



# Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

**“Promoting Rugby for One and All”**

**“Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen Hag Oil”**

Minutes of the Management Board Meeting  
Held at Bodmin RFC on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 22, at 7pm.

**Present:** John Sumnall, David Saunter, Jane Bell, Andy Richards, James Instance, Andy Reed, Tony Knightsbridge, Tom Magill, Bob Hubble, David Williams, Paul Hayes, Steve Murley, Nicola McCombe (RFU), Steve Avenell (CRRS).

**On Zoom:** Alan Milliner, Bill Hooper.

**Welcome:** Chairman Dave Saunter welcomed everyone

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cozette Shrosbree, Kevin Thomas.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** All agreed that these were a true and accurate record they were signed by David Saunter.
- 3. Presidents address:** J.S. Reminded us of the lifelong service to rugby by David Martin, who sadly passed recently. He began in 1981 with the CRFU and over the years held a number of posts on various committees, including being a council member to the RFU. Finally retiring in Jun 22. RIP David, you will be missed.

John presented David Williams and Andy Reed with ties.

**Matters arising:** Andy Richards and Dan Brinson, had attended the England Rugby Games Congress.

D.W. Action points for next meeting.

**Confidential Items under **Item 7** of original minutes**

**Reports:**

**Executive:**

Nothing to note.



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## **Treasurer's Report:**

A.R. Quickly ran through accounts as per reports.

Physio invoice received late, so a gentle reminder that invoices to be sent to Andy on a monthly basis so accounts can be kept up to date.

Players insurance has been paid.

Accounts letter to be given to J.B. for distribution to all clubs.

CRFU have received £500 cheque from Trelawney's Army for 'Colts', this will continue for 3 years.

## **RFU Council Rep:**

A.M. A former Hon Sec of the CRFU has been in contact regarding the referee situation in Cornwall.

D.S. has also had contact and advised that courses are in progress.

## **Finance & Governance:**

P.H. Reminded us of a rules amendment – Report circulated.

## **Club Development & Volunteers:**

T.M. There are funding streams over 4/6 years which could be available for facilities. D.S mentioned joint work with the F.A. and funding. P.H. All weather pitches are being sourced in Cornwall.

**Safeguarding:** No report.

## **Game Development:**

J.I. The 'Risk Register' is being updated, Game Development is an issue.

## **Youth & Education:**

T.K. There is a youth disciplinary under item 7 to discuss.

U14s match between Penryn and St Austell, resulted in fighting. This issue is being dealt with in house.

There is a shortage of players at U15/16s. Trying to get numbers, this should be made easier as now have access to GMS.

Girls DPP going well, average numbers are 42 and had 3 sessions so far. Contact to be introduced.

Development day for yrs 7/8/9s, approx. 80 girls, games of touch.

Dealing with GMS helpdesk re affiliations, like pulling teeth but finally spoke to Laura Bush who sorted the issue after 30 minutes.

Nicola was asked if phones could be manned? Perhaps also our RFU contacts could have messages on their mobile answer phones.

## **Representative Rugby:**

D.S Discussed how U20s are selected.

Also mentioned that when required J.B. can forward on emails to the MB, when they have been only circulated to the EB.

Date for your diary: Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct, U20s v Royal Navy U23s @ Hayle, kick off 2pm.



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## **Competitions:**

D.W. reported that no games so far in the Duchy League. Newquay were struggling with player numbers so have withdrawn their 2<sup>nd</sup> team to focus on the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Camelford have also withdrawn. Clubs in the Bristol area have also had games cancelled. Could the reason be internal club infrastructure?

D.S. Cup draw to be a.s.a.p. clubs should be happy. Lee Maher is trying not to penalise clubs and using the common sense approach.

## **Rugby Safe:**

Bb H. Concerns have been raised on the lengthy wait for ambulances in an emergency situation. Bob would be happy to draft a constructive letter to South West Ambulance Service and copy in RFU on what would be the best way forward for our clubs on match days.

There is lots of desire for special flash kits. Clubs need items to protect injured players for a possible long wait for professional medical attention ie: blankets / tents / possibly a mobile heater.

There is money in the reserve account, perhaps this could be used for rugby safe on completion of clubs MEAPS/Risk Assessments.

Option discussed of having a private ambulance with fully trained staff on standby.

D.S. asked J.I. to email a private ambulance proposal, with likely costs which could be covered by CRFU and clubs.

