



Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

“Promoting Rugby for One and All”

“Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen Hag Oil”

Minutes of the Management Board Meeting
Wednesday 22nd Feb 23, 7pm @ Bodmin RFC.

Present: John Sumnall, David Saunter, Jane Bell, Andy Richards, Bill Hooper, Tony Knightsbridge, Kevin Thomas, Alan Milliner, Tom Magill, Dave Williams, Cozy Shrosbee, Paul Hayes, Reggie Gough, Steve Murley, Andy Reed, Daubroy Delahunty & Nicola McCombe (RFU).

On Zoom: n/a

Welcome: Chairman Dave Saunter welcomed everyone, especially our new RugbySafe Lead, Reggie Gough. CRFU President John Sumnall presented Reggie with his tie and committee badge.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** James Instance, moving up country, D.S. trying to contact re handover.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** All agreed that these were a true and accurate record they were signed by David Saunter.
- 3. Matters arising:** JS raised subsuming Women & Girls rugby into the existing CRFU structure. Age grade rugby has gone well with Youth & Education and the Senior side with Representative Rugby. There had been a delay with Women’s game forming part of Game Development so they can be accountable to that committee. DW asked if it should also be part of Competitions committee, DS felt that it should be.

Colin Hatch had replied to Dr Tim Miller’s (County Championships Committee) e-mail, and his comment made regarding the integrity of certain CBs. Team sheets will now have to be filled out including players GMS ID numbers, Colin Hatch informed Dr Miller that he didn’t have the authority to access such information on GMS.



Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

Cornish Pirates Coaching Day at St. Austell RFC on 1st March, can MB members circulate their Project Trelawny clubs.

Tamar Cup sorted for the men, DS tried to get hold of Jo Holden regarding the Tamar Cup match for the Women on Sunday 23 April. Devon will only play on this date, which regrettably clashes with Cornwall U.20's match against Somerset at Camborne.

Scott Lake's match May 28 which clashes with potential Bill Beaumont Final match.

4. Reports;

Executive: Executive have not met.

Treasurer's Report: AR had sent out his report. He had used projected figures for representative rugby and that is putting them over budget.

There is one claim going forward to SW Mutual from the Under 20 game against Cornwall Clubs. Slow uptake in coaches claiming back 50% of coaching course fees. AR fears that this could be cut by the RFU if no improvement in claims.

AR chasing Tribute regarding sponsorship for Tamar Cup.

Cornish Pirates training day at St. Austell coming out of PFR monies.

6/7 clubs still not submitted their accounts.

Coaches booked for Men's & Women's games. Men's to Havant (overnight) is £1,800, Women's to Taunton £850.

RFU Council Rep: AM had submitted a report on his activity.

Finance & Governance: PH had sent a report in.

Rule amendment regarding eligibility for Cornwall Clubs XV. KT had concerns about players from second teams playing at either Counties 2 or 3 not being selected as that was the level they had to play at as set by the RFU, where do they go for representative rugby. KT felt that we were in danger of doing what the RFU had done to the Under 20's eligibility this season making it from level 5 down.

JS felt that lines had become blurred following the CRFU's decision to do away with the terms Senior & Junior when referring to clubs. PH felt it was early days with 2nd teams finding their level in the league structure and that this may need to be re-visited after a couple of seasons. DW felt that there are now many more club sides (24) involved in playing Counties 2/3 and therefore a greater player pool to pick from.



Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

DW did feel that there needed to be greater representation from all clubs in a Cornwall Clubs XV. KT suggested we should move games around the county more to attract players from mid and east Cornwall.

DS suggested that Representative Rugby should look at this and report back to the MB.

Club Development & Volunteers: TM had sent in a report. New Volunteer fund to assist club attract new volunteers, grant up to £500. Applications via RFU website.

A second audit going on, first audit was about what clubs needed on pitch and off pitch. So far no Cornish club have put a bid in. TM had circulated all clubs with links to the relevant page. Grants available up to £100k or match funding up to £10k.

CRFU Club Facility Audit 2021 demonstrated that many Cornish Clubs need support for their identified projects including pitch maintenance advice, changing room and clubhouse design guidance, assistance through the planning process and investment opportunities.

In Cornwall 92% of clubs responded to this audit and several are now benefiting from new funding. As part of the RWC 25 Legacy Programme there will be several new funding tranches available over the next 3 years.

Regarding the Honda Volunteer Awards, thus far only 9 nominations from 8 clubs.

Safeguarding: CS reported all DBS checks were now up to date. Deep dive audit still outstanding. On-going issues about delivering the Play it Safe courses, Cozy has tried contacting Neil Smith to deliver the courses but he is tied up.

Game Development: DS trying to get hold of JJ, Wayne Reed is trying to get hold of club coaching co-ordinators of 28 clubs, WR only has 14 contacts. DD had spoken to WR regarding the clubs he had no contact for.

