



RFL COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR SUMMARY – 20th SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Community Game Colleagues,

The Community Board met on Tuesday afternoon where several items were presented on.

We were joined by Dave Rotheram, Chief on Field Officer, Richard Tunningley, Coach Education Manager and Chris Spurr, Community Coach Manager, who provided an update to the Community Board on Coaching. The Community Board requested this at their meeting in June and Clubs were also asked to feed in their thoughts. The main areas of discussion were around coach education delivery and the importance of the qualification's framework and CPD. We all gained a greater understanding of the benefits of being on a coaching framework and the obligations that we have to meet. It was agreed that we would look at coach education provision and the coaching workforce in greater detail with a working group created involving members of the Community Board, Coaches and Club officials from within the Community Game.

Next of the agenda was Match Officials where the Board were presented with a paper outlining the current rates of pay for community game match officials. The current rates of pay in large have existed for the last 10 years. Given the huge cost of living increases including the recent increases in fuel prices the Community Board was supportive of the proposal to introduce a minimum match official fee structure throughout the community game. Members of the match official department will be invited to the next Community Board meeting to update members on the match official strategy including recruitment. Whilst there have been challenges in appointing match officials to every game it was noted that whilst recruitment remains healthy, retention is still a significant challenge.

Mr Lovering then provided an update on InspiredBy, the RFL's participant campaign linked to the RLWC 2021. InspiredBy is a campaign designed to attract new participants, supporting transition to regular rugby League activity and encourage community clubs to become "World Cup Ready". It was noted that there are three distinct phases to the campaign; the summer awareness phase has recently ended with over 100 Clubs receiving a micro grant and supporting the delivery of activity linked to the RLWC2021. The Autumn engagement phase is now underway during which three lion's week will be a key programme with 20 foundations delivering a whole range of rugby league activity across the same week, starting a day after the Grand Final. InspiredBy will continue post World Cup and into 2023 as we look to maximise the opportunity of gaining new players and volunteers and transitioning new players into regular activity within a Community Club setting. I would like to thank Clubs and Foundations for their support as we look to galvanize support for the three England Teams.

Mrs Barrett updated the Board on the Enjoy the Game Campaign, in particular the introduction of the head cams which in addition to the trial undertaken by the NCL will be introduced in the Wigan and Huddersfield societies during September and October. The intention is that in 2023 these will be prevalent within the game and will support discipline panels in decision making. It was also noted that we are in discussions with MindsMatters in delivering parent workshops to parents of Under-7 and Under-11 players to reinforce how their behaviour can impact on the touchline environment.

Mrs Barrett then provided an update on Our League Active and the rollout and plans for 2023. Given the initial pushback from the community game, prior to launch, the Board has been pleased with the way in which the scheme has been received by the game and we will continue with our engagement with players. We were particularly pleased to see over a 1000 volunteers (including coaches and club officials) taking out membership, even though there was no requirement for them to do so, and also



that there were voluntary donations of £6,000 towards the sustainability of the community game, over and above the basic membership fee. There is no evidence that the introduction of membership has had a detrimental effect on participation figures and the income received contributes significantly towards the long-term sustainability of the community game and the continuation of the various services provided by the RFL.

The last agenda item was the Community Rugby League More than a Sport Update August 2022. This report is provided three times a year and provides an update on activity delivered by the RFL in developing and supporting the game outlined in our Community Strategy. This report is online [HERE](#) and I would encourage everyone who has an interest in the community game to take time to read it – there really is so much going on at the moment and lots to get involved with.

The next meeting is scheduled for 30th November 2022.

It is an exciting time for the game with the RLWC 2021 a matter of weeks away. We would like to thank all those Clubs who have already supported the England teams and the wider tournament and ask that every Club and player does their best to ensure it truly is a tournament to be proud of!

Best wishes and many thanks,

Sandy Lindsay MBE, Chair, RFL Community Board