



## OXFORDSHIRE RUGBY UNION

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 via Zoom

**Present:** Rob Walsh, Doug Humphries, Andy Tacon, Doug & Jenny Bosley, Chris White  
Dave Walkden, Paul & Jane Weaver, Stuart Mount, Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren,  
Nicola McCombe, Sarah Blizzard, Gina Overton (from 8pm)

**1. Apologies:**, Pete Bramley

**2a. Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> October:** Approved as a true record. Proposed: SM Seconded: PW  
Matters arising (Action points) CW still in communication with HS2 over Community funds.  
JB has informed referees of Disciplinary meeting outcomes.

Concerns about Bicester's situation have been resolved according GW at our FAGM.

**2b. Minutes of the FAGM 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.** There was no feedback from the Clubs nor the CB  
identifying any errors, omissions nor amendments, so these Draft Minutes were accepted  
as a true record. Proposed by JW, Seconded by RW.

Matters arising may be raised by the Clubs at the next FAGM

**3. Chairman's Report** (PB Absent)

**a) Viability of Oxon/Vets County Competition** (DB) What is the purpose of this with  
no guidelines at present? Mar-Apr are now busy times. Currently our Vets' Floodlit Cup  
serves us well. NM – is it really worth spending money on this with new kit etc.

**Action:** Defer a decision to go ahead this season and investigate for the following year.

**b) RWC 2025 Impact Funding for W&G facilities** (DH)

All Clubs have been informed about the opportunity to apply for grants to improve sanitary  
and toilet facilities by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. NC – Clubs do not need W&G teams to apply.

**Action GO** to raise awareness and reminders via Social Media.

Multi £million grants available to provide new or improved W&G changing facilities and  
social areas. These will be based on last season's Clubs' Facility Review submissions.

However, W&G rugby has taken off rapidly this season, e.g. at Faringdon, so some  
Reviews will be out of date.

**Action** RW & DH to attend a CB Facilities meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb with Jason Bowers to discuss

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

**a) Safeguarding issue** Touch Union states that players of all ages, genders and abilities  
can play, but Dave Larham & JB say that players must be over 14. DL investigating.

**Action** DH to inform all Clubs when this matter has been resolved

**b) Strategic Plan Review/Update**

SO1 Recruitment & Retention Some dates agreed and GO's latest costs considered. Cost of  
gazebo (& storage location – J&PW?) and Templates may have to be reduced. Templates

for Clubs' marketing; the RFU are revamping the Core Values which may impact on these. DW to liaise with Alex Burn of new E Midland DPP re players not making the grade and communicating decisions back to Clubs. Parental expectation of DPP/Academies is an issue. The CB could attend the various College Freshers week to recruit for U/20 County trials.

**SO2 Coaching & Refereeing Action:** Need to identify coaches for LEV to mentor from Jan. DW to continue to visit Clubs/coaches re Colts transition to Adult game etc – some apathy! CW: Simon Brown's coaching sessions have caused coaches to bond and share ideas. More dates to be decided for the New Year. **Action** CW, DW, JM-T & RW? to meet to decide **SO3 A Game for All** JM-T suggested an end of season Mixed Tag Festival to start with.

**SO4 W&G Rugby GO:** we need a female spokesperson eg County Captain, to talk to Radio Oxford/Social Media about County (NOT Club) rugby. SB willing to do so.

NM - £2.5K is available from RFU for U/12 Girls initiatives. **Action** SB to liaise with NM.

**SO5 Financial Viability Action** DH to remind Clubs to submit Annual Accounts to AT. **Action** AT to see if we can afford the proposed additional funds which this plan requires. *(AT agrees that this is viable but needs reviewing as Annual RFU grants etc change)*

**Action** DH to make suggested amendments to the Plan and submit updated Strategic Plan to all CB members. Then distribute to Clubs along with reminders about Risk Assessment, Safeguarding and Lux certificates submissions,

## 5. Competitions Update – Senior County Bowl in Mar/Apr 2022 (J&PW)

There will be 16 teams in 3 pools relating to Level 8, Level 9 & Level 10 teams. Many thanks to J&PW and D&JB for organising this new venture for the benefit of our Clubs.

## 6. Discipline: Red Card Update (JB)

We normally have 17 but already have 23 – similar to other CBs relating to players, coaches and spectators. Only 2 for Referee abuse. A discussion followed on the different interpretations of Match Official Abuse/lack of Respect.

## AOB

1. **Floodlight Lux requirements (JB)** League games at L5+ need lights with 200 lux while those below need a Lux of 100 otherwise insurance could be invalid. Only Henley & Chinnor have submitted Floodlight Lux certificates to the SW League Sec.
  2. **Risk Assessments** AT-> NM What will the RFU do about Clubs not completing these?
  3. **Aubrey Doran** RW has received a lovely letter from AD thanking him for his Honda Volunteer HQ outing. Now need to decide who goes to 6 Nations match(es). Neil Hopper proposed and accepted.
  4. **U/20s squad** DB → DW to respond to email about potential squad members. **Action** They will try to meet between Christmas and New Year to sort out.
  5. **Safeguarding Return Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> Dec** NM:- Banbury, GAB, IQ, & Irish Exiles have not replied. League points may be deducted if they do not respond.
  6. **AGR Affiliations** NM: these are down in some Clubs (Banbury 492 → 322) & Witney. Dave Larham is offering his support for Clubs to get this completed with parents.
  7. **Vevo Video package** GO should we participate - an Oxon Partnership Agreement? We rejected this last August and have been advised by 2 clubs not to participate
  8. **AGR** DW has met resistance and apathy in trying to achieve his goals with County and SW Youth teams; and Coaching. Schools, Academies and Clubs will not release players. Only Witney, Banbury and Chipping Norton show support. Others do not value participation in the County teams. **Action** DW to continue to visit Club coaches. GO, DW and PW to meet to discuss ways forward/ a Communications Plan
- NM: The RFU are holding an AGR meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Action:** Could DW survey clubs and

send her the results to take to this meeting?

9. Quote just in for CB Stash GO. Cost is £1430. Agreed to accept this price as we do not buy regularly. Some requests for long warm coats for those on touchline duties.
10. Clubs' Financial Returns: AT to email DH the message to be sent to Club Treasurers as a reminder to get their Financial /returns to him.
11. Honda Volunteer Recognition Nominations (GO) Nominations start on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan until 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. NM congratulated GO on being the first CB to get a Volunteers' survey returned. Our planned Volunteers Recognition Event is a lunch at the Women's County game on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Venue to be decided **Action** for CW who wants somewhere central. Not Banbury as they are hosting the men's county game.
12. CB Drop in sessions. Both CW and GO attended the recent Zoom sessions and found them most useful.
13. First Aid training (GO) If JG's offer of First Aid training in the New Year is not sufficient to meet Clubs' requirements then GO has an alternative provider in Ben, an ex serviceman, I believe! Do let her know asap. **Action** DH to let JG and our Clubs know of this offer.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Next Meeting is at Oxford Harlequins at 7pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.