**Cornwall Rugby Football Union**

**“Promoting Rugby for One and All”**

**“Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen Hag Oll”**

This was the 8th of our Virtual Management Board Meetings, held on Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 7pm, via Microsoft Teams.

**Present on line:** David Saunter, John Sumnall, Andy Richards, Bill Hooper, David Martin, Alan Milliner, Chris Jewels, James Instance, Bob Hubble and Terry Williams.

**Apologies for Absence:** Georgina Finnegan, Tom Magill, Chris Lea, Ross Tucknott and Cosette Shroesbury.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** All agreed that these were a true and accurate record. The chairman was unable to sign in the normal manner and the secretary made a note to that effect.

The chairman, David Saunter opened the meeting and went through the following points.

**Matters arising:**

Web usage – John Sumnall had obtained some usage data from Colin Higgins. Since February there had been 22 K users, 55.5 K hits, with views from all around the world. Everyone agreed that the new website was paying dividends. David Saunter wished that that be minuted and that John Sumnall and Bill Hooper be thanked for their hard work on the web. John Sumnall will update the events calendar with dates of various committee meetings.

The Chairman then asked members to raise any topics.

The Secretary had heard back from Jeff Blackett and he confirmed that he would be with us on Monday 18 January 2021. This would mean moving our MB Meeting to that date.

The Secretary had received an email from the RFU regarding the Mitsubishi Volunteer Award, which would allow someone to go to Twickenham for an International match as a guest. This would be passed to Tom Magill to take forward.

The Secretary suggested that the Mitsubishi Awards evenings planned for Bodmin and Camborne might have to be postponed due to the current Covid-19 situation. Attention to be paid to new guidelines due out today.

Project Trelawny – all clubs had now received the information and follow up meetings would take place. Feedback from outside the county was very positive, with many counties keen to adopt a similar plan.

The Secretary had sent out CV forms to all MB Members for completion.

Diversity and Inclusion Lead – the Secretary reported that there were now 2 applicants to be interviewed, the date for applications having been closed on 31 August.

Dave Saunter asked the secretary to contact Georgina Finnegan and ask her to postpone the upcoming Discipline Conference due to be held at Truro RFC in the middle of the month. A new date to be arranged.

Clusters: many MB Members had already been in touch with their respective Clusters and meetings were being arranged.

Nominations Committee – David Martin advised the MB that the committee had met and had agreed to nominate Paul Cottle (Bude) and Alan Truscott (Camborne) as Honorary Vice Presidents. This would go to the 2021 AGM. This suggestion was proposed by David Saunter and seconded by Andy Richards, and all agreed. The proposal was therefore adopted by the MB.

David Martin also informed the MB that candidates for the post of President Elect had been agreed and discussions were ongoing.

Appointment of an “Executive” – John Sumnall had an idea on appointing an Executive and he felt that he needed to discuss this with David Saunter before bringing to the MB for further discussion.

Treasurers Report – Andy Richards reported that he was awaiting a response from some clubs regarding their payment of affiliation fees; this despite repeated emails. He had had a reply from one Handbook Sponsor who had ceased trading. He was also awaiting a reply for Truro College regarding their Handbook advert. He had also sent up to date figures to the accountants.

Bob Hubble had contacted all clubs in his Cluster, no response so far. Ready 4 Rugby sessions at Falmouth were due to take place on 19 September. David Saunter was keen that we progress the clusters as quickly as possible, and that we get initial meetings sorted by the end of September. Tony Knightsbridge reported that the RFU were happy with the Cluster arrangement and are happy for clubs to play subject to any changes in the Covid-19 rules that may come out today.

A short discussion then took place concerning clubs appointing a Covid-19 Lead. Ideally, but not necessarily, it could be the club Safeguarding Officer. David Saunter asked the Secretary to write to clubs explaining the need for such a post. In the event of no one being put forward the responsibility would fall on the club chairman. Alan Milliner suggested that this could be something to discuss amongst the Clusters.

James Instance stated that he was looking forward to a meeting with John Sumnall and David Saunter with regard to setting up terms of reference for Game Development. He felt that much of this work would currently be Covid-19 related. He had also had a virtual meeting with Malcolm Bell (Visit Cornwall) with a view to discussing future opportunities under the Brand Cornwall banner.

Tony Knightsbridge reported that he had little to add other than to emphasise the need for clubs to be Covid-19 compliant. John Sumnall raised the matter of youth players playing up/down. It had been decided that a coach, Level 2 with 5 years’ experience would be able to do the assessment. However, he should not be assessing someone from his own club. It is not currently an issue with touch rugby but will come into effect as soon as contact returns.

Chris Jewells reported that thus far he was unable to make any progress with cup or league competitions.

Handbook – John Sumnall stated that the Handbook had now gone to press. All but one club had sent in their officials, and four clubs had not submitted their fixtures. It should be ready in 2/3 weeks.

Alan Milliner reported that we were now in what is to be known as Area “A”. He had already participated in the selection of an Area Lead, someone had been short -listed but that was not to be made public yet. The Operation Trelawny project had gone down well with the RFU and was viewed as “best practice”. Cornwall was being seen in a positive light with the RFU, which was pleasing to hear.

Jack Stanley and Jamal Ford Robinson were now both playing in the Premiership.

Book launch – “Samson Rising” by John Hambly, this puts rugby in Cornwall in a positive light.

David Saunter will speak with Richard Siveter regarding the future of the DPP programme.

David Saunter will do an interview with Radio Cornwall Sports Editor Ross Ellis, this Saturday around 8.20am, regarding Operation Trelawny.

David Saunter is due to have a conference call with Steve Grainger this coming Monday.

Date of next meeting: in view of the current Covid-19 situation our next meeting, scheduled for Bodmin on 23 September, will now revert to a virtual meeting, again at 7pm via Microsoft teams.