

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBYFOOTBALL UNION
HELD AT TYLDESLEY RUGBY CLUB ON 22nd JUNE 2022**

President Brian Stott welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Gill for all her hard work during her time as President in what had proved to be very difficult times because of the pandemic.

1. Apologies

Steve Blackburn, Dave Hodgson, Alex Speed, David Thompson, Thomas Rochford, Steve Rigby, Rod Moore, Ernie Haynes, Dan Hardy, Tim Stirk, John Dewhurst, Alan Marsland, Phil Mahon, Colin Hilton, Mike Dale, Neil Sinclair, Margaret Chapell, John Greenwood, Kate Bennetta, Frank Morgan.

2. Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on August 11th 2021.

All minutes have been circulated and they are on the Lancashire County RFU website.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. RFU Representatives Report.

This report had been circulated and Ken Andrews and Dave Clarke spoke briefly.

Ken said that the RFU were happy to see that Lancashire Clubs had rejoined the RFU Leagues , Lancashire had worked hard to show what they wanted and this had been accepted. The RFU had acknowledged that there had been problems with returning to play after Covid and realised that a lot of players had not returned. A task group had been set up to try and get players to return/begin to play.

Team sports had been particularly affected by Co vid and the decline in RU had been more sever than in other sports, restrictions had been in place for longer than in other sports. The Age Grade rugby and mini/junior sections had bounced back more quickly, but overall there had been a decline in match completion.

There would be a further examination of the Lower XV and the players needed and also the regulations which impacted on the system and workload of volunteers. What was known was that by the time players were in late teens and early twenties there was a decline of about 50% of the players. It was realised that this was a major problem.

Ken then presented a series of slides to illustrate the change in the situation over the past three years. Steve Grainger had said there was some funding available so the plan was to get clubs together to discuss the situation. On a positive note the ADM Leagues had been the best performing Leagues in comparison to other Leagues.

Alan James raised the concern about Colts , in Five Counties in the North there were only twenty five Colts Teams.

Ken reiterated that the RFU recognised there was a problem across all age groups and the problem was not confined to the men's game.

Ian Spivey voiced the opinion that the main aim was to get clubs back playing after the pandemic and to ensure there were good coaches available to encourage children to stay in the game.

There was a query about the North Regulations and DC confirmed that these were currently being looked at.

It was also noted that at the RFU AGM Rob Briers who is the current Senior Vice President of the RFU would be the RFU President at the time of the Rugby World Cup in France.

5. Committee Reports

These were all contained in the Annual Report and were available on the website.

6. Playing Reports

As with the Committee reports all the information is in the Annual Report on the website.

7. Election of three members to the Disciplinary Committee

John Rawsom

Steve Blackburn

Tommy Hughes

8. Election of Chairman and five members of the Cup and Competitions Committee

Chairman Dave Clarke

Secretary Brian Hurst

Tommy Hughes

Helen Duggan

Alan Whalley

9. Election of four members to the Club and Community Rugby Committee

Kate Bennetta

Val Blackburn

Helen Duggan

Steve Blackburn

10. Election of two members to the Financial and Finance Committee

Chris Smail

Stephen Briers

11. Election of two representatives to the Schools' Committee.

Dave Herriman and Peter Hughes BEM

12. Election of two representatives to the Mini and Junior Committee

Ian Spivey

Allen Bower

The above Committees were all proposed and seconded at the AGM prior to this meeting and were ratified en bloc.

13. Election of Hon County Doctor

The post was not vacant and would be filled by co option.

14. Election of Hon County Legal Advisor

John Bullough

Proposed by Mark Downs Seconded by Tommy Hughes.

15. Election of the Hon County Team Secretary

Steve Rigby

Proposed by Roly Heptonstall Seconded by Alan James.

16. Election of Hon Membership Secretary

Ann Marie Briers

Proposed by Paul Deakin Seconded by Helen Duggan

17. Election of two representatives to the Northern Leagues Sub Committee.

Dave Clarke

Proposed by Brian Hurst. Seconded by Gill Burns

Ken Potter

Proposed by Brian Hurst. Seconded by Gill Burns

18. Election of one representative to the NOWIRL Committee

Tommy Hughes

19. Election of one representative to the Colts League Committee

Tommy Hughes

20. Election of Child Safeguarding Manager and one Deputy Safeguarding Manager

Carol Baker

Proposed by Helen Duggan. Seconded by Paul Deakin

Christine Spivey

Proposed by Helen Duggan Seconded by Paul Deakin

21. Election of County Webmaster

Anne Clarke

Proposed by Carol Baker Seconded by Brian Hurst

22. Correspondence

There was no correspondence appertaining to this meeting.

23. Dates of General Committee Meetings for 2022/23

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at Liverpool St Helens RFC 7pm

24. Date and time of next meeting 23rd November 2022

25. AOB

There was a query regarding travel money to the IOM from Broughton Pk , is it guaranteed or does it have to be applied for ? DC said that the money for the IOM is guaranteed but he would check. There was some concern regarding the ferry as the timetable does not suit/fit in with the Rugby KO time etc, DC suspected that this may be the case for a while.

Ian Spivey announced that the U16 were trialling the 'High Tackle' rule to enable clubs to get involved with the new regulations. He was looking for clubs to participate.

There was a query from the floor regarding whether serious injuries should be reported to the RFU. Brian Stott thought that all serious injuries should be notified to the RFU but he would find out more.

Ian Scott Brown would replace Brian Minor as an Individual Members Rep.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

Attendees

President	Brian Stott
Senior Vice President	Carol Baker
Vice President	Alan James
Past President	Gill Burns MBE
Past President	Ernie Neely
Past President	Peter Hughes BEM
Past President	Dave Herriman
Past President	Ken Andrews
Past President	Rob Briers
Past President	Tommy Hughes
Hon Secretary	Mark Downs

Hon Treasurer	Paul Deakin
RFU Representative	Dave Clarke
RFU Representative	Ken Andrews
Chairman of Finance	Chris Smail
Director of Rugby	Howard Hughes
Broughton	Clive Ennis
Didsbury Toc H	C Smail
Eccles RFC	Leanne Aspinall
Firwood Waterloo	T Mc Clure
Fleetwood	S Doherty
Heaton Moor	D Todd
Littleboro'	B Hurst
Liverpool Collegiate	G Morgan
Lostock	A James
MADREFS	Clive Ennis
Manchester	T Harper
Oldham	R Heptonstall
Orrell	G Winstanley
Sedgeley Pk	R Berry
Warrington	L Blacksell
West Pk	J Bradbury
Wigan	D Clarke
Wythenshaw	J McCauley
Mini and Junior	I Spivey
Colts League	A James
Safeguarding	C Spivey
	C Baker
League	K Potter
	D Clarke
Finance	P Deakin
Individual Members	C Smail

Individual Members I S Brown
 Ann Andrews
 A Clarke
 M Herriman