

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LTD
General Meeting 21st March 2018
RFU Representatives Report
Headlines

RFU Representatives continue to be fully involved in committee work at Twickenham.

RTJ Briers: RFU Management Board
Chairman of Community Game Board
NCA Executive
Championship Clubs Committee
TEL Board

K.Andrews Club & CB Development Sub Committee
Chair of Succession Planning working group
Chair of Volunteer Recognition working group
Education and Age Grade Sub Committee
RFU Representative on England Rugby Football Schools' Union (ERFSU)
Chair of North West Regional Payer Pathway Group.

Nat West Six Nations Championship

England 's fifth place in the Six Nations Championship was particularly disappointing having been somewhat favourites perhaps along with Ireland to win the title. The review and reflection of the poor results has already started.

CEO Report - Steve Brown

- **RFU** have agreed terms with Eddie Jones with his contract extended to August 2021.
- **Sue Day** has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer.
- **PRL/RPA and RFU** have been working together to finalize the domestic season schedule.
- **Ernst Young** have been meeting with all Championship stakeholders –report to follow.
- **Tyrell's Premier 15s** has been a great success and already we are seeing the development of a stronger/deeper pool of potential international players (7s and 15s).
- **National Rugby Survey** has now completed. SRU, WRU and IRFU have bought into the same NRS. A useful exercise for comparison between the four Home Nations
- **Artificial Grass Pitches** – 7 Rugby Turf and 2 Rugby Share pitches are now fully operational.
- **Community 7's Offer**- XRugby rules are now in World Rugby law books. Plans for initial implementation in the spring in 9 universities and from May at 6 AGP sites
- **Age grade to Adult Transition** – university work has continued to be a key focus and 6 university clusters have dedicated Development Officers and 21 Focus Colleges have plans to sustain participation through the 16-20 year old age group and transition players into clubs.
- **Project 15s**, the World Rugby working group established to look at the challenges facing the fifteen-a-side game will report in March
- **Technology** in coach education has continued. Facebook Live sessions and OMW Kids First Skills Sessions.
- **O2 Touch** centre numbers have risen to 430 with over 22,000 active players.
- **Aspirational Team** fixtures have been confirmed. U18s will play two matches against Ireland in Portsmouth - U20s will play two matches against Georgia in Tbilisi - England Counties will play three matches in Bucharest.
- **Headcase** training programme figures are up significantly year on year.
- **Council elections** following changes a comprehensive guide for CBs has been produced.
- **Safeguarding** A questionnaire to CB Safeguarding Managers for information as to the level and depth of the monitoring of processes in the community game-report in February.
- **Discipline** - World Rugby have launched a consultation on the new sanctions table.
- **Sponsorship**- Old Mutual Wealth have rebranded to Quilter. The May test will now be known as the Quilter Cup and the Autumn Internationals will be called the Quilter Internationals.
- **Museum** – World Rugby Museum has been completed and is sited above the Shop.

- **East Stand-** Considerable progress has been made with the construction. The project has committed 65% of the £65.5m budget with £21.0m spent to date and another £21.3m contracted, principally relating to the shell and core works. The vast majority of remaining spend relates to the fit out budget

International Report- Ben Calverley

World Rugby

- Amendments to Reg. 8 around eligibility if one or both of a player's parents are adopted.
- Changes to Regulation 20 agreed will mean that World Rugby can enforce doping and other bans given by other sports.
- Regulation 22 amendments were agreed that will give World Rugby powers to check accredited artificial pitches more regularly if problems are identified

Rugby Europe

- Main item on the Board agenda was a discussion on qualification for the 2020 Olympics.

Six Nations

- Looking for opportunities to engage with Romania and Georgia due to the limited window Unions have with U20s players. However, work will continue to support the development of these countries where possible.

Financial Report- Richard Daniel

- Overall performance for Q2 is £0.1m favourable to budget, with a retained profit of £17.7m
- Gross profit at £83.5m, is £0.5m favourable due to strong OMW series, U2 merchandising sales and TEL Conference and Event performance.
- Capital investment is currently at £20.1m with £19.3m of this spent on the strategic AGP and ESD projects including the museum.

Payment of players- Chris Cuthbertson, Alys Lewis and Dave Stubley

- Confirmation from Council that the supplemental ticket fund should be included in the definition of RFU Benefits to be withdrawn;
- Council's approved of the draft Payment of Player Regulations.
- Council delegated authority to Governance to finalise the drafting of the regulations.

Feedback from Clubs

- Over 60 clubs responded and the vast majority indicated their support for the payment of players initiative. Feedback has been reviewed and considered, and where appropriate, corresponding changes have been made to the regulations.
- A number of clubs raised the point that they did not believe the prospective loss of RFU benefits were sufficiently robust as a disincentive and queried why loss of international tickets was not included in the loss of benefits that could be withdrawn. This point was discussed in Governance and whilst valid, the recommendation of the Payment of Players task group was to not include international tickets within the loss of benefits list. The matter will be kept under review.

Regulations- see Appendix 1

Age Grade Rugby - Fred Batchelor, Alys Lewis and Mark Saltmarsh

- The Age Grade regulations and changes to be aligned to a wider and developing landscape.
- Regulation 15 should open up a potential year round playing offer for Age Grade Rugby in to recognise and allow for differentiation between players playing regularly or occasionally during the season.
- A core playing season should remain but the off-season should enable the non-regular player to access appropriate opportunities as opposed to a blanket break for all players.
- The regulation should be accelerated to be able to implement the changes for summer 2018.

Council approved the change to Regulation 15.6 for implementation from May 2018;
Council delegated authority to Governance to finalise the drafting.

