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| **Minutes of the Yorkshire Committee Meeting – on 9th August 2021 at 6.30 pm (Virtual)** |
| Present: Chair - Barry Breakwell, Ted Atkinson, Ross Barr-Hoyland, Toni Birch, Steve Corns, David Hunter, Tony McNally, Jim McRobert, Dawn Rathmell, John Riley, Phil Shand, Mike Smith In Attendance: Lindsey Oddy – Administrative Secretary, Mark Winder – Vice Chair, Andy Soutar – CB Relationship Manager |
| Apologies for absence: David Baker, Joe Bedford, Michelle Lewis |

**Introductory remarks by the Chair**

**1** The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

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

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th June 2021** were proposed as a true record by

D Rathmell and seconded by R Barr-Hoyland. The President (DH), pointed out amendments to be made as follows:

Point 13 – Monday 26th July and not 19th July.

Point 14 – Appraised and not apprised.

Date of next meeting should be 9th August and not 2nd. Chair confirmed that he and the

Treasurer were not available for 2nd.

**Matters Arising**

**2** Yorkshire Rugby Foundation.

The Chair will convene a meeting next week to look at the remit of the Foundation with Mark Winder (MW) and Ross Barr-Hoyland (RB) volunteering his attendance.

**3** Safeguarding. To be discussed later in this meeting.

**4** County Chairman Term of Office. To be discussed at next office meeting tomorrow and

recommendations brought to next Committee Meeting.

**5** RFU Transgender Policy. The Chair having sought representation from the RFU on what

research was undertaken and specifically if transgender players were involved in discussions, it was confirmed that the RFU were not involved in preparatory work but were heavily involved in other meetings since. Two transgender players have been put in touch with England RFU and further communication is awaited.

**6** Inclusion of additional Lower XV teams into RFU leagues. CB’s have the ability to opt out of lower XV’s joining leagues. Clubs have been canvassed with the majority of responses weighting towards Clubs opting out of joining the league structure and staying with Merit leagues. A

Committee meeting may be held after 1st September to consider corporate decision.

**7** Yorkshire 150 Anniversary Dinner. The Chair and Dawn Rathmell (DR) will provide response if necessary to anyone questioning whether the dinner should go ahead.

**8** Subscriptions. County Office confirm that notice for change of date regarding Club

subscriptions has been given.

**9** AOB. Hon Secretary (SC), confirmed that a congratulatory letter has been written to Stuart Dixon and his support staff on the performance of the Yorkshire Academy.

**Financial Update and 2021/22 budgets – Phil Shand**

**10** The Hon Treasurer (PS) provided a brief summary on:

* Next Season’s core funding – RFU have released Immediate Support Fund and provided 2/3rds of core funding (£37,000) leaving a deficit of £18,000 required for salaries and

 letting. £10,000 received from the RFU for the Rugby Reboot Fund will be topped up with

 a further £15,000 from Yorkshire RFU funds to cover club applications.

* Following discussion, it was agreed that a budget meeting will take place to discuss what is available to develop rugby over the next 12 months. Proposals to be submitted to the Committee for endorsement. The group will consist of the five functional heads of the Committee, together with a representative from the Districts.

**Action: Tony McNally (TM) to convene meeting with District Chairs to determine**

**representative to join Budget meeting.**

**RFU Representatives Blog**

**11** Following the departure of Jim Chapman, Ted Atkinson (TA) and Joe Bedford (JB) have met to

discuss issues and proposals going forward. It was also reported that the England Senior Team have appointed a new coach, O2 Touch Rugby will have a different format and short term 1 to 2 year appointments will be made on the RFU Council.

**Strategic Plan and Yorkshire RFU branding**

**12** The Committee considered the Strategic Plan, Strapline and Yorkshire RFU branding proposals

previously circulated with a view for feedback to take to the Strategy Meeting on Tuesday

evening. The Chair thanked the Strategy group for their positive input, numerous meetings and

consultation groups over the past eight months.

**Safeguarding**

**13** The Hon Secretary (SC) reported a recent meeting with newly appointed Safeguarding

Manager, Andy Pollard. No outstanding safeguarding issues have been brought to the County’s attention.

**Project Touchstone**

**14** Chair of Club Development, Toni Birch (TB), gave an overview of the project (player

affiliation on GMS) ensuring that every player over 17 is affiliated to a club via self-registration. This will enable Yorkshire RFU and the RFU to communicate with all players. Yorkshire RFU are to pilot the affiliation and a committee will be set up to discuss options as to how the affiliation is undertaken going forward.

**Action: Toni Birch to contact potential committee members this week.**

**Date and Format of Next Meeting**

**15** Following discussion around face to face and/or virtual meetings, taking into account location, content of meeting and individual’s preference, it was agreed that the next meeting would

potentially take place in one of the Districts with the opportunity for those wishing to attend

virtually also. The meeting will take place on 4th October 2021.

**AOB**

**Rugby Reboot Fund**

**16** The Approval Panel have considered 50 club applications totalling £24,700 in excess of the amount allocated for the fund, with all clubs being successful in their application up to the

maximum amount of £500 per club. This will be administered in due course.

**Pride in Rugby Yorkshire Day**

**17** Diversity & Inclusion Lead, Ross Barr-Hoyland (RB) reported that 80 players competed

recently with all genders competing for the first time in a tournament in Yorkshire. The

successful event raised the sum of £2,500.00 for a local sexual health charity.

**Volunteer Required**

**18** Chair of Club Development, Toni Birch (TB) is undertaking an RFU Mentoring course and requires a club volunteer (other than a player, coach or referee) to mentor over the next 12 months.

**Action: Contact Toni Birch with potential volunteer name if willing to participate.**

**Club Developers**

**19** Club Developers will be contacting clubs over the next month to ascertain what their main focuses are for the coming season via email, messages, questionnaires etc. Present Club

Developers are Laura Lines and Aaron Howarth with a third vacancy to be advertised shortly for a position in Yorkshire. Max Pridmore has recently accepted a different role within the RFU.

**Date of next Yorkshire Committee Meeting: Monday 4th October 2021; venue to be confirmed**

**in addition to virtual.**