



MINUTES

Community Board Meeting

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| Location: | RFL Offices, Media City. | Date: | Tuesday 15 th March 2022 |
| | | Time: | 4.00 – 7.00pm |
| In Attendance: | Fred Baker, Peter Moran, Trevor Hunt, Stuart Prior, Sue Taylor, Jan Robinson, Lee Mitchell, Steve Curtis, Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton MBE | Chair Person: | Sandy Lindsay MBE |
| RFL Officers in Attendance: | Ralph Rimmer, Marc Lovering, Kelly Barrett, Robert Hicks | Invited Guests: | Tracy Power – RLWC2021 |
| Apologies: | Neil Ashton | | |

| Item No. | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 1.0 | Welcome & Apologies Ms Lindsay welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining in person. Apologies were noted from Neil Ashton. | |
| 2.0 | Minutes of the December meeting The minutes of the 7 th of December were agreed as a true record of the meeting. | |
| 3.0 | Matters Arising The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each individual action. 1) Primary Rugby League. Each Foundation was tasked with running the CPD for coaches from community clubs in their area prior to the 2022 season commencing. Workshops have taken place across NW/Yorkshire/Cumbria & Hull. New PRL Coaches handbook has been produced and will be sent via CRM to all PRL registered coaches in the next week. In addition, a parents information sheet to be produced and sent via CRM to parents of all PRL registered players. 2) Diagram explaining what Our League Life, Our League Active and Our League are. This has been created and will be circulated. 3) Enjoy the Game - Video of a match official undertaking their duties and the impact of negative behaviour. This will be picked up by the internal Enjoy the Game working group. | Ms Barrett |

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| | <p>4) Community Board Structure - Agenda item for the meeting.</p> <p>5) Post RLWC2022 Activity – Agenda item for the meeting.</p> <p>6) Quarterly Community Game Standing Report – The December report will be included in the Club Communication on the 18th of March and will be placed on the RFL website. And all future Standing Reports will also be shared.</p> <p>7) Warrington Foundation Report. Mr Mitchell to share with the Board.</p> | <p>Ms Barrett</p> <p>Mr Mitchell</p> |
| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Realignment of the Sport</p> <p>Mr Rimmer joined the meeting to update on the realignment of the sport.</p> <p>Over the last two years there has been a governance realignment group with the purpose on bringing the sport into realignment. This involved all key stakeholders with the aim of ultimately driving more revenue into the sport. RFL through RL Governance will retain the administration and development functions of the sport and including England and Our League Life. All revenue generating objectives will be delivered through a shared ownership vehicle which will be known as RL Commercial which will benefit the whole game. Any income generated would be distributed through the game, as is the case now.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer confirmed there had been many discussions with potential strategic partners and he was confident that this was an exciting time for the sport.</p> <p>An RFL Council Meeting has been scheduled for the 22 March which will seek approval from members to approve the realignment.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer confirmed that the Our League Active fee was part of RL Gov. He also confirmed that Community Game Leagues would still be responsible for any commercial sponsors for their respective competitions.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer went on to explain the next steps should the RFL Council approve the recommendation.</p> <p>The Community Board members that do not sit on Council requested copies of the papers distributed. KB to circulate.</p> | <p>Ms Barrett</p> |
| <p>5.0</p> | <p>Post RLWC2021 Activity</p> <p>Tracy Power the RLWC2021 Social Impact Director joined the meeting and provided an update of the Social Impact Programmes being delivered by the RLWC2021.</p> <p>Tracy outlined the refreshed RLWC strategic framework which has a particular focus on making a positive impact in people’s lives across communities. To date 233 projects have received £7.9m investments with total project values of £19.5m which is outstanding, as is the impact of small grants on making the sport more inclusive which has provided great support for the Wheelchair game.</p> <p>Small grants will reopen on the 4th of April which are for Clubs, Schools, Colleges, and Foundations to apply for. They will also be running</p> | |