Regulation 15.6 Season- Appendix 2

Nominations- Simon Collyer-Bristow

Council approved the following nominations:

President:	Chris Kelly
Senior Vice President:	Peter Wheeler
Junior Vice President:	Jeff Blackett
Past President on Council:	John Spencer
Independent on Council Nominations Standing Committee:	S O'Hare

Community Game Board: Rob Briers

Presentations were received from:

Rugby Growth Sub Committee:	Stephen Pearson
Young Rugby Ambassadors:	Megan Cliff and Ross Meaghur

Update to Council on recent research, ticket pricing strategy and process to be accompanied by a presentation during the Council meeting.

Ticketing Update- Simon Massie-Taylor and Mike Cordell

Council received an update on recent research, ticket pricing strategy and process. This was accompanied by a presentation.

The RFU commercial team have been working on a strategy for ticket pricing. The strategy is based on the following principles:

1. Present a two-year narrative building up to RWC 2019 that builds excitement and value around the RWC warm up games and provides an opportunity for all fans to come to Twickenham at a range of prices.
2. Position the 2018 All Blacks fixture as a "blockbuster" game that is priced as a premium to A+ fixtures
3. Increase (but not maximise) prices and optimise Cat B and C matches based on insight from SKP research
4. Standardise seat price categorisation across all full internationals and reduce price categories from seven to five. This was successfully experimented for OMW 2017 Cat B and C games.
5. Maintain a low price entry point for all fixtures and increase number of kids tickets available
6. Take into consideration recent legislation changes in credit card fee charges as well as future changes around handling fee charges
7. Launch Return to Rugby initiative for the annual Barbarians fixtures that targets lapsed players between 16-24
8. Explore playing England games outside Twickenham to provide accessibility for difference regions to England games

The April Council meeting to approve the final prices with the aim of announcing prices before the end of April.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

RFU's GDPR toolkit for clubs, referee societies and Constituent Bodies currently in trial and due for release very soon

On 25th October 2018, the UK will adopt new laws to bring into effect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). GDPR builds on existing data protection law to give individuals more rights in relation to their data, and places an increased onus on all organisations, whether commercial companies or not-for-profit organisations such as rugby clubs, to secure individuals' data.

The RFU has created a toolkit to help clubs, referee societies and CBs in the following ways:

- to understand what the new data protection laws require;
- to provide practical steps to achieve compliance; and
- to signpost to further resources to help achieve compliance.

Community Club 'Health of the Game' Consultation Roadshow 2018

During April and May this year RFU will be embarking on a community club consultation roadshow around the country, speaking to club committee members, international ticket officers, and members of constituent body executive committees / boards. This will provide clubs with the opportunity to consider the latest National Rugby Survey results, discuss the health of the community game, and review proposals as to how **international tickets** may be allocated to clubs in the future based on the amount of rugby being played.

Lancashire Roadshow- 25th April 2018 at Preston Grasshoppers RF 6.30 to 9.30 pm

Regulation change around 'Out of Season' activity

Following approval by RFU Council, the important changes to regulation 15 concerning Out of Season activity are effective immediately and therefore covers Summer 2018.

In summary the following is permitted:

At U11 and below, non-contact training only;

At U12 and 13, in addition to the above, non-contact matches and competition (if approved by the CB or CSU);

At U14, 15 and 16, in addition to the above, XRugby7s contact matches and competition and preparation (if approved by the CB or CSU);*

At U17 and 18, in addition to the above, 7-a-side contact matches and competition and preparation (if approved by the CB or CSU).*

Insurance support for clubs' tour programmes

Full details of the specialist travel cover Howden have designed with the RFU, to dovetail with club combined liability and personal accident insurances, can be found at:

www.englandrugbyinsurance.co.uk/tours

Inaugural Tyrrells Premier 15s Final

The inaugural Tyrrells Premier 15s final will be held at west London club, Ealing Trailfinders on 29th April (3pm kick off, live on Sky Sports Action & Sky Sports Mix).

'The future of Girls CB rugby and player pathway' roadshow

The roadshow has been designed to allow those involved in the delivery of Girls CB rugby in England, to attend a regional evening event and discuss the overview of Women & Girls action plan and player pathway. The meeting will be held at Broughton Park RFC Monday 9th April 2018.

Rugby Development Restructure

New structure of the Rugby Development team to deliver the goals in the new Strategic plan.

This involved making a number of roles redundant and providing some new and exciting opportunities which are detailed below. The key changes are;

Universities Development Manager and URDO

The roles of University Rugby Development Officer and University Development Manager will be made redundant and we will introduce 5 new roles;

1. University Partnerships Development Manager
2. Four University Partnerships Officers

This approach is built around a new way of working with universities through Partnerships and Clusters. The University Partnerships Development Manager will manage this process to drive more growth in the sector.

Player Development Manager and Player Development Officers

The role of Player Development Manager and Area Player Development Officers will be made redundant and five new positions will be created

1. Player Pathways Manager
2. Four Player Pathways Officers

WRDOs

We are now in the final stages of fully integrating the men's and women's game. As a result, the role of Women's Rugby Development Officer will be made redundant. The delivery of the women's and girls game will now become a central part of the work delivered by the RDOs, CRCs – and all Rugby Development staff.

Finally, we have created four additional new roles to maximise Women's and Girls rugby growth. New posts are;

- Age Grade Rugby Manager
- 2 x Match Official Development Officers
- 1 x Growth Assistant

Update on the Diversity & Inclusion Working Group - Genevieve Glover

The Diversity & Inclusion Working Group met on the 12th February. The first report will be tabled at the next RFU Council Meeting. The Group includes two from Council, one from the National Youth Council, two from the game and two Independents.

Maggie Alphonsi, Peter Howard, Cameron Taylor, Adam White, Sally Burns, Chris Ratcliffe, Anne Murphy

K Andrews
RTJ Briers
19.03.18