

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens RFC on Monday 7th October 2019

Present: D Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs P. Deakin, J.T. Hughes, H. Hughes, K. Andrews, C.A. Baker, A.S. Kerboas, M.J. Worsley & M. Downs.

In attendance: G Burns, S. Urquhart & D. Southern.

Apologies: Messrs R.T.J. Briers, J.S. Greenwood & B.H. Stott.

RDO Report.

SU reported:-

1. A lot of work in clubs based on RWC events has taken place with some funding provided by the County.
2. The new format for registering clubs and individuals to play Senior rugby when 17 years old needs to be emphasised.
3. The Ladies Inner Warrior leagues had started and been very successful.
4. Issues had arisen between Warrington Rugby Club and the Warrington Sports club where they are based. D, Westhead had attended a club meeting and KA will attend a Rugby club meeting on behalf of the County and offer our support. A meeting of RDOs and Sale Community team to take place to discuss various projects.
5. Play It Safe courses to be held at Ashton Under Lyne, Broughton Park, Fylde & Sefton.
6. £1.9 million has been saved by clubs in the last 12 months using RFU VAT support services.
7. A Bonfire Night event management tool had been sent out to clubs as part of the RFU community send out email.
8. A list of at risk clubs was collated for discussion at the upcoming Club & Community Rugby Committee meeting.

SU left the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising.

1. MD - the County Gazebo had been stolen from the Leigh club after the Junior Cup finals day. PD to check if it was listed on the insurance policy.
2. KA – The cost of rent of AGPs by County and DPP had been raised with the RFU.
3. KA – Age Grade Rugby group had been set up.
4. MD – Confirmation that the membership issue from the last meeting had been resolved and the applicant had withdrawn.

Questions to written reports.

Written reports or minutes were received from Rugby Development, Club & Community Rugby and Disciplinary and are attached as appendices to these minutes.

1. KA – All of the 6 Nations Unions had accepted the proposal under Project Light which is the broadcasting rights for the 6 Nations tournament.

2. CAB – felt the lack of manager for the U15s squad was an issue. HH noted that as this was for one season it would be difficult to recruit a candidate.
3. KA – The vast majority of issues with discipline appeared to be with Age Grade groups. BHS to formulate correspondence to all clubs.
4. MJW – made aware of a discipline issue with Wigan age grade team touring Banbury. This is being reviewed by BHS.

Open Discussion

1. Round table discussion on candidates to replace John Morgan. Candidates were all of a high standard. Gary Morgan to be invited to take the post.
2. At risk clubs – several mentioned, to be addressed by C & CR Committee.
3. Mixed Ability Rugby – A project to develop as part of our initiative budget mixed ability rugby in Lancashire. Carol Isherwood is interested in looking at the project and may be able to help. This is to be progressed with CI on her return from Japan.
4. Season Calendar – MD highlighted the change of the County Championship final date to mid June which has a possible effect on our end of season presentation. The date of the presentation will remain and a separate meal / evening for Senior XV players will be arranged.

Correspondence.

An email has been received from the RFU (Dee Murray) proffering the attendance of Council Members to our Board Meeting. It was decided to forward dates that are acceptable with a view to discussing our schools / All Schools projects.

New Members.

1 new club – England Deaf Rugby – Approved

50:50 Draw

Sept 19	Value	Oct 19	Value
P Saunders	£53.40	S Knowles	£53.40
H Henderson	£8.90	G Jones	£8.90
WN Hopkinson	£8.90	EBN Norc-Taylor	£8.90
H Henderson	£8.90	BJ O'Driscoll	£8.90
G Jones	£8.90	E Neely	£8.90

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday 4th November 2019 at Liverpool St Helens RFC.

Any other business.

1. HH - Project Light Broadcasting rights appeared to be Direct to Consumer which would infer that games will be a pay per view service. This could be detrimental to viewing figures.
2. HH – Englands new kit supplier to be Umbro.
3. HH – Kit discussions with ADM, looking at possible new brand VX3.
4. GB – Presidents diary is filling.
5. CAB – Safeguarding conference went well. Hoping to organise a State of Mind Evening to highlight mental health awareness. KA offered vote of thanks to CAB.
6. MJW – Looking to arrange a Presidents Cluster Meeting in February, ideas and subjects welcomed.
7. KA – DNH evening at Widnes had raised £200 for the Injured Players Foundation.

