**Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd**

**Promoting Rugby for One and All**

**Avonsya Rugbi rag Onen an Oll**

This was the 11 th of our Virtual Management Board Meetings, and the 1st via Zoom, held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 7pm.

**Present on line:** David Saunter, John Sumnall, Andy Richards, Alan Milliner, Steve Murley, David Martin, Chris Lea, Chris Jewells, Bob Hubble, Tony Knightsbridge, Bill Hooper and Terry Williams.

**Apologies for absence:** James Instance, Cosette Shrosbree, Tom Magill, Ross Tucknott, Georgina Finnegan and Jonny Stephenson.

The Chairman, David Saunter, opened the meeting and welcomed Steve Murley, newly appointed Diversity and Inclusivity Lead, to the Management Board.

**Minutes of last meeting:** all agreed that these were a true and accurate record. The secretary would hold a copy on file and make a note that the Chairman was unable to sign in the normal way due to Covid-19 situation.

**Matters arising:** Executive – David Martin made the point that the President had not been included. It was agreed that this should be amended, but that in future some Presidents may not wish to participate.

The chairman then went to each member in turn for their input.

**Terry Williams, Secretary:**

He had received an email from Steve Grainger stating that he was coming to Cornwall sometime during November and would like to meet with the Board. David Saunter asked Alan Milliner if he had any further information regarding this visit. He did not, but wondered whether such an event was possible under current circumstances. David Saunter was able to add that having had a conversation with Steve Grainger, he implied that the rugby fraternity would rather hold out for full contact rather than play the current version used by the Allianz Premiership. David Saunters response was that the majority of clubs spoken to were keen to play under any given format, including the ladies version in the Allianz Premiership. He would seek further clarification.

The Secretary had received an email from O2 Touch Rugby in Newquay, who were looking to get some fixtures together. The secretary would continue discussions.

**RFU Council Member:**

Alan Milliner stated that there was little to report from the RFU. He did go on to say that there were concerns over a drug now in circulation, **premazepam**. It has reached Cornwall and it is a very dangerous drug with life threatening effects. There have been fatalities in the county.

**President, John Sumnall:**

John Sumnall thanked everyone for helping to distribute the County Handbooks. The printers are pleased that we are remaining with them and they indicated that they will plant a tree on our behalf sometime in the future. He went on to say how much he had enjoyed his visit to Falmouth RFC, at their Ready4Rugby event, which was very successful. He presented the Mitsubishi Award to Jade Atkins who had no idea that it was coming. The players he had spoken to were all keen to get some form of meaningful rugby being available to them very soon.

Chris Lea echoed John Sumnall’s remarks concerning the event at Falmouth. He went on to say that there was concern in getting referees to attend these games. Steve Murley added that St Austell had had the same problem. David Saunter would discuss this matter with Steve Avenell (CRRS).

**Representative Rugby:**

Chris Lea asked if there was any progress in moving from Stage D to Stage E. David Saunter replied that he had not heard any more, but, Bill Sweeney and Steve Grainger had indicated at the recent ERCA Meeting that a move to Stage E was imminent. Alan Milliner stated that the RFU were considering a push to go straight to Stage F. However, that depended on the circumstances as they develop over the coming weeks.

Chris Lea added that Colin Hatch was keen to continue with U20’s trials albeit that they would be constrained by current RFU/Govt guidelines.

**Youth and Education:**

Tony Knightsbridge went with Andy Seaton to Penzance to check on Covid-19 procedures at the club and all was in order. He made mention of a young lad, u16’s, who was deaf and his support worker attended games in order to sign instructions to him. This was commendable and it was agreed that she should have some rcognition and a CRFU Ladies Scarf was suggested and agreed upon. A presentation would be made at a later date.

Tony Knightsbridge had met with Richard Siveter and they discussed DPP. This looked to be going to start in the second week of January. He was also now the CRFU Representative on the Exeter Chiefs RPPG.

**Rugby Safe:**

Bob Hubble was in discussions with Tim Pickard regarding training courses for 1st Aid and Safeguarding. It was looking like we will run the courses ourselves and the RFU will accredit the person running it. Drugs, such as mentioned by Alan Milliner earlier, will be included in such courses. He had been contacted by a club regarding a covid-19 case and had referred them to our Website and also to contact the RFU. Safeguarding and its attendant matters were a priority and we should bear in mind our responsibility and duty of care to our clubs.

**Website:** Bill Hooper reported that the website was busy and that the Jade Atkins Award and picture details had been sent to the press.

**Competitions:**

Chris Jewells reported that he and Andy Richards had visited their Cluster, who were all interested in getting a competition going. A discussion took place on how best to implement this. Chris Jewells understood that the RFU had a contingency plan in place should the worst happen and there be no league rugby this season. David Saunter felt that a local plan for rugby within the county could be put in place by the Competitions Committee and SW Leagues.Tony Knightsbridge felt that clubs should be contacted and asked if they were willing to take part in Cluster Competitions.

**Facilities:** David Martin expressed concern over the lack of money coming from the RFU. It will impinge on the ability of the Facilities committee to provide grants. He then proposed the following:

“no pitch schemes for season 20/21, the CRFU to top up the reduced RFU Grant for club facilities to its previous level, circa £12,000. All clubs to be notified that this money is available, they can then apply for a grant prior to work commencing on production of an estimate for 50% of the cost, but not exceeding £500. Clubs must produce copies of paid invoices.”

He felt that clubs would appreciate the fact that we are trying to assist them in difficult times.

Andy Richards added that we have £6000 left over from last years support scheme, and David Saunter backed this up by suggesting that we advise clubs that we have £12,000 to support them. Andy Richards stated that clubs needed to be reminded that they have to get their invoices in on time. It was suggested by David Saunter that if invoices were not in by the end of the season then they would forgo the support. David Martin’s proposal was accepted by all. Bob Hubble felt that we should also ensure that GMS compliance be part of the conditions for the giving of grants.

**Treasurers Report:** Andy Richards had little to add to his emailed report. Biffa sponsorship money was still outstanding. He had some good news, he had just received £12,500 from the RFU for Representative Rugby.

**Diversity and Inclusivity:** Steve Murley thanked everyone for the welcome he had received. He had been active since his appointment and had written to all club secretaries, been in touch with the D & I Group on Cornwall Council and was intent of forming good links with other like groups in the county, including the Police. He had also contacted the Head of D & I at the RFU. He will write up a policy for the CRFU and a strategy to mirror that of the RFU.

**Any other business:**

David Saunter then thanked everyone for their attendance, he had received an email from James Instance concerning players. Ross Tucknott and Georgy Finnegan were trying to get a meeting together with their Cluster. David Saunter also reminded the MB to push Operation Trelawny to our clusters when we met.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 7 November 2020 at 7pm, via Zoom