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| **Minutes of the Yorkshire Committee Meeting – on 7th June 2021 at 6.30 pm (Virtual)** |
| Present: Chair - Barry Breakwell, Ted Atkinson, David Baker, Ross Barr-Hoyland, Toni Birch, Jim Chapman, Steve Corns, Michelle Lewis, Tony McNally, Jim McRobert, Dawn Rathmell, John Riley, Phil Shand, Mike Smith In Attendance: Lindsey Oddy – Administrative Secretary, Joe Bedford – RFU Representative 2021-2022, Andy Soutar – CB Relationship Manager |
| Apologies for absence: None |

**Introductory remarks by the Chair**

**1** The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting, including the return of Mike Smith (MS).

It was noted that no conflicts of interest had been reported.

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2021** were proposed as a true record by

D Rathmell, seconded by J McRobert and approved unanimously.

**Matters Arising**

**2** Response to FCA. The Hon Treasurer (PS) confirmed that advice from Angie Lee remains

outstanding and County Office will provide telephone number for further contact and response.

**3** Yorkshire Rugby Foundation. The Chair referred to shared communication from Steve

Grainger of RFU, meeting with Hamish Pratt (HP), assistance with business plan from Michelle Lewis (ML) and proposed that the County lends the Foundation £6,000 to employ HP one day a week for 6 months to constitute the Foundation, secure bids, run programmes and review after 6 months. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

**4** The Chair confirmed that a Leeds City Council Restart Grant is not available to the CB, only Sports Clubs.

**5** Bank Account Protocols. The Chair proposed that on a monthly basis a review of transactions over £5000 would take place by the Officers of the County (Hon Secretary, President, Chair and Hon Treasurer) as secondary signature was not practical due to number of varying transactions. The Committee agreed the proposal.

**6** RFU Reps Blog.Jim Chapman (JC) confirmed that the County Championship Survey Review had

been sent out and concluded with Yorkshire providing 380 of the replies, thanking those that responded.

**7** Safeguarding outstanding matters confirmed as follows:

* Missing pages of Safeguarding Report in relation to Trainers for South and West Districts remain outstanding despite request for same.
* Annual Age Grade Registration is now necessary as the RFU have acted in line with

 other sporting bodies already undertaking this.

* This Committee’s overall responsibilities from a Safeguarding point of view are met providing there is a sensible reporting process in place with the head of RFU Safeguarding and that the RFU are happy with that Safeguarding Lead being proactive.
* Present CB Safeguarding Lead, Hugh Gumbs, has resigned from the role which is to be advertised and his successor will liaise with Hon Secretary (SC) going forward.

 **Action:** **Hon Secretary (SC) with assistance of Chair of Compliance (MS) to request**

 **position on outstanding cases.**

**8** County Chairman Term of Office. The Committee considered a paper from Hon Secretary (SC) proposing that the Chairman be eligible for re-election no more than five times; a six-year term of office, together with a counter proposal from the President (TM) of 2 plus 2 years (4 years in total); in line with the RFU and Yorkshire RFU coaches and management. The Committee agreed to a further proposal from the Hon Secretary (PS) and seconded by Chair of Compliance (MS) to review terms of office for all roles within the Yorkshire Committee at this meeting.

**Action: Officers of the County to discuss at next office meeting.**

**9** Risk Assessments – Club & CB Offer. Hon Treasurer (PS) clarified that the County Office have now invoiced the RFU for £1,600 bursary towards small grants for clubs.

**10** Competitions Committee have undertaken survey to Clubs and majority do not wish to

commence cup games in August. Further sign ups are being chased and in the meantime clubs that wish to play in August can do so as August is a ‘play by’ date.

**Financial Update – Phil Shand**

**11** The Hon Treasurer (PS) provided a brief summary on several topics including:

* Present financial position - Looking at a £15,000 loss but it is suggested that last year’s loss will be funded out of the BOM investment which has risen by £15,000.
* CB Funding. Recent information from the RFU requires clarification as monies returned from the Immediate Support fund and put into a Reboot Fund will not cover core costs (safeguarding, discipline and admin costs) for next season. Areas previously funded through LRP such as volunteering and retention are not mentioned. Clarification will be sought at forthcoming CB RFU Meeting with Steve Grainger on Thursday evening.

**RFU Representatives Blog**

**12** This was recently distributed and nothing further to add.

**AGM**

**13** This will take place on Monday 19th July and dependent upon the Government Roadmap, this will be held face to face at Morley RFC.

**Nominations**

**14** The Chair noted that the Committee were apprised of the provisional list of Nominations to be put forward at the forthcoming AGM, including the new post of Vice Chair.

**Appointment of Vice Chair**

**15** This is not a post on the Committee but will shadow the Committee. Following discussion, the Committee agreed the proposal of Mark Winder as Vice Chair and it was agreed his CV would be made available to the Committee upon his permission.

