



RFL COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR SUMMARY – 29th NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Community Game Colleagues,

The Community Board met on Wednesday evening and were joined by Mr Tony Sutton the RFL Chief Executive who provided the Board with an update on Coaching and Match Officials.

In terms of coaching, it was pleasing to note that we have received positive feedback from Warrington College, who are our education sub-contractor. For the last academic year, they have reported the following completion rates: 100% achievement (Level 1 Award), 90.5% achievement (Level 2 Certificate). In addition, Mr Sutton provided an update on Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA). CIMSPA is the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector. Increasingly, they are playing a much bigger role in the regulation of the sporting workforce. In conjunction with Sport England there is a move to hold a national workforce register in response to the White Review to monitor coaches moving between sports. Further information on this will be provided in the New Year.

Mr Sutton informed the Board that the RFL are reviewing the delivery of training to the game with a view to engage with external agencies to help create and deliver training resources.

Mr Sutton then provided an update on match officials. At the weekend he undertook a referees training course at West Hull to understand how these were delivered and what the engagement was from societies in transitioning people into officiating. Further work is required in this area which will become a focus in 2024.

The Board agreed that both Coaching and Match Officials would be standing agenda items in 2024.

Mr Hicks then appraised the Board of the 44 Brain Health Outcomes that the RFL Board approved last week. Further details and communications on these will now begin with wider stakeholder groups for implementation from 1st January 2024. These are wide ranging and are brought in to ensure the sport looks after its participants. A detailed discussion took place on the implementation and communication plans that will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Ms Lindsay then updated the Board on the applications received for new Community Board members. Over 30 applications were received with some covering a wide spectrum of knowledge and experience. Interviews will take place in January.

Finally, the Board recognised and thanked Peter Moran, Independent representative, Damian Clayton, Armed Forces representative and Jan Robinson Tier 5 Youth and Junior Club representative who were all standing down from their positions. Peter and Damian have served on the Board since its inception with Jan serving three terms. The RFL and the Community Board members were all very appreciative of the dedication and support all three have provided to the community game over their tenures.

On behalf of the RFL and the Community Board I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes and many thanks,

Sandy Lindsay MBE
Chair RFL Community Board