



Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

“Promoting Rugby for One and All”

“Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen Hag Oil”

Minutes of the Management Board ‘Mop Up’ Meeting held at Bodmin RFC on Wednesday 10th August 22, at 7pm.

Present: John Sumnall, David Saunter, Andy Richards, Jane Bell, Paul Hayes, Steve Murley, Bill Hooper, Tony Knightsbridge, Tom Magill, Alan Milliner, Daubroy Delahunty & Bob Hubble, Kevin Thomas.

On Zoom and phone: David Williams.

Apologies for absence: Cozette Shrosbree, James Instance.

1. Welcome:

Chairman Dave Saunter welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table.

2. Project Trelawney:

This was started in lockdown and is to be continued, Dave explained that all Cornish clubs are placed in clusters (7 in all) and will have 2 MB contacts to act as a link between the club and county. This will help with communication and feedback. An idea is to set up cluster What’s App group for Chair/Treasurer/Secretary/Coach Co-Ordinator, as another form of communication.

3. Valued Volunteer:

Jason Bardell of Helston RFC was nominated, for his huge effort in turning the club around. T.M to administer the paperwork for the RFU.

4. Round Robin on last season & new season:

A.R. Confirmed we had an overspend of £25,000 - £35,000 mainly due to DPP and Representative Rugby. Although it had been agreed that as it was the first season after lockdown, spending wasn’t curtailed.

A.M. Agreed that Representative rugby is a substantial cost but it must be supported and we are a flagship CB. The championships were very good.

The county has successful clubs, although investment from the RFU is poor.

S.M. St Austell particularly has had a good season for youth numbers. Girls/Touch rugby have had increased in interest.

A balance of county and new areas of rugby is a way forward.



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P.H. 16-24yrs is still a pinch point, retaining players is still a priority.

Protecting county level is important, we need to look at ways to generate income for the CRFU.

B.H. Camp approvals are praised. We need to think of ways to finance carefully. Help clubs with financing First Aid app, encouraging risk assessments/procedures.

K.T. Earlier Representative Rugby meetings required, 1st Mon in Oct to discuss finance and how to economise, while supporting all areas.

T.M. Club Development – Ongoing is the volunteer issues that all clubs have. Budget is limited for clubs, help with smaller items ie: boiler or pitch maintenance. Again looking at areas generally overlooked. Communication is key this season.

From a MB meeting point of view, could we streamline them.

J.S. Spending is an issue that needs to be addressed. We have prioritised Rep Rugby.

We should be looking after sponsors more, inviting them to events. Clubs attitude to the CRFU is good but we need to make sure clubs have our support.

B.H. Disciplinary issues were high, this needs to be addressed and we need to step up. County selectors need to go to women's matches as they do for the men.

It was mentioned that there were volunteers for coaching courses with regard to women/girls rugby, which is encouraging.

T.K. Regarding Age Grade Rugby – too many disciplinary issues last season.

Girls age bandings have changed, which have caused voids in certain age groups. This may affect how clubs can field sides.

With regard to U17s playing adult rugby, Level 3 coaches need to assess.

D.D. 11 out of 30 clubs responded to survey, key areas:

- Volunteers
- Finance
- Player Development
- Coach Development

Where equipment is required for clubs, maybe a consideration would be buying in bulk to make it more cost effective.

Improve mentor/links with Truro & Penwith College.

Help build club committee skills. Bitesize CRFU support.

There was discussion on how we move forward:

- Sharing best practices
- Workshops for cluster clubs
- Using clubhouse tv/projectors for short online courses to encourage volunteers
- Improve communications, put MB processes on CRFU website

D.S. Surviving Covid and the lockdowns, as a county we have come out the other side.

The negative is the changes to the SW Comp Leagues.

Is Rugby League going to be an issue?



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D.W. With regard to competitions/leagues, clubs have stepped up. Stithians have bounced back which is good to see. 2nd teams are coming on. 9 in the Duchy League, 4/5 2nd teams integrated.

5. What Can We Do Moving Forward:

- Costings
- Facilities
- Project Trelawney – Communications
- Delivery of Feedback
- Cheat Sheets
- FAQs
- Coaches Day
- Gathering of Data ie: take up on courses – T.K. to assist with this

D.S. Up to 6 clubs can have £400 if they complete a Risk Assessment. Our challenges are to make sure volunteers are not too overloaded.

We need to streamline and there was much discussion on how to balance time. Tendering clubs to host Rep Rugby, although certain guidelines need to be in place. We went all out last season, we need to be more sensible this season. Cutting back on 'picnics' on the coach trips perhaps.

Opportunities to make money:

- 100 Club
- Individual sponsors / sponsors for County Players
- Promote more Rep Rugby to encourage more supporters
- Pre-Christmas – advertise Club matches
- Post-Christmas – advertise County matches

Much discussion covered the changes to County Champs, concerns will be raised with RFU.

Some concern about pitch conditions in current extreme weather. JB to email RFU guidance.

D.W. Cup matches to integrate within the free league weekends.

To have a meeting with brewery with regard to rebranding/renaming all leagues and cups. Senior Cup/Junior Cup. Radio Cornwall to broadcast draws.

D.S. Asked Paul re dedicated Sponsor Committee.

A.R. Discussed CB funding from the RFU and how it was to be distributed. See Andy's email.



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6. Correspondance:

J.B. Reminders received from RFU for the Electronic Match Card and The Games Congress.

7. AOB:

B.H. Advised of possible club link up with the Physio Dept of Plymouth Uni. Students volunteering as First Aiders etc within clubs. Fee would be split between CB, Club & Student. There is a First Aid App which can be purchased for £30 per club.

Date for diaries: Finance AGM – 26th Oct 22

The Clubs Forum was discussed and ideas were requested for content including:

- Risk Register
- First Aid App

R.I.P. We were advised of the passing of 91' squad player Adam Ellery.

T.K. A rumour has come to our attention with regard to the U14/16s DPP.

Clarification that it hasn't been cancelled as suggested, but being run separately.

Tony to issue statement for Bob, which can be put on the website.

D.S. The CB has been given £1000 for the promotion of Walking Rugby/Touch/Tag.

It was suggested that it should be divided up between the 4 clubs which already run these:

- St Austell
- Falmouth
- Truro
- tbc

Date of next meeting: Wed 24th Aug @ Camborne, 7pm

Meeting closed at approx. 9:30pm.