8. MD – Raised the idea of the Lancashire Royals v AA being played for a Cup in memory of Graeme Marrs.
Board agreed, MD will ask family permission.
9. CAB – Need to book RDO Liaison meetings.
10. DC – Some Cumbrian clubs are having issues with fulfilling league fixtures.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20pm

D. Clarke Chairman Date 4/11/19



Rugby Development Report- October 2019

Representatives Squads

Under 15

Despite numerous attempts by myself and Bill Nichol we have been unable to find anyone suitable for the role of U15 Team Manager, whilst coaching resources are available particularly from the DPP area it would seem the lack of any progression from a CB point of view is hindering us in finding a candidate that fits the bill. At this moment I fear that we will not be in a position to meet our commitments this season.

Under 16

Bill Nichol as I alluded to at the last Executive Meeting has re-joined us to lead the U16s. Bill has appointed Coaches (for this season only) and he has booked both Squad training sessions and venues for the games, I expect the U16 to successfully complete their commitments this season.

Under 17

The post of U17 Team Manager and U17 Lead Coach were both advertised on the Website and Social Media, whilst the coaching role has seen 4 very strong candidates apply, we have not received any applications for the U17 Managers role. It has been commented on that maybe the criteria we laid down for the role (must have RFU Level 2 Coach and Head Case Training) is preventing willing candidates from applying. We may drop the requirement for being RFU Level 2 accredited and re-advertise. Interviews for the role of U17s Lead Coach will start shortly.

Under 18

The U18s Group have met and arranged their Trial date, nominations have been coming in.

Under 20

As of this moment we have a total of 37 players nominated for the U20s Trial this Sunday at Hoppers. With 13 players from last years squad included in that number we expect a strong trial leading to yet another competitive squad, we open our County Championship fixtures at Home on Sunday 26th January v Durham, venue to be announced. We then travel over to the Dark Side to face Yorkshire on Sunday 23rd February. The U20s Final will be played at Twickenham on Sunday 3rd May.



Royals XV

Nominations are being sought from our eligible Clubs, games have been arranged as follows:-

Royals v Cheshire Harvesters – Saturday 30th November @ Tyldesley 2pm KO

Royals v Anti-Assassins – Saturday 29th December, venue tbc 2pm KO

Royals v Eastern Counties Wanderers – Saturday 16th May, venue tbc 12 noon KO

Senior XV

County Championship Fixtures have been released and are as follows:-

9th May - Durham @ Home

16th May - Eastern Counties @ Home (Double header with Royals)

23rd May – Yorkshire - Away

Final June 21st ?

Bizarrely the Final will be after/during the England Counties Tour of Romania

Women's & Girls

Awaiting info, GB Cup not yet sorted.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of Club & Community (C&CR) Meeting held at Liverpool St. Helens RUFC on Monday 09.09.2019

Present:

Mr. Malcolm Worsley Chairperson; Stuart Urquhart RDO; Gary Morgan;
Tommy Hughes; Kate Bennetta and Carol Baker

Apologies: Anne Clarke; Steve Blackburn

Persons not in attendance Jane Dolloway, Helen Duggan; Andy Kerboas.

Stuart Urquhart

1. AGP special £1 per session booking available until 09/11/19 on certain pitches.
2. G.M.S. has had a great increase in the number of contacts due to new reporting and registering process. Has caused system to 'crash' and the Match Card facility was unavailable. Double entry of player details has been recorded and will require records to be merged on GMS. Under 17's playing up and self-registering has not helped the situation.
3. GMS training s being rolled out around county contact John Foster for information and sessions.
4. All RFU courses are now bookable as an individual only (no block booking available) courses fees payable by individuals and then claimed back from clubs etc.
5. NatWest Rugby force was a success £500 went to 17 clubs within the county. For use on the work undertaken June 2019.
6. WORLD Cup 2019 Japan begins, and various promotions were carried out over summer i.e. BBC Summer Social to introduce and encourage people to become involved.

Malcom Worsley

West Park Rugby club was used as a training site and hosted an England v America 'international' when a visiting team from Illinois visited in July of this year. Presentation of Lancashire memorabilia was presented by MW. A positive and enjoyable exercise which it is hoped will be repeated.

