



MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING – NOTES & ACTIONS

Wednesday 4th March 2020 –1930hrs start @ Gordon League RFC

Present: Shane Aldridge [SA], Rich Berry [RBy], Rob Beswick [RB, Barry Clark [BC], Simon Collyer-Bristow [SCB], Gethin Evans [GE], Keith Gee [KG], Stuart Gilbraith [SG], Nigel Gillingham [NG], Andrea Grant [AG], Mike Heath [MH], Emma Jones [EJ], Steph Morgan [SM], Anne Murphy [AM], Tom Nurse [TN], Peter Shortell [PS], Adrian Siddorn [AS], Ashley Stephens [ASt], Steve Sugar [SG], Tony Swash [TSw], Simon Thornton [ST], Martin Woodward [MW],

Welcome by Chair – AS thanked everyone for their attendance. He introduced SS, GRFU Safeguarding Manager (South) and thanked both SS and EJ for allowing him to join them both along with Vivien Rimmer [RFU Safeguarding Manager] on Monday evening. AS also welcomed Steve Grainger [SG].

1. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None
2. **Apologies:** Adrian Danks, Mark Elton, Rob Groves, Matt Parcel, Tim Ravenscroft Ian Smith, Peter Williams, Tom Read
3. **Approval of Notes of previous meeting:** approved with no comments
4. **Actions outstanding –**
 - 5.iii **ST to update from February SWBMF committee meeting;** meeting not until 7 February.
 - 5.iv **OPs to be updated** [AG has amended obvious changes in committee structures etc and is meeting with SCB on Tuesday 11 February to complete]
5. **AOB to list** – Urgent recent matters listed to discuss at the end of the meeting
6. **Matters arising from Executive Board for discussion:**

Topic for RFU Board off-site visit at LSC to be agreed -

- “Building Mental Resilience in Children”. This derives from a local initiative; see these various [Rugby Safe Links](#) OR
- “Do we have too many small clubs with too few teams to be sustainable in the future?” This is an issue GRFU has in our urban areas of Bristol, Gloucester and Cheltenham, as well as rural areas, such as the Forest of Dean. Many clubs do not have sufficient players at all age grades and either have to combine age groups or form composite teams with other clubs close by and, similarly, at adult level have insufficient players (particularly male but not exclusively) to run more than one or 2 teams on a regular basis. This, we suspect, is also an issue elsewhere in the country.

It was decided that, if time allows, both topics would be apt; one being more of a presentation and the other a more meaningful discussion. SG explained that the off-site visits give the Board a clearer picture and local examples of grass roots club challenges, with lots often facing mergers, de mergers, as well as the difference in standards of facilities, which in itself is proved when the Board are often hosted at clubs with better/larger facilities, due to the nature of the visit.

7. Steve Grainger, RFU Rugby Development Director, in attendance to discuss agreed questions by MB members:
SG thanked the Board for sending their questions upfront.

- i. What is the RFU's strategy to preserve our core and game values, both in the elite and community game, given the repeated observation in the National Rugby Survey of the deterioration in both on- and off-field behaviour of players, coaches and spectators?
- ii. What does the financial projection for the next 5 years look like, how will that effect the funding of both the elite and community game, and what is the likely impact of Project Light and Project Union on that financial projection, as well as on other aspects of administrating and supporting the community game?

8. GRFU Away Day Action Plan – circulated, AS. No questions/comments. AS stated, that he will be in touch with those individuals on the action plan

9. RFU report – report circulated, NG/SCB. No questions/comments.

10. LRP Delivery Group – report circulated; MH stated that as the MB agreed no forums in the previous meetings to discuss next seasons LRP funding, he was charged with producing a survey – this is almost ready to go out. He has sent to 5/6 individuals to test, completing as various roles within a club, and asked for feedback by 9 February. He will then send it out on 17 February, giving SG chance to send his 2XV survey out on Monday 10 February. MH mentioned a Competition to get clubs to push members to complete.

11. Appointments Panel – report circulated, KG. No questions/comments

12. RugbySafe – report circulated, TN. NG thanked TN for the report and work to date. He challenged TN to increase by 2 per club as opposed to 1. TN stated he was aware of the shortage of courses, hence his caution although there are now several more deliverers within Gloucestershire.

13. Safeguarding – report attached, EJ. No questions/comments

14. Representative Rugby / RPPGW – report circulated. SA added that from the U18s, 5 lads have got into the SW divisional squad (93 north/2 south 2 in reserves – 1 north/south) and that at the recent Girls trials, 100+ attended at both U15/18s and squads of 30 determined.

15. Combination Reports

- i. Bristol & District - report circulated. **AG will reserve a table or two, depending on GRFU numbers attending.**
- ii. Forest of Dean - report circulated. No questions/comments
- iii. North Gloucestershire - report circulated. No questions/comments

iv. Stroud – report circulated. No questions/comments

v. Cheltenham – report attached. No questions/comments

16. GRFU Representative to RFU Council. SCB announced that KG was voted as the MB recommended nomination and explained that a letter will now go out to all GRFU clubs on Thursday 6 February, asking for their nominations by 1 March. AS congratulated KG and initiated a round of applause. **AG to circulate letter to clubs**

17. AOB:

i. National Cup – **SG will send report for circulation with meeting notes**

ii. 2XV Leagues - letter to be circulated from County Office on Monday 11 February, inviting clubs to enter **AG**

iii. Dates of U17/18 play offs will be circulated: Fri 24th April & Fri 1st May @ LSC **AG**

Next Management Committee meeting: Wednesday 4th March @ Gordon League RFC