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| <p>environmental sustainability pilots with Clubs to help with making them more sustainable.</p> <p>Tracey went on to update on the partnership with RL Cares and Movember which continues to deliver a comprehensive mental health programme delivering workshops to young people, community coaches and parents. They will also be delivering training to volunteers during August and September and will also offer the same to all nations and match officials during tournament time.</p> <p>New volunteers also remain a focus although deployment of volunteers has been a challenge into community club environments. There will be a more targeted approach for 2022. The importance of working with partners with specific expertise was reinforced by the great inclusive volunteering opportunities being provided in conjunction with Community Integrated Care. Tracy is working with the Development team on transitioning volunteers to help with community events.</p> <p>Finally, Tracey asked if the Community Board and Community Game could champion the RLWC and help raise awareness for the tournament. There would be packs available for Clubs to promote the RLWC however there is still a need to assist in selling tickets to the game.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay asked the Community Board about the areas they represent and how they could help support the RLWC.</p> <p>Mr Curtis stated that they had a Director of Sport Conference coming up which would enable RLWC to promote the tournament.</p> <p>Mr Mitchell asked if RLWC were going to be engaging with Foundations to promote the RLWC. Tracy responded that Foundations are an important delivery, and we should include in the next Foundation agenda. Foundations that are not in host towns can they still access flyers, posters etc.</p> <p>Mr Clayton stated that there is a potential to engage with 150,000 Armed Forces Personnel. Tracy asked that Mr Clayton continue his discussions with M Hogan.</p> <p>Tracy confirmed that there were still opportunities for the trophy to tour however dates were getting booked up. Tracy to send the booking request form and process to Ms Barrett for distribution.</p> <p>Mr Lovering went on to outline the plans to encourage the whole community game to maximise the opportunity to increase participation which the tournament will offer. All members fed into possible opportunities which will arise both before during and after the tournament.</p> <p>Mr Lovering will share the slides and Board members were asked to have a think in their areas what the opportunities may be. It was suggested that the next Board meeting would include an agenda item on the area of maximising ticket sales, volunteer opportunities and post tournament maximisation, with all members coming prepared with thoughts and ideas.</p> | <p>Mr Clayton</p> <p>Tracy Power</p> <p>ALL</p> |
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| <p>6.0</p> | <p><u>Sport England Update</u></p> <p>Mr Lovering provided the Board with an update on the announcement of the Sport England award of £11.9 million. The funding is in place through to 2027 however the strategy and vision is very much until 2030.</p> <p>Work is to be undertaken on monitoring and evaluation as this will be a key focus moving forwards.</p> <p>Both the Development programme and salary spend pa will be higher than in the 2017-2021 cycle with a particular focus on supporting under-represented groups including women and girls and athletes with a disability.</p> <p>Mr Lovering went on to explain the staffing footprint for development which will see two additional roles and a number of staff roles repurposed to be able to deliver the new community strategy effectively.</p> <p>The slides presented on the evening are available on SharePoint.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay thanked Mr Lovering and team for all the work undertaken on creating the strategy and securing the funding. The Board echoed their thanks.</p> | <p>Mr Lovering</p> |
| <p>6.0</p> | <p><u>Our League Active Update</u></p> <p>Ms Barrett updated the Board on Our League Active and it was noted that the introduction of the membership scheme had had no effect on the number of active participants, and we were on target to receive the expected income based on the 2019 registration figures +5%.</p> <p>We also have 323 voluntary payments and donations, and the income is projected to exceed the £500k target.</p> <p>Ms Barrett explained that most participants are paying the OLA fee at the point of registration however there are a number of Clubs that have opted to pay for their players fees. Club payments do generate additional administrative costs for the organization. We have just announced our second monthly prize draw winners that see individual adult, and youth and junior players winning prizes, but also a community club receiving a prize which include money can't buy prizes such as a coaching session with a coach of their choice.</p> <p>Ms Barrett also updated the Board on the plan to promote Rewards4 and income that can be generated through playing Rugby League. The Board would be updated at their next meeting what this means in monetary value.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay thanked the Board for their support over the last year in introducing Our League Active. Ms Lindsay also recognised and thanked Ms Barrett and her team for the work they had undertaken to make this a success.</p> | |
| <p>7.0</p> | <p><u>Enjoy the Game</u></p> <p>Ms Barrett provided an update on the work undertaken on Enjoy the Game in summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting took place with the Competition Chairs and Discipline Chairs to address the perceived inconsistency with the approach to issuing misconduct sanctions. To support this, a generic dismissal report form has been created and circulated to all Competitions and Match Officials for them | |