**Proposed Rule Amendments**

**16** The Committee agreed that the proposed rule change to allow virtual AGM’s to be held be put forward for approval at the forthcoming AGM.

**RFU Transgender Policy – Leeds Hunters Letter**

**17** Following a letter received from the Chair of Leeds Hunters, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, Ross

Barr-Hoyland (RB) gave an overview of the reason behind it and the RFU’s proposed policy

directed to transgender and binary players, mainly relating to transgender women players. Transgender players were not included in the consultation process. After consideration the Committee agreed that representation would be sought from the RFU on what research was undertaken and specifically if transgender players were involved in discussions.

**Inclusion of additional Lower XV teams into RFU leagues**

**18** As part of the RFU league structure review RFU regulations are awaited regarding whose responsibility it will be to allow lower XV teams to play in the league should they so wish to apply. Competitions Committee feel locally they would be in a better position to decide where a team fit. RFU to provide further guidance including potentially Leagues (level 7 and below) being managed with CB’s at a later date.

**Action: Toni Birch to reply to Andy Proud’s communication in order to address concerns**

**expressed.**

**Yorkshire 150 Anniversary Dinner**

**19** Following discussion regarding certain concerns around funding of the 150 Anniversay Dinner rescheduled for October, the committee agreed to a common approach in reply and support of the initiative and need to drive this on for all volunteers throughout the County. It was also

confirmed that the annual RFU Mitsubishi Volunteer event would be a scaled down version with the emphasis on Covid return to play and how clubs have dealt with Covid. A number of

Yorkshire clubs have been put forward to the event.

**Action: The Chair and Past President, Dawn Rathmell (DR) to compile a response regarding the 150 year Anniversary Dinner to be sent out by Hon Secretary, Steve Corns SC).**

**Subscriptions**

**20** Hon Treasurer (PS) confirmed that as previously agreed, Clubs Subscriptions would be

collected 1st October and Patrons 1st July.

**Action: County Office to give 2 weeks’ notice for change of date regarding Club subscriptions.**

**Date and Format of Next Meeting**

**21** Following discussion the Committee agreed to the proposal by the Chair that the format of Yorkshire Committee meetings be decided at the meeting previous to the next meeting i.e., in attendance or virtual. In addition, it was agreed that the Committee be given 2 weeks’ prior notice of District Meetings should they wish to attend.

**County Team Budgets – Tony McNally**

**22** In the unexpected absence of Chair of County Teams, Tony McNally (TM) due to losing

Internet connection, the Chair outlined what he thought TM may wish to discuss as follows:

* Following meeting with Officers of the County and TM it was agreed that the County fall in line with the RFU in distributing funds to the Age Grade County Teams.
* Informed by RFU to commit a sizable amount of £12,500 funding to the U15’s and U16’s programme delivered through the DPP. This proposal was agreed at the meeting.
* Agreed support for various programmes with the exception of Senior Men, Senior

 Women and U20’s as under review by the RFU and not aware of level of funding to be

 expected.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the proposal that Yorkshire RFU support the

guidelines set by the RFU with the budget being applied to the U15’s and U16’s DPP programme and a further proposal that the County do not purchase full kits for all teams and only purchase shirts in line with this Covid budgetary year. Players will wear club shorts and socks and have the opportunity to purchase their County shirt post matches if desired.

**AOB**

**23** RFU Representative, Ted Atkinson (TA) gave a positive update on the progress of the

Yorkshire Academy, having played four matches in the past month and thanked the coaches involved.

Chair of Communication & Marketing, Michelle Lewis (ML) expressed thanks to TA for securing funding and suggested that the Yorkshire Committee formally thank those who volunteered to coach, which was exceptional.

**Action: Hon Secretary (SC) to write congratulatory letter to Stuart Dixon and his support team.**

**24** Hon Secretary (SC) thanked chair of Communication & Marketing (ML) for the much-improved Newsletter presently being produced.

**25** Chair of Club Development, Toni Birch (TB) gave a brief overview of:

* the work undertaken by the RFU Club Developers and on their behalf requested

 suggestions for future webinars. It was suggested that the YRFU Strategy may assist this.

* RFU Project Touchstone, to affiliate **all** players to a club from 2022 – 2023 season.

 Yorkshire will be the pilot CB to undertake this. Affiliation will enable the RFU and the CB

 to better communicate directly with players.

**26** RFU Representative, Jim Chapman, announced that this would be his final Yorkshire Committee meeting and thanked all those present for commitment and enthusiasm to the Game and particularly for assistance for the past 10 years as RFU Representative.

The Chair on behalf of the County acknowledged and thanked JC for his contribution made over the years.

**Date of next committee meetings: AGM 26th July 2021, Committee Meeting 2nd August 2021**