



## OXFORDSHIRE RUGBY UNION

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 via Zoom

**Present:** Pete Bramley, Rob Walsh, Doug Humphries, Andy Tacon, Paul & Jane Weaver, Doug & Jenny Bosley, Gina Overton, Chris White

**1. Apologies:** Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren, Stuart Mount, Dave Walkden, Nicola McCombe

**2. Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Approved as a true record. Proposed: CW Seconded: PW  
Matters arising – With Clubs etc, refer to people's roles rather than their names

**3. Chairman's Remarks (PB):**

A very good season with 2 of our Clubs being promoted to Level 5 – Banbury & Quins. Also the Men's County team beating NLD 14-21 in their first game. Thanks to J&PW and Rob Heginbotham for organising the Vets Cup & Plate competition. DH has written to RH to thank him for his part in organising these competitions. The County Shield final had to be abandoned due to a serious injury. The player is recovering after an operation. PW – there was a good engagement on Twitter with the Men's county game. CW – the Women's County game last weekend was cancelled due to a lack of players as Quins had a game v Brookes Uni which took too many women out. Thanks to CW and his team for establishing W&G rugby in the county, and providing a healthy set up for next season

**4. Secretary's Correspondence (DH)**

Hiring Quins AGP, Payment is now by Direct Debit on the 1st of each month paying for that month's usage instead of being invoiced. Bookings made after the start of each month

has to be paid for by Credit Card (DH's). Late cancellations have no refunds. Give DH advance notice of cancellations so that Quins staff are informed and not employed..

RFU Energy Pilot. Jason bowers has selected Abingdon and Quins to pilot this project involving analysis of energy consumption & cost saving strategies by Fusion 4 Business Merit Table possibilities Pete Ramsdale (Wheatley) has contacted 15 Clubs: 6 have expressed an interest and 5 have declined. Some are awaiting the outcome of the next BBO meeting. So it remains a possibility

**5. Volunteer Recognition (GO)**

Henley Event, 14<sup>th</sup> May 69 nominees and 6 committee are attending. Many positive replies have been received. Henley have been informed of the layout to include a table

to display the awards (scarves, pin badges and portfolio bags, plus some Honda stash) GO will deliver everything to Henley on Thursday. Could committee be there from 11.00 to complete the set up for a 12.30 start? Stuart M will present the awards.

Daisy Hopkins (Quins) is the Oxon nominee to go forward to the RFU Awards Dinner. Aubrey Doran (Henley) Recognition (RW) Aubrey is retiring to Chichester after many years of service to Henley and the County. RW proposed that he is awarded a County badge and tie. All in favour

**Action** RW to negotiate with Henley as to the best time for this presentation.

Volunteers' International ticket allocation GO has asked KE to allocate 2 tickets per match for 'worthy' volunteers – Autumn Internationals and 6 Nations. We will have 2 extra tickets for the Japan match plus 6 for Youth coaches to attend the Argentina game. President's Award needs to be considered for Sept. (Bicester RFC Match Reporter?)

## **6. Competitions (J&PW) (Herts RFU Guidance previously circulated)**

The U/15 County Final at Quins would have benefited from a 'Respect Barrier' to prevent parents/coaches encroaching onto the pitch. There has been an increase in 'abuse' in AGR and officials would be in favour of these. We can make it mandatory to use these at all Youth Cup matches especially if we provide all 14 Clubs with Youth Sections with one set @ £60 each = £840 (Price reduction for bulk purchase?). Agreed to go ahead with this.

**Action** J&PW to update/amend the Youth Cup Competitions regulations to cover this.

J&PW to source and purchase the Respect Barriers and arrange distribution to clubs (via CB Committee members and their 'adopted' clubs?)

CW to send J&PW the Bucks Guidance for the County U/15 Girls match

## **7. Representative Rugby (DB & CW)**

Senior Men beat NDL 14-21 despite a below strength squad with Quins players having a 'Home' commitment. We had 4 injuries and have 10 changes for the next game v Bucks. If we beat Bucks and N. Midlands we will be in the final at Richmond on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Senior Women have their first game this Saturday at Bicester v Staffs. Our U/18s lost to Bucks, beat D&W, then lost to Glouc. 4 of our girls will go on to the Centre of Excellence The U/15 Girls have their first game on Sunday morning v Bucks at Aylesbury.

RFU Review of County Championship. The National CB's 'Zoom' meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May to discuss this has now been postponed until June. Re the structure – why are

we

playing against Cumbria? The reduction in RFU funding is not helping and causing games to be cancelled. There is a danger that this grass roots rugby will suffer and not provide players for the Premiership etc.

## **8. Help for Heroes Event (JM via email)**

The event will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July at Oxford RFU when they have their Tag-Fest.

JM will contact Clubs asking them to attend, and support with stands. He will also speak to various Veterans Groups to garner interest.

**Action** Rugby For Heroes have not been forthcoming as yet. Could someone (**PB?**) give them a prompt to contact JM.

Could someone (**GO?**) produce a poster/flier to promote this on Social Media if JM provides the required information?

#### **14. AOB**

Contact with the RFU: PB is meeting with Nicola McCombe this Friday to discuss our Targeted Funding Projects etc.

Girls DPP CW has negotiated with the RFU about the running of our U/16s' DPP which will be done 'in house' with and Shane Harrison as our lead, supported by Sarah Blizzard and a budget of £6k - £8k. The team will meet this Friday (13<sup>th</sup> May) to decide on the use of this budget.

Our Girls' Centre of Excellence will be linked to Gloucester RFU.

Kubota Sponsorship CW – this is still being discussed at HQ in Japan, but optimistic.

Defibrillator 'Gifts' project for County opposition DH has obtained quotes for different Defibs. **Action** RW to consult Henley and decide if this project is viable as it is potentially quite expensive.

The meeting ended at 20.20

**Next Meeting** on 14<sup>th</sup> June at Quins is to be cancelled – end of season break.

**The AGM on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July** was planned as a Zoom meeting due to Covid restrictions, but can now take place as a Face to Face meeting. DH to see if Oxford RFC is available.

AGM Planning meeting via Zoom – suggested Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.