J.S. Suggested clubs should be advised on a list of medical equipment that shouldn't be used unless fully qualified.

## **Action Points:**

- Bobs letter to SW Ambulance Service
- James's proposal on private ambulance

Suggestion – What's App group between clubs for medical assistance/advice. Rugby safe leads to discuss.

Encourage clubs to fulfil the minimum requirement of at least 1 standard first aider, Bob can support and courses are going ahead.

## **Diversity & Inclusion:**

S.M. Diversity and Inclusion now retitled as Inclusion & Diversity.

## **Discipline:**

B.H. Report circulated.

2 red cards, but these have been dealt with by the clubs concerned.

Ongoing case with Perranporth and St Agnes. Assisting a club with a double citing.



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## **Clubs in Need Discussion:**

D.S. Circulated list of clubs and potential issues, this was amended/edited with input from the M.B. Issue – Clubs requested fixture confirmation too far in advance:

- Monday too early
- Friday too late

Really fixtures should be confirmed by 8pm on a Thursday, this will give clubs time to rearrange a fixture if required.

Promote 'Game On' Communicate any problems, set out dynamics of the match before kick-off. Agree terms.

S.M. Will be contacting Newquay to follow up on their recent issues and getting feedback.

Nicola from the RFU, explained about Project Phoenix, which collects data on clubs to assess which ones are struggling.

The South West was flagged as high on walkovers.

RFU Club Developer – Rachel, is getting the feedback but some clubs not engaging at this time.

Is whole club development required?

RFU operates a club watch, where they can be given a case manager.

Much discussion re the community game, is the RFU concerned about small clubs folding?

In Cornwall junior clubs are important, how do we help those clubs ie: Redruth Albany.

Bb H. Will try to contact and ask how we can help. Option – to move into the Duchy League?

B.H. Camelford helped out Albany recently.

J.S. Last season was similar, we need to manage.

A.Reed. Discussion re academies / youth rugby pathways.

D.S. We can't influence colleges. We need to tap into the successful clubs and find out what they are doing. Secrets of success – younger committee, good structure.

S.M. Happy to contact Exeter Chiefs re integrating players they no longer need, back into Cornish rugby.

J.I. Clubs finances and clubhouses may affect the health of a club.

N.M. How can the targeted funding be used. A costed plan needs to be in place by Christmas.

£6500 – 3 x coaching courses / 2 x referee courses. CRFU pays 50% of courses attended by club volunteers.



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## Referees:

S.A. The society is pushing courses and liaising with clubs to encourage uptake. Looking at a model in which players are taking ref courses as well as playing rugby. Loss of referees in part includes:

- Walkaways
- Injury
- Having to complete DBS to ref Colts/Youth matches.

Currently the society has 40 refs on the books. 13 short last Saturday, 6 short next Saturday. Not all refs are qualified at a higher level so this restricts the matches they can officiate at.

N.M. Game Management System can be used to pull off qualification data and then re-engage with volunteers. Perhaps a social evening to 'sell' refereeing.

We need to be proactive, Friday nights under lights?  
Clubs to promote 'Respect the Ref'

S.M. St Austell have a ref liaison officer, 8 people have already put their names forward for courses. S.A. Encouraging more women to become referees and attend courses. 'What is Abuse' covered within the courses.

T.K. Reminded Steve that refs need to get any red cards in to disciplinary secretary, within 48 hours. D.S. It should be noted on CRFU website that clubs to have responsibility to put volunteers on ref courses. Clubs fielding several sides cannot expect a ref for each match, without providing one themselves.

## Correspondence:

J.B. CB bar passes are now via Eventbrite and will be digital.  
Condolences received from Devon RFU re the passing of David Martin.

## AOB:

J.S. Wanted future discussion on how the women's and girls rugby is working.

N.M. Clubs are good with age grade rugby affiliation on GMS.

A.R. Update on the 'Games Congress'

- Hoped to get inspiration for improvement – this wasn't forthcoming
- Deflated as felt RFU was moving away from contact rugby
- Pre-loaded questions were not helpful
- Failure to answer difficult questions
- Positive note was the Youth Council was good

N.M. Thanked S.M. for his input on the Inclusivity & Diversity forum recently.

D.S. Independent schools are decreasing rugby, the RFU are concerned?

Date of next meeting: Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 22  
Meeting closed at 9:50pm.