

MINUTES

Community Board

Location:	Saddleworth Rangers, Shaw Hall Bank Road, Greenfield, Oldham OL3 7LD	Date: Wednesday 18 th March 2020 Time: 11:00am
Present:	Fred Baker – Independent Representative Damian Clayton MBE – Armed Forces RL Sue Taylor – BARLA Trevor Hunt – Tier 4 Representative Stuart Prior – Tier 5 Adult Representative (Teams) Jan Robinson – Tier 5 Youth & Junior Representative Lois Forsell – Participant Representative	Chairperson: Ralph Rimmer – RFL Chief Executive

Executives in Attendance:	Robert Hicks Marc Lovering Kelly Barrett (minutes)
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Apologies:	Peter Moran – Independent Representative Neil Kelly – Foundation Representative Sandy Lindsay MBE Neil Ashton – Schools Representative Steve Curtis – Higher Education Representative Dave Rotheram – Chief On Field Officer
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Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Mr Rimmer thanked everyone for attending this extraordinary meeting. This was the third meeting he had attended this week to discuss and plan during the Covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The RFL had been in constant contact with DCMS and wider Government and communication and advice had been helpful. It is extremely important that we follow the governments guidelines. The RFL have been working extremely hard to protect our relationship which ultimately will enable stronger discussions with broadcasters and sponsors.</p> <p>Unlike other sports Rugby League had not had a confirmed case of the coronavirus. However, following the governments advice, games are off until the 3rd April. It is however expected that this could be for a longer period.</p> <p>Work has begun with Super League, Championship and League 1 Clubs. It is hoped after today's meeting with the Community Board we can get positive messages out to the Community Game.</p> <p>Considerations must also be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club financial positions • Reaction of partners • Broadcast • Commercial • Sport England • Community Competitions • Competition integrity • Protection of RFL event assets • Player Welfare • Timescale of restrictions 	

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	<p>It is expected that the shutdown could be for longer than initially announced and any return will be only with approval from and following Government advice. The RFL will be working on scenario planning with all relevant competitions.</p> <p>Mr Sutton the Chief Operating Officer has been doing some planning on finances during this period. Events scheduled will have to be changed which will impact on the games financial position.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer asked that Community Board members keep in touch with constituents to keep them informed of what is going on, to help and support Clubs going forward.</p> <p>Discussions have begun with Sport England on what resources would be required to keep the Community Game going. A costing exercise is required to calculate what this means financially during this period of lock down, this piece of work will be undertaken with our Finance team who will extrapolate the information received from Clubs. We hold some of the information already due to Clubs applying for CreatedBy grants. There hasn't been any confirmation that these costs will be met however we need to be in a position to understand these and the implications on Clubs.</p> <p>Scenario planning was also required for Competitions in the event we can resume in April. Ms Barrett explained that we would be looking at season models for the Member League Competitions and would assist other Competitions if required.</p> <p>We also need to plan on how we get people back training and playing after this period. It is essential that as a sport we engage with our participants and keep them active. The development team have created a set of cards, which will be available online, to keep people engaged with the sport. These will be rolled out once a week.</p> <p>Where there is a period where business as usual matters are not being undertaken there is an opportunity for us as a sport to progress in areas of work we had planned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Whole Game Review outcomes. Match Officials and Protecting Our People were agenda items for the day, so work is underway in these areas. The other areas of the review can now be addressed. 2) Club Development Plan will be worked on with Clubs to not only plan for the future but plan what support Clubs need now. The Development team and Foundations will lead in this area 3) Calendar planning is an opportunity to try and align calendars better so we can build in different offers. 4) System processes will be reviewed, and the Community Game Delivery Team will be in contact with Clubs to ensure that we have all participants registered on the system, this will include not only players but key volunteers such as qualified coaches etc 5) Online Learning platform recently launched for Game Day Managers. This is an opportunity to accelerate online learning. There are some technical issues that need to be resolved however during this period this can be addressed. 6) The RFL website was due a refresh this year so there will be time for website content to be reviewed and updated. This will include Club support tools 7) Promotion of Our League and streaming of past games will be key over the coming weeks to allow people to still experience Rugby League games. <p>It was further noted that we would be working with partners such as RLWC and RL Cares to ensure that we are engaged in delivering Mental Health support and the Movember campaign.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer reiterated the importance of us all working together so that we can hit the ground running when we are ready to go. We need to get the message out that we will come through this and will be ready and kicking for a successful end to the 2020 season and an even better 2021. We are in our 125th year we will be celebrating!</p>	