



# MINUTES

## Community Board Meeting

<b>Location:</b>	RFL, House of Sport, Gate 13, Rowsley Street, Manchester, M11 3FF	<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
		<b>Time:</b>	4.00pm – 7.00pm
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Neil Ashton, Fred Baker, Steve Curtis, Trevor Hunt, Peter Moran, Stuart Prior, Sue Taylor	<b>Chair Person:</b>	Sandy Lindsay MBE
<b>RFL Officers in Attendance:</b>	Marc Lovering, Robert Hicks, Kelly Barrett, Liam Moore	<b>Invited Guests:</b>	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton MBE, Lee Mitchell, Jan Robinson		

Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b> Ms Lindsay welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.0	<b>Minutes of the June meeting</b> The minutes of the 20 <sup>th</sup> of September were agreed as a true record of the meeting.	
3.0	<b>Matters Arising</b> The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each individual action.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Community Game Governance Guidance – In progress.</li><li>2) Coach Education – First working group meeting taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December after which a further update will be provided.</li><li>3) Match Official Update – An agenda item for the meeting.</li><li>4) Increase in Match Official Fees – We communicated with the Leagues however there is a need for us to go direct to the Clubs to inform them of the changes.</li><li>5) InspiredBy Presentation – This was uploaded to SharePoint.</li><li>6) Our League Active Rewards4 – This will continue to be pushed in 2023.</li></ol>	
4.0	<b>Match Officials</b> Mr Moore joined the meeting to provide an update on the match official recruitment strategy.  He provided a brief overview on his role as a recruitment and retention manager, which he has undertaken since 2019. This is a part time role which	

	<p>is combined with his full-time refereeing role.</p> <p>The strategy was refreshed in 2019 titled <i>“Every Official A Better Official”</i>. A modernised approach was required to bring fresh ideas to recruit and develop officials.</p> <p>There is a five-pillar approach. Recruitment, retention, education, support, talent and performance pathway.</p> <p>In terms of recruitment, it was noted that the following has been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of new match officials course</li> <li>- Creation of the virtual match officials’ course during covid fundamentally changed the way we recruit officials</li> <li>- Introduction of Referee Road shows to target areas we have identified as having low pools of officials</li> <li>- Recruitment is not the problem, retention is the issue</li> </ul> <p>Mr Moore provided an update on the 2022 disciplinary statistics across the Community Game. Out of the 832 cases, 200 were linked to match official abuse which is a major concern. Evidence points to this impacting on retaining match officials. Mr Moore went on to say that recruiting match officials was not an issue however the transitioning to officiate a game was a concern.</p> <p>The Community Board requested that analysis was required to determine how many games newly qualified officials officiate before stopping. We should also seek feedback as to why they stop. It was agreed that this would form a major work stream for the Community Board for the foreseeable future as it is such an important part of the game.</p> <p>Mr Moore then provided the Community Board with an update on the introduction of headcams for the 2023 season. The Community Board thanked BARLA, National Conference League, Yorkshire Junior League, North West Youth League, North West Men’s League and Yorkshire Men’s League for contributing to the purchase of headcams.</p> <p>Mr Moore was thanked for attending the meeting.</p>	<p>Mr Moore</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>RLWC Maximization</b></p> <p>Mr Lovering provided an update on how we have maximised the impact of the RLWC21.</p> <p>The Community Board was delighted with how the PDRL and Wheelchair teams were received and congratulated both teams on winning their respective World Cups.</p> <p>Mr Lovering confirmed we had seen an increase in enquiries on how to get involved with Rugby League with spikes around Wheelchair RL matches.</p> <p>Mr Lovering also updated on the HeRLegacy masterclasses which were taking place targeting girls inspired by the England Women’s performances and similar ‘turn up and play’ sessions taking place throughout Wheelchair RL. Both the girls and wheelchair sessions were attended by England players.</p>	

<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Sport England Reporting</b>  Mr Lovering provided an update on the Sport England reporting figures. Overall, the figures were at about at the same level as last year after the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>The mid-year reporting levels indicated last year's participation levels would be exceeded which proved not to be the case. Less players registered after the summer break than anticipated. There are some issues within the open age game (in common with other sports) that require further exploration/interventions together with some regional differences at younger age groups.</p> <p>The Community Board noted that, with the conclusion of Sky Try, this has had an impact on transition rates within the core community. A more detailed update on the 2022 End of Year Reporting will be provided in the next Community Rugby League 'More than a Sport' update due in January 2023.</p>	
<p><b>7.0</b></p>	<p><b>Make-up of the Community Board</b>  The Community Board had a discussion around the makeup of the Community Board itself and what this should look like going forward to ensure we have alignment and representation to reflect the Community Game Strategy.</p> <p>The Community Board was asked to feed thoughts and ideas to Ms Barrett by the end of January.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>8.0</b></p>	<p><b>Our League Active</b>  Ms Barrett circulated a paper in advance of the meeting. The Community Board was provided with an update on the net revenue received after costs had been deducted. It was noted that the insurance costs for 2022 were pro-rated for 8 months as the policy runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> May.</p> <p>The Community Board was pleased that the revenue received enabled us to keep running and developing the Community Game for the sport.</p> <p>Mr Curtis provided an update on university players whose teams pay the RFL an annual fee. It is important that the teams/players, who play in the BUCS competition, also feel part of the RFL. We now have a designated resource at BUCS who should be able to assist with this.</p>	
<p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  There were no further items raised for discussion.</p>	
<p><b>10.0</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Close</b>  The meeting closed at 6.35pm.</p>	
<p><b>11.0</b></p>	<p><b>Date and time of the next meeting</b>  The 2023 dates will be circulated as soon as possible.</p>	