Tommy Hughes

1. Lancashire Under 18's representative team; discussions ongoing as to the recruitment and interviewing of appropriate coaches for the coming season. The appointment of coaches and managers will be more professional and equitable. Howard Hughes leading on this.
2. Lancashire 15-16's squads will honour this current season commitment but for the 2020-2021 season the structure and membership of these teams will be streamlined, to provide a "Lancashire Representative experience" with one larger team from which a squad will be chosen and will play three 3 County Games. This will remove the clashes of club, academy and county squad matches. Discussion of cost of Kit Purchase for county squad representation and it was agreed that parents were more than willing to pay for replica kit both for players and themselves.

Gary Morgan

1. ADM Lancashire Leagues. 2 x 12 leagues start 15/09/19. Currently no second teams are in the League, but interest has been expressed by clubs for 2nd teams to be include. RFU are commencing a review of leagues for the 2020-2021 season. Keeping clubs playing locally and not requiring travel. GM expressed a positivity and stated that matches and teams were well matched and competitive with sometimes only a 7-point difference as example between teams' abilities

2. Referees Membership of Liverpool Referees society as an example. Depleting numbers lack of new blood?
3. Volunteering. Second evening (less formal) at Wigan RUFC was well attended. Extended thanks to be recorded to Mrs Anne Clarke for the excellent buffet and hosting the event at WIGAN RUFC New season for volunteering. Very positive feedback on the Lancashire Awards and Mitsubishi events being combined as at Preston Grasshoppers in Summer. Two Lancashire representatives going forward to Black Tie Event at Twickenham. No decision as yet has been made whether this co-funded event will occur in 2019-2020 season.

Kate Bennetta

- 1 Personal Update has left Sale Sharks as an employee wishes to spend more time with family and watch her two sons play the game (DPP & Sale Academy) as a parent not an employee. Will still volunteer with the administration side of the DPP at Sale Sharks. Is wishing
- 2 New chapter and now wishes to help and support the county as has stepped down from many roles at Littleborough allowing other to develop and take Littleborough forward.
- 3 Stated that Littleborough RUFC have no Under 16's team No Junior nor Senior Colts but are working to recruit new players to the game.

Tommy Hughes

- 1 reported that the Leigh Academy Junior and senior colts goes from strength to strength and attributes the popularity to the title and making it attractive to keep colts playing in the game and not forcing or encouraging players to play open age too early in their careers.
- 2 Reports that Tarleton RUFC Academy has increased from 5 to 22 players Again making the "academy" title inviting. Along with Enthusiastic coaches and coaching making it invite for young players.
- 3 The Half Game rule is also making it a positive environment and is enticing players to the game where they will all have the opportunity to play.

Carol Baker

- 1 Lancashire Club Safeguarding Officers conference is going ahead on 21st September. Speakers to include SALE Shark's, Health and Safety expert, Gill Burns MBE Lancashire president Sue Hopwood Deputy CBSM and an IN-Touch training course at end of the day.
- 2 Gary Morgan then asked if CSO's would be interested in forming a WhatsApp group as a trail to see if information could be dissimilated via this format.

Other business. Discussed.

President information evenings /cluster around county Need to arrange
Items that could be considered for presentation
Discipline and John Greenwood
Parents in Sport and supporting their children Richard Shorter
Volunteering
Women & Girls Helen Duggan update?

Will be addressed and put on agenda for next meeting

Date and time of next C&CR Meeting

MONDAY 14th October 7pm start at Liverpool Saint Helens RUFC



Disciplinary Committee

Report from the last two Sundays

Sunday 22 September

1. Rochdale match abandoned.
 - a. Coach charged with failure to respect the authority of the match referee.
 - b. Player sent off for match official abuse.
2. Vale of Lune
 - a. Coach charged with verbal abuse of a match official.
3. Sedgley Park two under 16 sent off for striking (Sedgley Park).
4. Eccles under 16 player cited for foul play.

Sunday 29 September (still time for more)

1. Southport u 15 vs Rochdale u15
 - a. Player from Southport sent off.
 - b. Player from Rochdale sent off.
 - c. Match abandoned both clubs potential charge.
2. Firwood Waterloo u18 vs Widnes.u18
 - a. Player from Firwood Waterloo sent off.
 - b. Player from Widnes sent off.
3. Aldwinians u16 vs AUL u16
 - a. Player from Aldwinians sent off.