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| **u Minutes of the Yorkshire Committee Meeting – on 14th June 2022 at 7.00 pm at Morley RFC**  **and Virtual** |
| P Present:  Chair - Barry Breakwell, David Baker, Joe Bedford, Toni Birch, S Corns, David Holmes, Tim Johnson, Dawn Rathmell, John Riley, M Winder  A In attendance: Lindsey Oddy – Administrative Secretary, Andy Pollard – Safeguarding Manager,  A Dave Wood – on behalf of North District |
| P Apologies for absence: Ted Atkinson, David Hunter, Jim McRobert, Phil Shand, Mike Smith,  Andy Soutar |

**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 4th April 2022** were proposed as a true record by

D Rathmell, seconded by J Riley and approved unanimously.

**Matters Arising**

**2** Yorkshire Rugby Foundation. Solictors, Irwin Mitchell, have now decided to charge a fee. Steve Grainger is endeavouring to have the fee reduced or wavered.

**3** County Chairman Term of Office. Mark Winder has submitted recent paper including Term limits. Two terms of four years plus another one year i.e., 4 years to be repeated if necessary is suggested for all Committee Members and Sub Group and District Chairs. (To include Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer). The roles are elected annually at the AGM.

President term to remain 1 year.

The above is proposed and agreed to be put before Governance in due course.

**4** White Rose Rugby funding. Note sent to committee suggesting rather than each District having a budge of £1,000 to engage with one school and one club with White Rose; to have two Districts with two schools and two clubs with a budget of £2,500 per District, the two Districts being West and South. No comments were received and this has been taken forward with White Rose presently working on the proposal. The programme will commence in September upon return of schools.

Details of the proposal available upon request from Chair, Barry Breakwell.

**5** County Teams Kit Tender. The process has commenced with eight different kit suppliers. Tender has been sent with next deadline of 16th June for ‘any questions’, followed by Application tenders no later than 1st July. Process concludes middle of August and includes on and off field kit for all County Teams. Chair of Rugby Development, Dawn Rathmell, suggested that U16 girls DPP

purchase the same as winning tender.

**6** County Championship Games. Tony McNally to confirm with RFU Competitions whether funding will be made available towards travel for Semi Final. In the absence of T McNally, item to be carried over to next meeting.

In the absence of T McNally, Chair Club Development, Toni Birch, confirmed that South Yorkshire District have had £750 funding direct from the RFU for the South Yorkshire Value the Volunteer Evening 2021.

**7** County Championship National Call. Anticipated meeting was cancelled. Both David Roberts (Community Game Board) and Tim Miller (Chair of Competitions), confirmed the discussion will take place and CB’s are awaiting briefing document previously promised prior to such meeting.

**8** Project TouchStone. Chair of Club Development, Toni Birch, reported the project has been put on hold for another season with a further project running appertaining to the whole of GMS and not just affiliation. Feedback to be provided in due course.

**Financial Update and 2021/2022 budgets**

**9** In the absence of Hon Treasurer, Phil Shand, Chair, Barry Breakwell provided an overview as

follows:

* Spend is very slow with stakeholders encouraged to spend monies set aside. Of £12,175

received from the RFU to support three specific areas, only £1,000 remains unallocated.

Invoice for £5,000 from the White Rose Rugby remains outstanding and is required

before the end of June.

* The year in totality will be a break even for the County despite limited funding from the RFU.
* A further budget meeting will be required early August.

**Action: Steve Corns to chase Match Account Form from West Park Leeds RUFC regarding hosting of Senior Men and Women County Games in May.**

**Safeguarding Update**

**10** Safeguarding Manager, A Pollard, in attendance, reported the following:

* Activity is quiet at present. Play It Safe courses are ongoing and well attended.
* Safeguarding Audit is forthcoming with Bradford & Bingley RUFC appertaining to recent

welfare and safeguarding issues reported in the public domain. Matters were referred to

and dealt with by RFU Discipline with sanctions imposed.

* Andy Pollard will be in attendance at National Conference next weekend.

**RFU Representatives Report**

**11** Report has been previously circulated to the Committee. RFU Representative, Joe Bedford,

reported:

* Adult Male Game. Decline in playing numbers and how the RFU can improve upon. Joe

Bedford chaired a group about the contact game (Game On) with John Lawn and playing

framework principles, a Merit table scoring system and support for developing front row

players and match officials.

* Coach Development. Use of RFU coach developers to drop in to clubs and provide

pre-season support; particularly transmission between Colts and Seniors.

