



## OXFORDSHIRE RUGBY UNION

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Gosford All Blacks

**Present:** Pete Bramley, Rob Walsh, Doug Humphries, Andy Tacon, Doug & Jenny Bosley, Chris White, Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren, Nicola McCombe, Sarah Blizzard

**1. Apologies:**, Stuart Mount, Dave Walkden, Paul & Jane Weaver, Gina Overton

**2a. Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> May:** Approved as a true record. Proposed: PB Seconded: JM-T  
All in favour. No Matters arising

**2b. Minutes of the July AGM:** Approved as a true record. Proposed AT, Seconded CW.  
All in favour. Any Matters arising to be raised at the next AGM

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

Feedback from Refs has been positive so far, with no reports of abuse.

We need to supply Clubs with Respect banners to encourage good practice asap. **Action**

We now have 8 Women's teams so a County Cup & Shield will be planned with finals at Iffley Road **Action** for J&PW

RFU guidance re Queen's death and fixtures – Our Clubs took this in the right spirit.

#### **4. Treasurer (AT)**

Proposed that "the Club's annual Affiliation Fee to the CB is raised from £10 to £120. Clubs who do not affiliate will forfeit their voting rights."

It has been at £10 for decades and this increase will provide a worthwhile fund to support Clubs. Supported by SB, seconded by JM-T. All in favour.

**Action:** DH to notify Club Chairs & Secs.

#### **5. Secretary's Correspondence**

**a. County Ties** K Robinson submitted a request to order various County ties and Caps for players. We need to have a common tie for all age groups/adult teams. Also the equivalent for our W & G players

**Action** RW to liaise with KR over the common players' tie and number to be ordered  
SB to discuss with ERDPP what would be appropriate for W&G

**b. N Oxon Schools' Pilot Programme** 3 schools have been selected to host Touch and X-rugby festivals for Year 7 & 8 Boys and Girls starting in Oct, with other schools invited to attend along with Coaches from Banbury Bicester and GAB.

**c. RFU Update (NMc):** AGR Affiliation Data showed that most clubs have increased their AGR affiliation compared to this time last year. Learning from experience, sharing good practice and avoiding Club registration days at the start of the season.

Inner Warrior Days – Banbury and Faringdon have signed up to link in with the World Cup.

Project Pheonix: Grove, Littlemore & Wheatley will receive RFU coaching support to improve their recruitment & retention rates and so fulfil all/most of their fixtures.  
Pitch Up & Play Rugby is going ahead at Grove, GAB, Wheatley, Didcot and Witney.  
CB Meetings 22/23 Area CBs on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct/Feb/June; Drop-in sessions on Monday evenings & Wed lunchtimes; National Calls with Steve Grainger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

## **6. Competitions Update (J&PW)**

Their report was circulated in advanced and showed that all competitions are in place. The Vets Floodlit Cup may now start in November.

## **7. County Championship Update (DB)**

Our Adult Male, Women's & U/20s teams have all been entered into their Competitions. The Women have applied to enter Division 2 and recruit players from Level 4 and below. The U/20s have recruited coaches Mick Routledge (Witney) and Mark Kirwan (Banbury)

## **8. Review of the Veterans into Rugby day at ORFC (JM-T)**

This was held at ORFC Tag Festival with 20 participating teams, Music, Food stalls but only 3 Clubs turned up to share opportunities for Veterans in Rugby. A good event to hold this, but the contact through the Services RDO was ineffective as no Veterans turned up. We need to use a wider range of media to attract the Veterans and Clubs so they can see how they might benefit each other.

## **9. Developing our Strategic Plan**

GO's 'Front page' was an excellent summary of our Planning Meeting based on our clubs' priorities. However, we forgot to raise and include our own priorities from the AGM. The summary initiative for Financial Stability is identical to that of W&G's and needs amending. DH's template was deemed to be acceptable- column titles can be amended in due course.

**Action:** It was decided that the following would take responsibility for refining/amending the 5 'Deliverables'/Strategic Objectives to ensure S.M.A.R.T objectives with costs.

1. Recruitment & Retention GO & SM
2. Coaching & Refereeing DW & PB
3. Game for All JM-T
4. Women & Girls CW & SB
5. Financial Stability AT

These are to be returned to DH by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at the latest.

## **10. AOB**

Targeted Delivery Funding NM reminded us about the use of £6+k for Adult Male 11 Rugby and £2k for W&G's Rugby to be used before January to have an impact this season. We will be supporting 3 or 4 Clubs in sending their DoRs on the RFU course at Bisham, and all Clubs with Respect Barriers. **Action** DH to inform Chairs/Secs of DoR course. Suggestions for W&G include a Friday night Pitch up & Play using YMOs and female MOs Get Clubs to form a W&G Forum; Have a social event to promote the World cup.

How do we engage with our AGR Clubs & Leads?(NM) Use D Larham to bring them together in an AGR Forum?!

National Youth Council & Young volunteers (NM). Could we pilot a Young Volunteers programme for those 17-24 year olds who were unsuccessful applicants for the National Youth Council? Put them in a task group. RW – yes we will.

CB Portal Let NM know who else needs access to this as the RFU will use this instead of emails. **Action** DH to inform NM of the CB members requiring this

Models of Good Practice (NM) What is one of our strengths? - Our relationships with our Clubs is now very positive as the Covid pandemic resulted in our creating a Club Chair's WhatsApp group for ease of communication between 'us' and 'them', so now it is just 'we'. The use of Zoom meetings also made it easy for everyone to 'attend'. This has been supported by weekly club visits by RW (Council Rep) and PB (President) making us visible, more accessible and approachable.

CB 'Stash' With no current supplier JM-T would like to source a supplier where we can shop for our items. DB suggested Blue Blood Sport. AGR teams could also get their stash from the same supplier. **Action** JM-T to research various suppliers and report back.

County Cap DB states that Anthony Maris has played 11 county games and deserves a County cap. Agreed!

Risk Assessment Funding (AT) We still have some funding left but there appears to be no pressure from the RFU to proceed with this. Could it be used elsewhere? - Utility & Energy surveys are currently underway. **Action** N Mc to make enquiries back at HQ.

Training for Disciplinary Hearings (JB) the RFU is running a course for the University on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. Ron MacDonald and Doug H hope to attend. Maybe Mark Trumper, a retired ref, as well. **Action** JB to arrange for those interested to attend

Date of next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. **NOT** Face to Face at Wheatley but a Zoom meeting courtesy of AT. This is because Kevin Robinson will not have time to liaise with the ORFU Trustees over the use of their funds. This will now take place at our Dec 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at Wheatley RFC (TBC)

Meeting closed at 8.55pm