

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD AT RED HALL ON TUESDAY, 13th DECEMBER 2011**

Present:

Richard Lewis	RFL Chairman
Stuart Prior	BARLA
Warrant Officer Damian Clayton MBE	Armed Forces Rugby League
Peter Moran	Independent Representative
Charlie Bray	Tier Four Youth & Junior Leagues Representative
Ian Szwandt	English Schools Rugby League
Trevor Hunt	Tier Three Representative
Martin Coyd	Tier Four Adult Leagues Representative
Mrs Pat Crawshaw	Student Rugby League Representative

Apologies:

Nigel Wood	RFL Chief Executive Officer
John Piercy	Student Rugby League

In Attendance:

David Gent	Director of Participation & Strategic Partnerships
Robert Hicks	Legal & Compliance Officer
Andy Harland	National Development Manager
Kelly Barrett	Community Games Services Manager
Angela Adams	Personal Assistant

ACTION**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted as above.

All were welcomed to the meeting and made special mention of a new member to the Community Board, Mr Martin Coyd who has joined as the Tier 4 Adult Leagues Representative role on the Board. Mr Hicks was also in attendance as the RFL Legal and Compliance Officer and was welcomed to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 6th October, 2011

The Chair proposed the approval of the minutes be deferred to the next Community Board meeting scheduled for the 30th of January as today's meeting was a special meeting with a number of items to cover.

3. MATTERS ARISING

As above, this will be covered at the next Community Board meeting.

4. GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT**4.1 Community Board – Members' Terms of Reference**

In seeking new members to the Community Board, Mr Gent advised all that he had not found a role description laid down for members of this Board. He will therefore table this at the next Community Board meeting and invited members of the Board to feedback on any areas they feel would be useful.

D Gent**4.2 New Appointment – Tier 4 Adult Leagues Representative**

Mr Gent clarified further to the Board the appointment of Mr Martin Coyd as the Tier Four Adult Leagues Representative of the Community Game.

D Gent

4.4 Laws Committee

The Chair referred to this matter and the last meeting the decision was taken for the Community Board not to have its own Laws Committee but have a Tier Three and Tier Four Representative on the RFL Laws Committee. The Chair formally sought everyone's agreement to this and for the next course of action to be to seek those representatives. This was agreed by the Board.

D Gent

5. COMMUNITY GAME TIER 3 AND 4 OPERATIONAL RULES

Mr Gent confirmed to the Board that the operational rules presented at the meeting are to help establish the new competitions to be run by the RFL. During 2012, discussions will be held with other leagues on adopting the operational rules.

Mr Hicks confirmed that the Draft – Tier Three and Four Operational Rules document which was distributed with the agenda had been drawn up after lengthy consultation at the Community Board Regulatory Group meetings and was for the Board to consider today. A discussion took place and any amendments agreed will be brought back to the next meeting scheduled to take place on the 30th of January 2012.

Primary Club Player Choice Policy

Mr Gent advised the Board that this paper had been drawn up in an attempt to clarify the team a player wishes to regularly play for at Tiers Three and Four. Mr Hicks confirmed that players playing in winter would look to transfer without completing the end of season fixtures as the summer season would have started.

The Board agreed for the registration form for players to be amended to make reference to the club in question to be the players "primary" club. There should be no need therefore to state secondary club. If a player wishes to play elsewhere he should then seek permission from his current club to do this. The proposal for the removal of the word "secondary" from this paper was agreed by the Board.

R Hicks

A further action as a result of this was for Mr Gent to consult as a matter of with the following leagues to ensure there is clarity at their end:

D Gent

- North West Counties
- Pennine
- Hull

In support of this, WO Clayton requested some form of "bespoke" policy for Armed Forces and Student players to ensure the primary club (or, in this case, "body") is clear to all leagues and clubs.

R Hicks

6. COMPETITON

6.1 Approval of the 2012 Calendar

Mr Gent invited the Board to review the calendar of games for 2012 and confirm they approve it in its draft format to date. Items to be added include the leagues in Tier Four and the Coach Development Period has been noted in as much detail as possible.

A discussion around scholarship games and there being periods where there are no community games due to scholarships took place. Where this occurs then an alternative for youth players not on scholarships should be offered in the form of festivals or additional training.

The Chair asked the Board to confirm they are in agreement with the Calendar in its format so far in order for it to be published and distributed throughout the wider game. The suggestion for a differentiation between what is agreed and what is provisional to be shown on this was accepted and the calendar was agreed by the Board.

D Gent

6.2 Proposal – Transition between Winter and Summer

Mr Gent confirmed that this paper has come to the Community Board as the 2012 competition is a brand new competition and therefore should be formally approved. It is a paper confirming the alignment of those teams playing in winter 2011/2012 to the summer season and specifically relate to North West Man's League and the Yorkshire Men's League in Tier Four. The agreement is specifically for the 2012 season and a paper will be drawn up for approval for the 2013 season. The Board were in agreement with the Transition Proposal paper.

6.3 RESPECT & "Tackle It"

Mr Gent confirmed that a strategy group has been set up to raise the profile of the above and asked the Board for their feedback as to how they would wish to see both campaigns run. He advised that RESPECT has been agreed as the framework "branding" and for all other policies around this to then come under this. All agreed that both campaigns need a higher profile to ensure there is less tolerance on these issues. There is a need to publicise a 0800 number for members of the public to be able to raise and refer issues to.

The Chair summarised that the debate here seems to indicate encouraging support for a renewed campaign and this can be revisited at a later Community Board meeting.

D Gent

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1** Mr Prior asked for an update into the cup competitions. Mr Gent confirmed he has met with a number of different leagues and they have indicated support for a Tier Three cup which would be made available also to Tier 3, Armed Forces and Students teams. The Rugby League Conference National Cup is still to be agreed; however the Harry Jepson Trophy will remain.

Mr Gent is to establish if Wales and Scotland wish to be involved. Yorkshire Juniors and North West Counties 13-15 cups are both to remain but there is scope in principle for a wider national cup for juniors along the lines of the Champion Schools competition. There is still a need for the BARLA national cup to run.

- 7.2** The Chair took this opportunity to thank all members of the Community Board for their hard work and commitment to the matters dealt with over the last twelve months. Everyone's efforts should be noted as having brought matters as far as they have for the benefit of the major and historic changes within the community game.

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 30th January 2012 – Carrwood Park 5