* Campaign around getting back playing and flexible offer. For example, can second teams play on a Thursday etc.

Also agreed to take following feedback to the RFU.

* Better communication required between RFU Coach Developers and County Coaches.
* Despite insufficient coaching courses last season, these are still taking place at wrong time of year and not enough. Qualified instructors, Dave Francis and Dave Duxbury are not able to run their own courses and must be utilised.
* RFU do not follow up with clubs once coaching course has taken place.

**CBRM Report**

**12 Report** not available and Andy Soutar not in attendance.

**Clubs in Need**

**13** Mosborough RUFC asked to move from Yorkshire 4to NLD leagues but left it too late in the

season to do so. As Secretary for League 4, Barry Breakwell will speak with the club.

Stanley Rodillians RUFC are struggling but have played some games towards the end of the season.

Wibsey RUFC struggled last season, have advertised for a coach, changed their Committee and wish to remain in League 3 next season.

Aireborough RUFC stepped away from leagues but are returning to Yorkshire 4 for next season.

Knottingley RUFC did not play any games towards the end of the season with rumour that they were

going to play league next season.

On behalf of North District, Dave Wood to check with Jim McRobert and report any club difficulties.

Progress of above clubs will be revisited in early September.

**Patron Applications**

**14** The Committee agreed Patron Applications from Nigel Tolley, Tom Day, Francesa May and

Bronwen May.

**Club Application**

**15** The Committee agreed Club Application from Yorkshire Ambulance Service Rugby Football Union Club.

**Review of Strategic Plan**

**16** The Committee were updated on various aspects of the plan, including increase in number of coaches and referees and substantial increase in engagement of social media channels.

Diversity and Inclusion to potentially be the biggest project for the County to look at next season.

The Committee agreed that due to lack of communication, the County Diversity and Inclusion Lead, will be informed that the role will be readvertised.

**Action: Chair, Barry Breakwell to issue Review of Strategic Plan with minutes.**

**CB Funding – Club Activation linked to Birmingham ‘22**

**17** The Committee considered County’s agreement to participate in an RFU project supported and funded by Sport England and linked to Birmingham ’22; a non-core rugby activity such as walking rugby. It was agreed that £2,000 be applied for in order to deliver a County walking rugby festival at Wath Upon Dearne RUFC late August/early September to coordinate with the Commonwealth games.

**Action: Chair of Club Development, Toni Birch, to apply for funding.**

**Rugby United Pilot**

**18** Officers of the County have committed to an RFU 3-year project involving Diversity and

Inclusion and Clubs Community Involvement. Chair, Barry Breakwell and Club Development Chair, Toni Birch, gave overview as follows: -

* 1st year funding in order to facilitate engagement of diverse communities and clubs.
* White Rose Rugby will assist in facilitation of the pilot, predominantly to be involved in 3rd year and ‘playing the game’.
* Consideration being given to approaching externally such as a University for someone

undertaking Sports Development course who may be interested in a Diversity and Inclusion

project to lead and manage the project. (Diversity and Inclusion Project Manager essential).

* Clubs, schools and communities around the Halifax area to be considered.
* Club Development Chair, T Birch to meet with White Rose Rugby and RFU Coordinator.

**AOB**

**Draft Yorkshire Rugby Governance**

**19** The board considered a paper previously circulated from Vice Chair, Mark Winder, and the way forward for the Committee in terms of governance. It was recorded that the Vice Chair felt that “loads was going well and was to be applauded”. Key points to be noted were:

* The Board (Committee) is too large and should move towards no more than 12 people, be skills based rather than geographically. (No legal expertise on this Board).
* Terms of Limits. Chair and Committee members to serve same period.
* Role of Chair. Presently reflects executive position as well as chairing of meetings

(strategic). Chief Executive (operational officer/manager) with no voting rights is required

with established delegated authority, supported by Officers of the County.

It was proposed and agreed that Vice Chair, Mark Winder, will compile a job description for

Operations Officer to be put before the Officers of the County (Steve Corns, Phil Shand and David Hunter), and circulated to the Committee by the end of the month.

**Nominations List**

**20** The Committee considered and agreed the Nominations List read out to be put before

members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Chair, Barry Breakwell, left the room briefly due to conflict of interest.

Barry Breakwell, thanked everyone for their support over the last 4 years as Chair of the County.

**Date of next meeting: Annual General Meeting 26th July 2022, 7.00 pm, Morley RFC.**