



MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING – NOTES & ACTIONS

Wednesday 2 October 2019 –1930hrs start @ North Bristol RFC.

Present: Adrian Siddorn [AS], Keith Gee [KG], Simon Thornton [ST], Andrea Grant [AG], Simon Collyer-Bristow [SCB], Nigel Gillingham [NG], Ashley Stephens [ASt], Rob Groves [RG], Rob Beswick [RB], Peter Shortell [PS], Martin Woodward [MW], Tom Read [TRe], Tony Swash [TSw], Stuart Gilbraith [SG], Ian Smith [IS]

1. **Welcome by Chair** – especially to Martin Woodward [Stroud Combination Representative], Ian Smith [Bristol Rugby Referees Society Chair], Tom Read [RFU NYC, ex Kent FU CBVC, Gloucester & District Referee Society Referee, Student at Gloucester University].
2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** - None
3. **Apologies:** Bee Mocellin, Mark Elton, Shane Aldridge, Mike Heath, Tim Ravenscroft, Rich Berry, Barry Clark, Adrian Danks, Peter Williams
4. **Notes of previous meeting:** Approved with no amendments
5. **Actions outstanding** –
 - 5a **SA to bring proposal of rising Representative Rugby costs to next MC meeting** – SA awaiting travel costs as not long had venues from RFU – **SA will report to MB on 6 Nov**
 - 7.1 **SG will chase for league statistics as a base for our strap line.** SG stated that over 1300 games had been played but data still missing regarding friendlies, age grade, comb cup games, rep rugby – no base line to know what more rugby is being played. RG suggested *Who's the Ref* as another measure. NG stated all will be on GMS. ASt suggested use of RFU audit report from July.
 - 11.4 **Minimum Operating Standards for CAS** – ASt shared copies, explaining they set consistency for all clubs and the three RDO's involved in the Club Accreditation Scheme, creating awareness and understanding of expectations and meaning the plaques displayed will be proof of set standards clubs have achieved. All undergo health checks every two years. ASt asked for input and explained this is a benchmark and can change / evolve.
6. **AOB to list** – matters arising not on the agenda: Clifton & Dings 2XV [NG]
7. **Away Day debrief** -AS thanked all who gave up their time and put so much into the day. He took MB members through selected slides of the presentation sent earlier that day by Simon Winman [facilitator on the day] and shared how positive he was and appreciated the same from those involved **AS will report back to EB targeted actions.** ASt shared the Balanced Club Approach, used within the Club Accreditation Scheme, stating it fits well with Away Day outcomes [slide attached].

8. Financial update – no concerns.

9. RFU update – report circulated

- i. NG thanked AG, KG, ASt, TR, TSp and ME for their efforts in a tremendous job of getting the online system up and running; with over 400 17 year olds playing adult rugby across the country, in the first two weeks GRFU only had one club who had fallen foul (with no age grade systems required to date and player turned 18yo at end of September). RDO is currently working with the club.
- ii. SG asked for feedback from Combinations re 2xv and 3xv – consensus is that most clubs want to see the shape/structure before they commit. With the Adult RFU review due, a letter will be sent in the new year to clubs to understand how many will want to play. It will be non-committal at that stage; if RFU agrees a blanket that all teams are in the league, this will affect GRFU decision anyway.

10. LRP update – SCB stated he thought the meeting went well, was productive and over within 75mins but only 5 people present. SCB stated it was good to see a local RFU professional very involved in the meeting. ASt fed back from NL there was an element of reporting, as expected, but very much more an operational meeting. AG mentioned double reporting and that some had reported to MH as well as her, others had not reported Business As Usual to MC, although LRP was reported through MH.

11. Facilities & Funding -Tsw stated he now has a full list of 10 clubs for the next Veritas Risk Assessments, he questioned regarding the stage of accreditation for two; it was agreed they were engaged and working with RDO so could be included.

12. Appointments –

- i. KG stated that further to a meeting at Fromebridge Mill with BM and two of her committee members on Monday 30th September, KG advised that BM is stepping down as Head of Women & Girls after being promoted at work, since a difficult time under threat of redundancy. BM is keen for GRFU to pursue the concept of Girls coming under AgeGrade and splitting from Women with a focus on progression of girls playing rugby from U11, aiding clubs to be proactive in directing girls elsewhere should they have no girls team.
- ii. Combination representatives invited to next meeting at Fromebridge Mill on 22nd October – **AG to send calendar invites to committee and representatives.**

13. Combination Reports – FoD & Bristol circulated – no questions. PS stated “at the Cheltenham Combination meeting last Friday, the most important topic was that Norton RFC is in danger of losing its ground because it is being surrounded by a housing development. KG and NL are aware of the problem. The ground is leased from Tewkesbury Council and we urgently need details of the original lease. It was suggested that a club like Stow might benefit if we could arrange remote access to meetings using modern electronic facilities”. PS asked for any views. **ASt will speak with NL: What is the current lease situation? Do Tewkesbury BC have an PPS? Concerns are they are potentially losing their pitch due housing development. ASt/NL will seek further advice from Jon Bendle.**

14. SW Mutual Benefit Fund –Further to details circulated. Plans used by other clubs were also mentioned. SCB spoke of another RFU plan, which doesn't look as competitive and doesn't pay out from day 1. **RDOs to collate a list of plans/suppliers from clubs.** AG also suggested Jelf as RSC sponsor; **AG to**

follow up. ST will report back after his 1st meeting representing GRFU on the SWMBF Committee - 7th November.

15. Governance –

- i. GRFU will be meeting with Cleve RFC and RFU. TSw asked if Cleve RFC has applied for re-accreditation.
- ii. Regarding GRFU structure and numerous conversations, SCB asked for feedback and gained verbal acceptance of the proposed changes. SA suggested some wording. NG confirmed the Operating Procedures should now be updated. **SCB to circulate for comment.** KG suggested SCB states a return by date for comment.

16. AOB:

- i. NG advised Clifton & Dings 2xv dominated the leagues and towards the end clubs refused to play; this season the two clubs suggested they wouldn't join and so were not included. NG has assisted with fixtures; however, most 2xv play in the Zoo League and whilst a few Gloucester clubs have agreed to play them they are struggling for fixtures. It is said that 10 players have been lost from each club. **NG will speak to both clubs re Fixture Exchange Facility as neither is showing on latest list from Tony Wakelin.**
- ii. ASt advised the vacant Community Rugby Coach position has been advertised, on a Fixed Term Contract, to replace Ben Smith as he covers Bristol as the RDO on secondment. Appointment likely to be made by end October.
- iii. TRe asked that any issues within the county are shared, or if individuals would like to talk to him, he could share some best practice from Kent RFU or at least how they tried to tackle same.

Next Management Board meeting: **Wednesday 6th November @ Longlevens RFC**