meeting was a snub as it was aimed at the professional side of the game.

BHS – Is there an update on the website. DC – spoke to Jonathan Con who apologises for not returning MD call. He will respond by end of week if we can run a pilot for a CB website linked to GMS.

BHS – email branding, some are using it and some are not. MD – we should be using it.

GAB – 5 teams who received the volunteer funding at Broughton Park, Didsbury ToCH, Leigh, Aldwinians & Collegiate. Honda Volunteer Awards window opened on the 6th and closes on the 14th February. Please share with your contacts and get some reward for our volunteers. This is done via the RFU website.

CAB – what is difference between the Womens Leadership Development Program (WLDP) and the Womens Leadership Collective (WLC) ? CAB over qualified for WLDP as a graduate of the Leadership in Union program and so has been invited to join the WLC.

Meeting ended at 7:35pm

 Chairman Date 10th February 2025

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Appendix 1.

CBRM Report – Jan 2025

Women in Rugby Union Conference 2025 – Salford Community Stadium

The below has been shared with the game, if possible, could you help promote please. 60 signed up so far, we have capacity to hold 100.

We are pleased to be delivering a community Women in Rugby Union: Coaching & Officiating Conferences during the 2024/25 season. Any active or aspiring female coach or referee is welcome to register to attend the Manchester conference.

We can cover travel expenses up to £75 for the driver, or user of public transport. You'll need to keep your travel receipts if you are using public transport. We'll share expenses form ahead of each conference.

~ **North Conference: 31 January 2025, Salford Community Stadium** ~

Deadline to sign up: 14 January 2025

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a0d9e9abed48412b9efe45e669ee1f09>

Women's Leadership Development Programme

TOTAL	169 applications 55 offered a place 49 confirmed
North	61 applications 26 offered a place 22 confirmed

Lancashire applicant – Rivika Moore – Didsbury Toc H

Lucy Blacksell – Warrington RUFC

Lancashire Innovation Funding

CB drop in end of the month to report on what has been delivered/spent so far, invites to follow soon.

27th January at 7pm and 29th at midday

Webinars to support clubs

If we could share that would be great.

Growing Your Social Media Audience (Virtual Workshop)	(max numbers 100)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/growing-your-social-media-audience-tickets-1112579859309?aff=oddtcreator
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3 rd February 6:30pm-8:00pm		
Grant Funding (Webinar) 24 th February 7:00pm-8:00pm		https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IXvbU-ESSlmeQ_LVD6a-TA
Growing your Social Media – Women & Girls Audience (Virtual Workshop) 5 th March 6:30pm-8:00pm	(max numbers 100)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/growing-your-social-media-women-girls-audience-tickets-1112577020819?aff=oddtcreator
Safeguarding & Discipline webinar (title TBC) 6 th March 7:00pm-8:00pm		Details being finalised
Review your Club Structure (Virtual Workshop) 12 th March 6:30pm-8:30pm	(max numbers 55)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/review-your-club-structure-tickets-1112589397839?aff=oddtcreator
Clubhouse Wins - Boost Customer Numbers & Increase Spend (Webinar) 19 th March 7:00pm-8:00pm		https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N2mJq5zdRHKWtqav0lw_gw
Maximising your Sponsorship (Virtual Workshop) 24 th March		Details being finalised
Review your Club Structure (Virtual Workshop) 31 st March 6:30pm-8:30pm	(max numbers 55)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/review-your-club-structure-tickets-1112607772799?aff=oddtcreator

Lancashire County RFU Spend and Funding Report 2024/25

Funding	Month	Supplier	Description	Spend (Net Of VAT)		Monthly Spend	
PFR Core Funding - £28,530	July	Preston City Council	Annual Small Lottery Fee	£	20.00		
		Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin	£	100.00		
		Acorn Wellbeing	Councillng	£	200.00	£	320.00
	August	Disciplinary	2 Meeting Rooms	£	246.00		
		Acorn Wellbeing	Councillng	£	40.00		
		John O'Ryan	Expenses	£	281.70		
		Disciplinary	Printer Cartridges & Stationery	£	42.83	£	610.53
	September	Thoughtful Creative	Lancs Logo Redesign	£	600.00		
		Disciplinary	Zoom Software	£	144.90		
		Disciplinary	Meeting Room for Age Grade	£	125.00		
		Disciplinary	Printer Cartridges & Stationery	£	28.56		
		Disciplinary	Meeting Room	£	125.00		
		Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin	£	180.00		
		Acorn Wellbeing	Councillng	£	320.00		
		Canva	Lancs Women Subscription	£	100.00		
		Alexander Hough	Storage July	£	100.00		
		Alexander Hough	Storage August	£	100.00		
		Alexander Hough	Storage September	£	100.00		
		Alexander Hough	Storage October	£	100.00	£	2,023.46
	October	Bigwave	Hosting Service - Starter Package	£	229.00		
		ADM Leisurewear	Polo Shirts Lancs Youth Committee	£	137.60	£	366.60
	November	Partners & Limited	YTD Trustee Liability Insurance	£	256.07		
		TryIt Rugby	St Winifreds - Wigan	£	210.00		