Youth & Education: TK had sent in his report

Representative Rugby: KT had submitted his report.

KT wanted to check eligibility criteria for playing for Cornwall, DS said either born in Cornwall, live in Cornwall, play for a Cornish club.

Paul Hurrell has indicated that he wishes to step down as kit man for the Cornwall seniors but will continue for Under 20s & Cornwall Clubs XV. (Recognition for his 26 years' service was discussed) No obvious candidate for a replacement. Role to be advertised.



Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

Competitions: DW had sent in his report. Major issues over cup competitions. The uncertainty of dates over the Papa John's cup has caused a re-hash of our county cups. Clubs have been reminded of need to support county cups. Likelihood that clubs getting through the 1st round could face a potential away trip as far as Oxfordshire with little or no RFU subsidy for travel. Lessons have been learned for next season. Need to be less flexible on dates for early rounds, playing before Christmas if possible.

Fixtures still playing catch up on league fixtures. Duchy League was re-vamped after Christmas as Counties 4 Merit with Truro II and Helston II coming in, also Cluster East and Cluster West. Despite this we are only getting 25% of fixtures played. What's App group has helped players find games and has been successful.

22nd April, Duchy Cup Finals, Cup & Vase at 2 levels so 4 final on the day.

29th April, Cornwall Senior Cup Final and Cornwall Clubs Cup Finals.

Finally, DW reported that he needs to step down as Competitions Chairman as he and his family were off sailing around the world for a couple of years. Lee Maher has indicated he would be willing to take over as Chairman. DS thanked DW for his work this season and wished him all the best on behalf of the MB.

Rugby Safe: RG had submitted his report. Main priority is to deal with First Aid training, DS & RG meeting with Tim Pickard next month to put in place for next season. RG has witnessed some of the current First Aid course provision, he wasn't comfortable with the content of the current courses, also that it lacked RFU certification. RG feels it would be easier to administer for both himself and AR as Treasurer dealing with payments.

RG is also looking at streamlining PHICS and Medics. Biggest concern from physios is provision of tape and of course payment.

RG had dealt with an incident from the weekend when a player from Cornwall Girls Under 16 suffered a clash of heads, she was removed from the field by CS, she was assessed by Launceston medic and then medical control taken over by Donna James, the correct protocols were followed, with the 23 day rest period triggered despite questioning of the necessity by the parent of the girl.

Diversity & Inclusion: SM will get report circulated.

Discipline: WH had circulated his report, since his report he had been notified of a further 3 red cards bringing the season total to 19. Currently dealing with 6 cases. John Dunstan and the panel members working hard to clear the backlog.



Cornwall Rugby Football Union Ltd

TK reported on a couple of Age Grade cases. Clubs playing under age players up without the required paperwork in place.

One club fell foul on two occasions despite assurances so they were called in. Another incident saw a young player playing an adult game over Christmas and he received a broken jaw, that club will appear before the CRFU Discipline Committee next week.

DS questioned the request from Discipline regarding paying for delegates' overnight stay in Wyboston for the Discipline Team Building Event in September.

5. Sub Rules clarification:

Cornwall Clubs XV. See discussion under Governance & Finance.

6. **Andy Watts/CRRS:** Andy Watts potential addition to Discipline committee for season 23/24. Andy Watts has expressed an interest in joining the panel. JS added that Paul Simons had also expressed an interest in joining the Disciplinary Committee. JS explained that both nominations should have gone through Governance but they haven't met. As the Governance committee was present the recommendation of both was approved.

7. **County Matches:** Invitees/ Programme etc. Honda Volunteers looking to hold at Camborne when we play Kent. Discussion about programme style cost. Mixture of hard programmes and virtual which you access by QR code.

8. **Correspondence:** None from JB. AM had received an approach from another council member, regarding a CB honour for Keith Lean's services in Cornwall and also with the South West at Age Group level over a number of years. DS & TK both supported this. JS said we could offer an Honorary Vice President or a Life Member. To go to Nominations Committee

9. **Nicola (RFU):** Nicola had circulated a Cornwall Update, focus on CB Drop In Sessions and webinars.

10. **A.O.B:** JS raised the need for a subject for the Club Forum. Possible topics Tackle Height, also the Competitions format, perhaps a date in April to allow more info to come from RFU re tackle height.

Later start date for Counties 2&3.

CS said that Lankelly-Fowey needed some support. DS had an update he felt they might have turned the corner and could be in a good place again.

JB informed she couldn't be present for the AGM in June, BH kindly offered to cover minutes.

DS has drawn up a list of 40 names for tackle height consultation. Discussion followed in which it is hoped that everyone opinion is heard and the RFU haven't already decide the outcome.

Date of next meeting: 26th April 2023 at Camborne RFC

Meeting closed at 9:05pm.