**Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd**

**Promoting Rugby for One and All**

**Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen hag Oll**

This was the 13th of our Virtual Management Board Meetings, held on Wednesday 18 November 2020, at 7pm, via Zoom.

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

**Apologies for absence:** none

**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 to the effect that due to Covid-19 the chairman could not sign them in the normal way.

David Saunter then opened the meeting and invited Chris Jewells to go over the options for a playing structure once we received the go ahead to commence playing rugby (an email had been circulated by him setting out the proposed structure). Chris Jewells commenced by stating that the proposed plans circulated by the RFU did not match what clubs/coaches in Cornwall wanted. They had made it clear that they did not want to travel outside the county. After the recent meeting with club coaches there were now 42 clubs looking to play rugby after Christmas, this included clubs who stated that they would field a second XV. He was not in favour of mixing second XV’s with Cornwall 1 & 2 clubs.

David Saunter then gave each member in turn a chance to give their opinion on the proposals as per Chris Jewells email. It very quickly became clear that the majority were in favour of the proposal for 7 groups of 6 teams. It was also clear that most felt that the system would need to be fluid. The groups would give clubs meaningful rugby. However, it was not possible at this time to forecast what form of game we would be playing, and although we were working towards an early January start date, this was out of our hands and we would have to await a decision by Government. It was possible there would be no scrums or mauls. Opinion on where to place the second XV’s was divided, with some being against them being mixed with Cornwall 1 & 2 clubs whilst others were of the opinion that as the RFU were likely to integrate second XV’s into the league structure in the near future then this was perhaps the time to bring it forward. Historically Cornwall 1 & 2 clubs had been against playing the second XV’s.

Chris Jewells and David Saunter would put together a structure which would then be forwarded to clubs for their views. At this time David Saunter thought it best if we went for 7 groups of 6 with the second XV’s playing in 2 groups, West/East. If time permitted there could be the possibility of playing a “Covid Cup”, a seeded competition. South West Leagues had been spoken to and they were happy to administer the fixtures/tables. Chris Jewells stressed that these were not leagues with promotion/relegation, but a means of producing meaningful rugby across the county.

David Saunter then invited all present to add anything else:

Secretary: the secretary had emailed MB Members earlier that day setting out how to hold Zoom meetings with the various committees within the CRFU. The Finance and Governance meeting had been held the previous evening under this system, and it had worked well.

Chris Lea: Terry Carter had got hold of several photo’s from the 91 season and wondered what to do with them. John Sumnall would talk to Pete Jolly (archivist).

Steve Murley: He had been very active and was continuing to make contact with various groups within the county to make them aware of his role. He was in the process of formulating a draft document which would set out a policy for Diversity and Inclusivity.

Tony Knightsbridge: DPP letter going out next week, with dates from 9 January to Easter. There were 380 children involved. He was not sure if the u15’s and u16’s would be playing against Devon.

Georgina Finnegan: The Finance and Governance Committee met last night. 90% of the budget had been set and this would soon be circulated for MB approval.

Bob Hubble: First Aid courses were going well. A date had been set for 9/10 January at Falmouth, also courses at Hayle. The cost was £50 per head. 50% payable upfront, with the remaining 50% payable prior to the start. The total cost would be £1800. Andy Richards confirmed that the CRFU would pay for the courses.

Bill Hooper: a number of people had taken up the opportunity for the online Discipline Seminar. Regarding the photo’s from 91 mentioned by Chris Lea, he thought it a good idea if some went on to the website. We needed to chase up clubs for the Safeguarding Audit, a reminder via Clusters should be sent out.

John Sumnall: we have now lost Kelly Martin as the Data Officer, so she needs to be replaced. At the moment he is the only Level 5 member of the MB. If we knew of anyone suitable could we refer them to himself. As regards the Website, it was going well and CB’s and Clubs outside the county were looking at it. There were 2 new features:

1. Covid-19 aspects
2. Courses

Both could be found on the left of the home page.

Alan Milliner: He would circulate via email the latest from the RFU. He added that he had been invited to join the County Championship Review Group at the RFU.

Cosette Shrosbree: Reminder that the GMS Safeguarding Audit was due by 30 November. Richard Drake was now the Safeguarding Officer at the RFU.

David Saunter: He had been contacted by Scott Sturdey (Jonny Stevenson’s new boss) and he would like to meet us. It was agreed that he be invited to the next MB Meeting via Zoom. He would also get in touch with Jeff Gage and put him straight about the playing structure we were proposing, making sure he was aware that we were not proposing a “Lancashire style” breakaway.

James Instance: He had spoken to Malcolm Bell and Kim Conchie and they had agreed that now was not a good time to approach businesses in the county regarding new sponsorship.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2 December 2020, at 7pm, via Zoom.