Disciplinary	Meeting Room	£	125.00		
Hands On	Sage Subscription	£	84.00		
Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin	£	200.00		
Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	120.00		
LSH RUFC	Community Board Meeting	£	60.00		
Wigan RUFC	Lancs Royals Trial	£	115.00		
ADM Leisurewear	Sweater & Shirt D.Clark	£	103.00		
Alexander Hough	Storage	£	100.00		
J Whitmore Rehab	Open Age Trial	£	120.15		
Hands On	13 x MS 365 Licenses	£	76.44		
Alister Reid Ties	Ties x 72	£	498.50	£	2,068.16

December

TryIt Rugby	Phillips High School	£	420.00		
TryIt Rugby	Lowton Infant & Junior	£	420.00		
Hands On Computing	Sage 50	£	84.00		
Hands On Computing	MS 365	£	76.44		
The College Of Rugby	Coching Support for PE Teachers	£	240.00		
Alexander Hough	Storage	£	100.00	£	1,340.44

Total Spend	£	6,729.19
Remaining Fund	£	21,800.81

Player Retention Funding £8,000

Total Spend	£	-
Remaining Fund	£	8,000.00

Referee Recruitment Funding £4,000

				Total Spend	£	-
				Remaining Fund	£	4,000.00
Girls DPP Funding £10,000	September	ADM Leisurewear	2 x Rugby Playing Kits	£	968.00	
		ADM Leisurewear	Training Equipment	£	413.75	
		ADM Leisurewear	Coaches Kit	£	750.90	£ 2,132.65
	October	ADM Leisurewear	Coaches Kit	£	295.00	£ 295.00
	November	ADM Leisurewear	Various Kit	£	2,739.05	
		ADM Leisurewear	Various Kit	£	100.45	£ 2,839.50
	December	ADS Marquees	Marquee and Furnishings	£	1,380.00	£ 1,380.00
				Total Spend	£	6,647.15
				Players Contribution	£	1,710.00
				Remaining Fund	£	5,062.85

U23s Funding - £2,000

				Total Spend	£	-
				Remaining Fund	£	2,000.00

Boys U17 & 18 CB Rep Funding - £5,900

November	ADM Leisurewear	Essential Kit	£	1,903.50	
	ADM Leisurewear	Various Kit	£	293.75	£ 2,197.25
December	J Whitmore	Physio	£	31.85	
	J Whitmore	Physio	£	283.73	
	Marks With Splendor	Post Match Meals	£	650.00	
	SMC Coaches	Coach to Doncaster - Match Off	£	1,195.00	£ 2,160.58

				Total Spend	£	-
**Further funds to be allocated from reserves				Remaining Fund	£	2,000.00

Lancashire Royals - £3,000	December	ADM Leisurewear	Essential Kit - Coaches and Mngment	£	628.25	
		ADM Leisurewear	Essential Kit - Players	£	2,353.90	£ 2,982.15
				Total Spend	£	2,982.15
				Remaining Fund	£	17.85

Rugby United - £40,785	August	TryIt Rugby	Bolton St Catherines	£	350.00	£ 350.00	
	September	TryIt Rugby	Equipment for Rugby United Drive	£	943.00		
		Blackburn RUFC	Coaching at One Voice	£	1,410.00	£ 2,353.00	
	October	Blackburn RUFC	Coaching at One Voice	£	90.00	£ 90.00	
	November	TryIt Rugby	Rugby United Drop - Bolton	£	700.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Rugby United Drop - Trafford	£	1,800.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Rugby United - Expenses	£	162.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Sessions at TMV	£	980.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Sessions at Claypool School	£	420.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Sessions at Chorlton High School	£	2,520.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Sessions at Bolton School Girls	£	1,820.00	£ 8,402.00	
	December	TryIt Rugby	Sessions at Bolton RUFC	£	630.00		
		TryIt High	Sessions st Chotrlton High	£	980.00	£ 1,610.00	
					Total Spend	£	12,805.00
					Remaining Fund	£	25,168.00

<u>Volunteers - £1,500</u>				£	-		
				Total Spend	£	-	
				Remaining Fund	£	1,500.00	
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<u>Mixed Ability - £3,710</u>	<u>July</u>	TryIt Rugby	Bridge College x 28	£	980.00		
		Bolton Rugby	Mixed Ability Sessions x 12	£	540.00	£	1,520.00
	<u>August</u>	TryIt Rugby	Active Tameside	£	210.00		
		IMAS	Training Session	£	500.00		
		IMAS	MA Rugby Accreditation	£	500.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Castle Knights x 6	£	210.00	£	1,420.00
	<u>September</u>	TryIt Rugby	Sessions at Jigsaw	£	140.00	£	140.00
	<u>October</u>	TryIt Rugby	Sessions at Jigsaw	£	140.00		
		TryIt Rugby	Rugby United Delivery	£	490.00	£	630.00
	<u>November</u>	Bolton RUFC	Mixed Abilities Sessions	£	360.00	£	360.00
				Total Spend	£	4,070.00	
				Remaining Fund	-£	360.00	
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<u>Total 2024/25 Budget - £117,495</u>				Total Spend	£	36,399.88	
				Total Budget Remaining	£	81,025.12	



