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| **u Minutes of the Yorkshire Committee Meeting – on 9th August 2022 at 7.00 pm at Morley RFC** |
| P Present:  Interim Chair – David Hunter, Toni Birch, Steve Corns, Richard Dixon, Tony McNally, Jim McRobert, Tim Johnson, John Riley, Phil Shand  A In attendance: Lindsey Oddy – Administrative Secretary |
| P Apologies for absence: Ted Atkinson, Joe Bedford, David Holmes, Dawn Rathmell, Andy Soutar |

**Introductory remarks by the Chair**

**1** Interim Chair welcomed all members to the meeting. Richard Dixon, new Chair of Compliance

introduced himself and gave a brief resume having worked across safeguarding and discipline,

presently with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

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

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14th June 2022** are to be amended to reflect that TonyMcNally did offer his apologies prior to the meeting. These were subsequently proposed as a true record by T McNally, seconded by T Johnson and approved unanimously.

**Matters Arising**

**2** Yorkshire Rugby Foundation. No further information received from Steve Grainger regarding

reduction or waver of fee charged by Solictors, Irwin Mitchell.

**Action: P Shand to contact Steve Grainger and D Hunter to contact Mark Winder to ascertain if funding for the fee will be provided by the RFU.**

**3** White Rose Rugby funding. £5000 has been invoiced and paid but the program has not

commenced nor proposal received.

**Action: D Hunter to request proposal from Barry Breakwell for way forward.**

**4** County Teams Kit Tender. This is complete and Gilbert have been appointed with an

announcement made on the 1st August. Senior Men and Senior Women Team Managers, Benji Pickin and Tim Wicks to meet with Luke Gray regarding shirt design. D Hunter confirmed that U17’S is a representative side and not DPP.

P Shand confirmed that Yorkshire RFU are receiving funding of £12,000 for U16 girls DPP, £5,900 for Age Grade, £2,000 for U18 girls with Adult rugby also receiving £2,000 each.

**Action: T McNally to remind Benji Pickin and Tim Wicks discussion is applicable to all County Teams and not just Senior Men and Senior Women.**

**5** County Championship National Call. It was confirmed that the awaited document was produced by the RFU and the meeting had taken place.

**6** Project TouchStone. Chair of Club Development, Toni Birch, reported the project remains in

abeyance awaiting a technology update of GMS.

**Financial Update and 2021/2022 budgets**

**7** The Hon Treasurer, Phil Shand, provided an overview as follows:

* Loss of around £25,000 due to Academy Contribution and drop in F&C Investment.
* County underspent its own budget last season and another budget meeting will be held at the end of this month. If RFU restricted spending is not utilized it will be deducted from the RFU’s core funding for season 2022/23.
* Allocation of RFU restricted funding; £17,000 to Adult Male game, £6,000 to Adult Womens game.
* Yorkshire Rugby Academy to be paid the agreed £17,500. Now in Year 3 of 4 years and

consideration to be given to what happens in Year 5.

Discussion took place regarding Men and Women’s County Game at West Park Leeds RUFC and in particular lack of clarity regarding gate receipts. A net amount of £2,000 was paid to the Club by Yorkshire RFU. The committee agreed going forward to a nominated lead and taskforce to liaise with clubs.

**Action: T Johnson in conjunction with T McNally to produce future protocol. S Corns to provide template letter presently used.**

**Safeguarding Update**

**8** On behalf of Safeguarding Manager, A Pollard, Hon Secretary, S Corns, reported the following:

* Clubs have been reminded that now a number are applying for U17’s to play senior rugby, Safeguarding checks will take place on those that apply, with all coaches requiring a DBS check and attendance of a Play it Safe course.
* There is one ongoing safeguarding matter for Yorkshire presently being dealt with by the RFU.

Interim Chair, D Hunter, requested that future Safeguarding Updates are provided to Chair of Compliance, Richard Dixon.

**RFU Representatives Report**

**9** Report has been previously circulated to the Committee. In the absence of both RFU

Representatives, Hon Treasurer, P Shand, proposed that both RFU Representatives meet with Steve Lloyd and Officers of the County regarding potential promotion of Doncaster Knights RUFC into the Premiership and have regular meetings linked to RFU Council meetings.