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| | <p>to use when dealing with misconduct cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also agreed that all results of discipline cases are to be sent to the RFL who will monitor and report on the discipline cases across the community game. • To address the issues, we face with match official abuse, all match official abuse cases will be referred to the Safeguarding Management Group for assessment. They will determine whether this is a safeguarding case, due to the match official being Under-18 or whether the League can deal with these cases directly. • To support Clubs in spreading the Enjoy the Game message posters have been refreshed and are available for Clubs to download from the website. In addition, we have turned the Respect Code of Conduct into a document to be shared within Clubs to reinforce the importance of adhering to these. There are all available on the RFL website HERE. • In 2022, in conjunction with the NCL, we will be running a bodycam initiative which will see match officials wearing bodycam's during play. Together, with copies of the games, the bodycam footage can be used in reviewing games and environments. • A touchline behaviour project is being ran in conjunction with LJMU, this will be a three-way approach to gain more intelligence on touchline behaviours. This is to allow a more focused intervention to improve environments. This involves the following <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Survey to be distributed and collated to players, parents, coaches, and officials. The first will be in March and the second in Aug/Sept. 2) Following the survey, identify focus groups/clubs to work closely with to include representatives of players, parents, coaches, and officials. 3) Lastly there will be video observation via recorded analysis to establish comparisons between; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Area Comparison b. Age Comparison c. Competition Comparison d. Time of year Comparison e. When in the game Comparison • <u>Game Day Manager Training</u> We updated and launched an updated Game Day Manager training course. To date we have had 1350 people undertake this course. <p>The Board agreed that a significant amount of work had been undertaken however there were still issues with touchlines which must continue to be monitored.</p> | |
| <p>8.0</p> | <p>Community Board Terms of Reference</p> <p>Mr Hicks explained that he was seeking approval for the Community Board Terms of Reference which had only one change which was to replace himself with Ms Barrett as the Secretary of the Board.</p> <p>He went on to say that linked to the introduction of the new strategy it was important that we reviewed the makeup of the Community Board to ensure we were truly representative of the game. It was noted that we last reviewed during the 17-21 period however with the pandemic this was put on hold.</p> <p>Mr Hunt asked for clarity on certain aspects of the previous governance review. Mr Hicks set out what had happened and what had yet to be done.</p> <p>The Board accepted the Terms of Reference for 2022 and agreed that further discussion was required on the make up of the group.</p> | |

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| 9.0 | <p>Community Game Governance Framework</p> <p>Ms Barrett explained that in 2018/19 we began work on reviewing how Leagues/Competition complied with the Sport Code of Governance Framework with a view for addressing this. This was a piece of work for the Community Board Regulatory Group however was delayed again due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Mr Hicks and Ms Barrett had created a paper on a proposed governance framework for the Community Game which had been produced in consultation with Sport England.</p> <p>Following some discussion in which concern was raised about the comms around the paper and reassurance was given that the document produced was internal only, the Board agreed with the proposal that the Regulatory Group work through the detail, agree priorities and report back to the Board.</p> | Reg Group |
| 10.0 | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Mr Mitchell thanked the RFL Development Team for the work they had undertaken on the Winter Survival Fund. In Warrington alone this had generated £100k support for Community Clubs. Many members of the Board added their thanks and agreement that the RFL had indeed provided invaluable support to the Community Game during the last two years.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay added her thanks to the RFL and the whole Community Board.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay asked the Board if they prefer to meeting during the day at the next meeting scheduled for the 22 June. Mr Mitchell offered Victoria Park as the venue. Ms Barrett to obtain feedback from the Board.</p> | |
| 11.0 | <p>Meeting Close</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.00pm.</p> | |