

MINUTES

Community Board Meeting

Location:	Microsoft Teams	Date:	3 rd December 2025
		Time:	4.00 – 6.00 pm
In Attendance:	Neil Ashton, Fred Baker, Mark Cordeaux, Steve Curtis, Anji Gardner, Trevor Hunt, Steve Langrick, Tracey Leung-Fullerton, Nick Leigh, Lee Mitchell, Stuart Prior, Sue Taylor MBE	Chairperson:	Martin Coyd OBE
Apologies:	Jake Brook, Colonel David Groce OBE,		
RFL Officers in Attendance:	Kelly Barrett, Marc Lovering	Invited Guests:	

Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome Mr Coyd opened the meeting, thanked attendees for their time, and acknowledged the challenges of limited communication since the last meeting due to the workload around NCRL reform.</p> <p>He emphasised that the focus of the meeting would be on NCRL developments and governance updates.</p> <p>Mr Coyd highlighted the significant contributions of Ms Barrett and her team in leading stakeholder engagement, drafting terms of reference, and progressing governance reforms.</p> <p>He noted the importance of collective effort from the Board in supporting the next phase of NCRL implementation.</p>	
2.0	<p>Any Other Business No additional items were raised before the meeting.</p> <p>Martin confirmed that any urgent matters could be raised at the end of the meeting if required.</p>	
3.0	<p>Minutes of the September meeting The minutes from the meeting on 10th September 2025 were approved as an accurate record.</p>	
4.0	<p>Matters Arising The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on</p>	

	<p>each action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coaching: Review to continue into 2026. An update is expected at the next meeting. 2) Discipline: Ms Barrett confirmed she has collated discipline information and will circulate it for review. 3) Council Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, 9th December. Originally planned as two days, now condensed to one. CEO presentations will replace formal papers. 	<p>Ms Barrett</p> <p>Ms Barrett</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Update from Martin Coyd Martin highlighted the importance of NCRL evolution and the unification of the community game.</p> <p>Reported progress on brain health initiatives, with 17 of 44 recommendations implemented, leading to reduced public liability insurance costs.</p> <p>Emphasised the need for sustainable delivery models and collective problem-solving when challenges arise in 2026.</p> <p>Shared engagement activity: over 30 visits to clubs and competitions across Yorkshire, North West, Cumbria, Hull, and Midlands.</p> <p>Noted positive feedback in some regions and challenges in others but stressed the importance of consultation and managing expectations.</p> <p>Reinforced that reforms aim for consistency and sustainability, not bespoke solutions for every club.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>National Community Rugby League Presented by Kelly Barrett, supported by Marc Lovering and Martin Coyd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Terms of Reference prepared for NCRL Management Group and sub-groups. - NCRL Management Group to oversee rules, standards, and operational delivery, feeding into the Community Board. - Membership to include Chair (RFL appointed), competition managers, reps for men's Tier 3 & 4, youth & junior, women & girls, and relevant RFL staff. • Competition Management Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be established for National Leagues incorporating: National Premier, National Division 1 and the National Conferences. - Youth & Junior: Cumbria (merged Barrow & West Cumbria), North West (new unified group chaired by Tammy Smith), Yorkshire (chaired by Donna, new Secretary Pete Smith), Hull (transitioned from COHDRL). - Women & Girls: Existing group continues. - Men's Regional Leagues: Existing group continues. - Primary RL: Delivered through regional youth & junior groups, with local leads feeding into the National Steering Group. • Rules & Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft competition rules for Tier 3 and Tier 4 completed, with subsections for regional variances. - Minimum standards shared with clubs; development plans to support compliance. - Emphasis on standardisation where possible, while allowing phased transition. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish NCRL Management Group early in 2026. - Continue recruitment of management group members across areas. 	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Our League Active A detailed discussion was held regarding OLA fees for 2026.</p> <p>From 2026, OLA membership fees will rise by £2–£3 across all age groups to ensure the continued delivery of essential services. The new fees are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults: £27 → £30 • 12+ Players: £21 → £23.50 • Primary (U6–U11): £15 → £17 • Social: £18 → £20 • Wheelchair: £15 (new category for 2026) • Development Leagues: £18 → £20 <p>The Board also agreed to review the criteria and timing for when Development Leagues transition into full competition status, with outcomes to be reported in 2026.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Any other business Martin Coyd closed the meeting, thanking all attendees for their contributions and emphasising the collective responsibility to support NCRL implementation in 2026.</p> <p>It was also noted that this was Trevor Hunt’s final meeting as the Tier 4 Adult Club representative. The Board expressed its gratitude for Trevor’s long service and commitment since the inception of the Community Board, recognising the significant contribution he has made to representing clubs and supporting the development of the community game.</p> <p>Finally, Mr Coyd agreed to confirm the 2026 meeting dates, which would be a mixture of evening meetings and, if practical, daytime meetings too.</p>	<p>Ms Barrett</p>
<p>9.0</p>	<p>Meeting Close The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.</p>	