**Cornwall Rugby Football Union**

**Promoting Rugby for One and All**

**Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen Hag Oll**

This was the 10th of our Virtual Management Board Meetings held on Wednesday 7 October 2020, at 7pm.

**Present on line:** John Sumnall, David Saunter, Andy Richards, Bill Hooper, Bob Hubble, Chris Lea, Chris Jewells, David Martin, James Instance, Tom Magill, Georgina Finnegan, Tony Knightsbridge and Terry Williams.

**Apologies for absence:** Cosette Shrosbree, Alan Milliner and Ross Tucknott.

The Chairman, David Saunter then opened the meeting.

**Minutes of last meeting:** All agreed that these were a true and accurate record. The Secretary would hold a copy on file with a notation that the chairman was unable to sign in the normal way due to Covid-19.

**Matters arising:**

**Executive** – everyone had now seen the Terms of Conditions which had been circulated by the Secretary. There would be an initial trial period of 12 months subject to ratification by clubs. All were in agreement.

**Rugby Safe:** Bob Hubble reported that our area “A” was very large with few people to look after it. He had been in contact with Tim Pickard regarding setting up and running First Aid Courses. I t was important that these courses took place, but the RFU would not be doing so, so it would fall to us as a CB. Emergency First Aid at Work, level 3 would be acceptable, but that did not include “Headcase”. He would learn more after a discussion with Tim Pickard on Friday.

Tony Knightsbridge pointed out that the ERCA had to be done by the RFU and Rugby Ready was the same. Tom Magill asked whether it was possible to have a dispensation from the RFU to run courses and whether they could be put on GMS. Tony Knightsbridge and Bob Hubble would look into this and report back.

**Training:** David Saunter advised that he feared that we would have to take training forward ourselves as the RFU will outsource coaching. Neil Smith was available at an hourly rate. Tony Knightsbridge stated that we would need to be flexible with the organisation of coaching days.

**Development:** James Instance stated that under the present climate “ Development” was ambitious. He was looking to pool ideas to develop best practice in order to protect the game locally. Retention of players was a major worry for all clubs. It was intended to have a virtual meeting with clubs to take this forward. Also part of this plan was to organise rugby locally should the league programme not go ahead this season.

**Competitions:** Chris Jewells had spoken to clubs who are desperate to hear if there will be any rugby after Christmas. He felt that the retention of players would depend upon a decision being reached soon. A discussion amongst the MB then took place and John Sumnall suggested we needed to have a plan in place to fall back on. Bill Hooper also suggested we could look at the Cornwall 1 and 2 Leagues plus the Duchy League to give a basic format. Chris Jewells would convene a meeting of his committee to discuss the problem.

**Representative Rugby:** Chris Lea had also spoken to clubs who were desperate to have a decision as to whether there would be rugby after Christmas. There was a fear that players would drift away from the game. After a short discussion it became clear that more clubs within their Clusters were getting together to play Ready4Rugby. For example Tom Magill reported that Helston had arranged a game with Veor Holman this coming weekend.

Chris Lea had circulated an email prior to the meeting expressing some concerns over Representative Rugby. David Saunter was able to confirm that we had registered our interest in the County Championship. He also raised the subject of rugby for the u15’ and u16’s. David Saunter replied that funding was in place when the DPP programme moved forward. Richard Siveter would be involved after Christmas.

**Treasurers Report:** Andy Richards had circulated the accounts. He was still chasing Sandows for their invoice for Liskeard-Looe.

He reported that our funding from the RFU was 30% of what we had received last season and that £6000, which represented the first tranche, was due on 9 October

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He was waiting to hear from SW Mutual as to the cost of our insurance premium for this season.

The question was raised as to whether or not to continue with Microsoft Teams or go over to Zoom. Andy Richards would look into it.

He was still chasing 3 clubs in order to refund Affiliation Fees; London Cornish, Stithians and Isles of Scilly.

**Secretaries report:** The Secretary reported that things were now in place for the Diversity and Inclusivity Lead interviews which would take place at Bodmin RFC on Monday 12 October. There were 2 candidates to be seen.

It was apparent that some clubs had had a change of officers recently and he had circulated an email to them asking for updates.

**Any other business:**

Bill Hooper reported that Perranporth had expressed concerns over the lack of DPP programme and there were fears that players would drift away. They were looking for clear guidance from the RFU.

John Sumnall had spoken with Paul Hurrell regarding the presentation of his shield. He was willing to wait until proper rugby returned at Hayle.

John Sumnall will also be present at Falmouth on 17 October to present their Accreditation.

Handbooks would be ready shortly and would be delivered to John Sumnall next Monday. They would then be forwarded to Cluster Leads for distribution.

Georgina Finnegan asked if an email could be sent to clubs to remind them to submit their clubs accounts, Andy Richards replied that that had been done the day before.

Tony Knightsbridge stated that if neither of the candidates for the Diversity and Inclusivity Lead were suitable then he knew someone who might be interested. That person performed a similar role for Cornwall Council. Georgina Finnegan asked if that person could send her a CV.

Tom Magill advised the MB that the Black-Tie Mitsubishi Dinner scheduled for January 21 was likely to go ahead. Jade Atkins of Falmouth had been nominated.

Bob Hubble stated that the RFU wanted to have CB leads to co-ordinate Covid-19 cases. He will sort this along with Tony Knightsbridge. It was also going to be compulsory for a qualified First Aider to be in attendance at junior games from next season.

David Saunter had spoken with Jonny Stephenson and he hoped to be able to attend our next meeting.

David Saunter had also spoken to his Cluster and important information was not getting through. Those clubs had new chairmen who were keen to be involved. (see Secretaries report above).

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 21 October 2020, 7pm, via Microsoft Teams