**CBRM Report**

**10** On behalf of CBRM, Andy Soutar, Interim Chair, D Hunter, reported:

* Rugby Leaders Network. Is now open for applications with a closing date of 10th October.
* Network sessions. These are online. Theme 1: Local playing opportunities (sharing models of good practice from around the country on flexible playing opportunities.) Sessions are 11.8.22 and 18.8.2022. Theme 2: CB led coach Development (opportunity to discuss support offered by the RFU and thoughts on what coach and referee training CB’s may be planning to do.) Sessions are 10.8.2022 and 17.8.22.
* Platform for Rugby (Touchstone). Review currently in place including groups from people within clubs/CB’s/coaches and volunteers, looking at how GMS can be better used by

players and clubs. Use of Apps is the major focus rather than having to log on to PC’s.

* Payment of Players. List of clubs who have /not completed the payment of players

declaration will be shared with CB’s via the Portal.

**Action: S Corns to contact B Breakwell regarding access to the Portal. T Birch to receive list of clubs who have not completed the declaration.**

**Clubs in Need**

**11** Chair of Club Development, T Birch, reported thatWibsey RUFC and Old Grovians RUFC have withdrawn from the league. Old Grovians aim to play friendly matches.

Interim Chair, D Hunter, reported that Stanley Rodillians are not attracting players and will play a few friendly games if possible.

**County Championships 2022/2023**

**12** Following a letter previously circulated to the Committee received from the RFU Competitions Committee, a full discussion took place regarding entry to the coming season’s County

Championships. (Bill Beaumont, Jason Leonard and Gill Burns). It was proposed by President,

J Riley and agreed by the committee, that all three teams would compete.

**Action: Hon Secretary, S Corns, to reply to RFU no later than 5th September with decision.**

**RFU position on Trans players**

**13** Following the RFU’s ruling on trans players in the women’s game, Chair of communication & Marketing, T Johnson, reported an increase of discussion on social media. It was discussed and agreed that Yorkshire RFU would not make any official statement; the RFU vote was a close one and it is now RFU policy.

**Tom Ilube Invitation**

**14** After discussion, the committee agreed that it would be beneficial to invite RFU President, Tom Illube, to the next committee meeting on 4th October 2022.

**Action: Hon Secretary, S Corns, to send invitation.**

**Representatives to RFU Game Congress**

**15** It was agreed that T Birch and D Hunter would attend on the 16th and 17 September 2022.

**AOB**

**Nominations**

A brief discussion took place regarding the Nominations agreed at the AGM on 26th July 2022.

**Terms of Reference**

Interim Chair, D Hunter, reported that the Terms of Reference passed in 2018 to go to the FCA have not been finalised. In addition, Standing Orders and Regulations with new set of rules have not come to this committee meeting and are required to be passed at the next one.

**Meetings**

Interim Chair, D Hunter, brought to attention that not all sub committees are providing Meeting Agendas and Minutes of Meetings as required.

**Condolence Letter**

North District Chair, J McRobert, thanked President, John Riley, for his recent condolence letter

appertaining to the sad loss of two young players at Wensleydale RUFC.

**Yorkshire Club Development Conference**

Club Development Chair, T Birch, reported that the Agenda is being finalised for the Club

Development Conference taking place on the 4th September and requires further promotion via GMS as only 10 clubs are attending. For anyone attending the Proactive Risk Assessment workshop on the first day, Yorkshire RFU will pay club fees for the first year.

**Discipline Meetings**

Chair of Compliance, R Dixon, reported that the Discipline Committee would like to hold future meetings at Holiday Inn Ossett at a cost of £85; an increase of £20 from the previous venue now

unavailable. Hon Treasurer, P Shand, suggested alternating the monthly meetings via Zoom.

**Newsletter**

Communication & Marketing Chair, T Johnson, requested news items for the September County Newsletter.

**Youth Trust**

President, John Riley, has sent a letter of thanks and appreciation to Roy Manock who has recently stood down as a Trustee from the Yorkshire RFU Youth Trust.

Interim Chair, D Hunter, requested that AOB be removed from future Committee Agendas and items sent to the County Office for inclusion.