Combined Disciplinary Statistics

November

					Year to Date			
	2024	2023	Diff	%	2024	2023	Difference	%
Striking								
Hand	10	8	2	25.00%	36	21	15	71.43%
Head	1	1	0	0.00%	2	1	1	100.00%
Shoulder	1	0	1	100.00%	3	0	3	100.00%
Knee	0	0	0	0.00%	0	3	-3	-100.00%
Elbow	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	12	9	3	33.33%	41	25	16	64.00%
Kick								
Kicking	4	0	4	100.00%	7	2	5	250.00%
Trip	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	100.00%
Stamping	1	4	-3	-75.00%	1	6	-5	-83.33%
Sub Total	5	4	1	25.00%	9	8	1	12.50%
Tackle								
Dangerous	5	4	1	25.00%	7	6	1	16.67%
Tip Tackle	2	1	1	100.00%	3	1	2	100.00%
Sub Total	7	5	2	40.00%	10	7	3	42.86%
Referee Abuse								
Disrespect	3	0	3	100.00%	10	1	9	900.00%
Verbal Abuse	1	0	1	100.00%	6	8	-2	-25.00%
Threatening	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	4	0	4	100.00%	16	9	7	77.78%
2 Yellow Cards	5	2	3	150.00%	13	8	5	62.50%
Rule 5.12	5	4	1	25.00%	8	18	-10	-55.56%
Other	2	0	2	0.00%	4	0	4	0.00%
Total	40	24	16	66.67%	101	75	26	34.67%
Dismissed Cases	4	0	4	100.00%	4	4	4	100.00%
Total Proved	36	24	12	33.33%	97	71	12	16.90%



Adult Disciplinary Statistics

November

					Year to Date			
	2024	2023	Diff	%	2024	2023	Difference	%
Striking								
Hand	7	5	2	40.00%	28	15	13	86.67%
Head	1	1	0	0.00%	2	1	1	100.00%
Shoulder	1	0	1	0.00%	3	0	3	100.00%
Knee	0	0	0	0.00%	0	1	-1	-100.00%
Elbow	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	9	6	3	50.00%	33	17	16	94.12%
Kick								
Kicking	4	0	4	100.00%	6	2	4	200.00%
Trip	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	100.00%
Stamping	0	2	-2	-100.00%	0	4	-4	-100.00%
Sub Total	4	2	2	100.00%	7	6	1	16.67%
Tackle								
Dangerous	5	3	2	66.67%	6	3	3	100.00%
Tip Tackle	2	1	1	0.00%	3	1	2	100.00%
Sub Total	7	4	3	75.00%	9	4	5	125.00%
Referee Abuse								
Disrespect	3	0	3	100.00%	9	1	8	800.00%
Verbal Abuse	1	0	1	100.00%	4	5	-1	-20.00%
Threatening	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	4	0	4	#DIV/0!	13	6	7	116.67%
2 Yellow Cards	5	1	4	400.00%	13	7	6	85.71%
Rule 5.12	5	2	3	150.00%	8	16	-8	-50.00%
Other	2	0	2	0.00%	4	0	4	0.00%
Total	36	15	21	140.00%	87	56	31	55.36%
Dismissed Cases	4	0	4	100.00%	4	4	4	100.00%
Total Proved	32	15	17	53.13%	83	52	17	53.13%



Youth Disciplinary Statistics

November

					Year to Date			
	2024	2023	Diff	%	2024	2023	Difference	%
Striking								
Hand	3	3	0	0.00%	8	6	2	33.33%
Head	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	100.00%
Shoulder	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	100.00%
Knee	0	0	0	0.00%	0	2	-2	-100.00%
Elbow	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	3	3	0	0.00%	8	8	0	0.00%
Kick								
Kicking	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	100.00%
Trip	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Stamping	1	2	-1	-50.00%	1	2	-1	-50.00%
Sub Total	1	2	-1	-50.00%	2	2	0	0.00%
Tackle								
Dangerous	0	1	-1	-100.00%	1	3	-2	-66.67%
Tip Tackle	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	0	1	-1	-100.00%	1	3	-2	-66.67%
Referee Abuse								
Disrespect	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0	1	100.00%
Verbal Abuse	0	0	0	0.00%	2	3	-1	-33.33%
Threatening	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total	0	0	0	0.00%	3	3	0	0.00%
2 Yellow Cards	0	1	-1	-100.00%	0	1	-1	-100.00%
Rule 5.12	0	2	-2	-100.00%	0	2	-2	-100.00%
Other	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	4	9	-5	-55.56%	14	19	-5	-26.32%