

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
HELD AT LIVERPOOL ST HELENS ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH 2024**

President Carol Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and there was then a minutes silence to honour Eddie Deasey who had died recently.

1. Apologies:

John Dewhurst, Malcolm Worsley, Steve Blackburn, Steve Doherty, Alan James , Barry Jubb, Kate Benetta, Dave Phillips , Andrew Perry , Arthur Crabtree, Eddie Wiles , Tim Harper, Allan Bower, Ade Jebb.

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at Liverpool St Helens.

All minutes have been circulated prior to the meeting because of problems with uploading to the website.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. RFU Representatives Report.

Dave Clarke explained that the system of reporting had now changed and the Council now issued briefing notes to be distributed. Looking at the recent report the main issue that would need to be addressed by clubs was the issue of players registering themselves to play for a club. All the information had been sent to Club Secretaries and their County Reps. At the last meeting there had been an impromptu discussion on the matter but the RFU Council had now passed the 'regulation' so would come into force next season.

5. Committee Reports

- a) Management Board. These reports had been sent out.
- b) Finance and Funding. PD was away so nothing to report.
- c) Disciplinary Committee. There was still a problem with uploading to the website but hopefully this would be rectified soon. The main problem at the moment was the concern about abuse of referees by Juniors. E.g. U13 refusing to give his name and leave the field of play , they need to accept that the ref is the ref. BS reinforced the message that Coaches need to accept that their U 11 will one day be U18 and the problem will not go away. In some cases coaches are not setting a good example.

There was some discussion from the floor regarding the number of incidents but one is one too many. The Referees Society cannot get referees to ref on a Sunday

morning so most refs on a Sunday morning are club coaches. KA asked what could be done and there were suggestions that clubs could have points deducted etc but the Board were looking at what could be done.

- d) Governance .Carol Baker spoke about the recent Lancashire CSO conference which had gone well and would like to thank everyone involved.
- e) Rugby Development Committee. The Schools project was continuing, TryIt Rugby and events were planned for over Easter. Any clubs wanting to have a go should get in touch. It was open to all , Mixed Ability/Able bodied/Disabled Sports. There was to be a Mixed ability festival at Leigh RUFC on the 26th May 2024.
- f) Club and Community. Roham Whittle spoke about what the committee were hoping to do. Planning was in the early stages and would revolve around Player Retention, Club Finances etc . They were looking to see what experts may be available and looking at the process of when and where.
- g) Competitions Committee. This was the forum for all competitions and they were in the process of ensuring that all competitions were delivered well/ The Colts Finals were due to be played at Wigan RUFC on the 21st April.

6. Playing Reports

- a) Senior. Nothing yet to report as games still to be played.
Lancashire v Somerset at Fylde 18th May 25, 2024
Yorkshire v Lancashire at Hull Ionians 1st June 2024
- b) Senior Women. There was a new coaching team in place. The Lead for the Senior Women was Kate Bennetta. Games still to be played
Lancashire v Gloucester at Southport 19th May 2024
Lancashire v Warwickshire Venue needed 26th May 2024
Yorkshire v Lancashire at Hull Ionians 1st June 2024
- c) Royals . 23 players had made their debut (L6 – L10)
- d) U20s Still deciding whether to enter The Jason Leonard Cup because of regulation changes, however a squad of 32 had been assembled to ensure that games would happen against other Counties if not taking part in the Jason Leonard Cup.
- e) U18s The men had lost against Cheshire and Durham , the U18 Women had had wins over Cheshire and Yorkshire,
- f) U17s campaign would start trials etc April
Yorkshire v Lancashire at Selby 12th May 2024
Cheshire v Lancashire at Chester 19th May 2024
Lancashire v Cumbria at Wigan 26th May 2024
- g) U16 DPP had won one and lost one.

All Senior Finals would be at Twickenham in June.

- h) Schools. This section were in a healthy position . 67 Schools were currently involved with lots of schools entering the competition for the first time. The weather had had a big impact on the competition however and the finals would be held after Easter. It was noted that Kirkham Grammar school had recently played in a final at Twickenham and had been narrowly lost to Harrow 29 -27.

Currently waiting for more information regarding the Regional Player Pathway and it was expected there would be a series of meetings to discuss.

- 7. League and North Division Report. The campaign was currently coming to an end and the League was trying to get all games played before th 13th April before th start of the Papa Johns Cup.

The finals of the Papa John Cup would be at Twickenham on the 12th/13th May.

There was continued debate about Player Registration and there was a meeting planned with the Halbro Leagues. There was still concern about 1st teams playing in the Halbro Leagues. ADM 4 only had 8 teams so need to boost numbers. In 25/26 Match cards would be mandatory at all levels.

- 8. Correspondence.

There is nothing appertaining to this meeting.

- 9. New Members

- 10. Date and Time of next Meeting

AGM and General Meeting

Wednesday 19th June 2024

Tyldesley RUFC 7.00pm

- 11. There continued to be problems with the website but the Company were currently looking into it.

Peter Hughes asked that because of problems with the website could people please go back to their clubs with the information for Eddie Deasey's funeral. It was right that he should be remembered as a true rugby man and a gentleman

Attendees

President	Carol Baker
Senior Vice President	Brian Hurst
Past President	Peter Hughes BEM
Past President	Dave Herriman
Past President	Ken Andrews
Past President	Gill Burns MBE
Past President	Tommy Hughes
Hon Secretary	Mark Downs
RFU Representative	Dave Clarke
Director of Rugby	Howard Hughes
Aspull	S Bailey
Broughton Pk	A Marsland
Burnage	K Haynes
Firwood Waterloo	T Mc Clure
Heaton Moor	D Todd
Leigh	T Hughes
Littleborough	B Hurst
Liverpool Ref Society	p Barnett
Liverpool ST Helens	John Williams
Oldham	R Heptonstall
Ormskirk	B Stevenson
Orrell	G Winstanley
Sedgley Pk	R Berry
Sefton	P A Merriman
Trafford MV	I Bridle
Warrington	G Perks
West Pk	R Whittle
Widnes	M Griffiths
Wigan	D Clarke
Wythenshawe	B Macklestone

Schools	R Jones
	J O Ryan
Safeguarding	C Baker
League	K Potter
	D Clarke
Try It Lancashire	C Jones
	J Jones
Individual Members	I S Brown
	A Clarke