

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD AT RED HALL ON MONDAY 30th JANUARY 2012
ABRIDGED VERSION**

Present:

Stuart Prior	BARLA Representative
Warrant Officer Damian Clayton MBE	Armed Forces Rugby League
Peter Moran	Independent Member
John Piercy	Student Rugby League
Charlie Bray	Tier 4 Youth & Junior Leagues Representative
Nigel Wood	RFL Chief Executive Officer & Meeting Chairman
Ian Szwandt	English Schools Rugby League
Trevor Hunt	Tier 3 Representative
Martin Coyd	Tier 4 Adult Leagues Representative
Fred Baker	Independent Member

Apologies:

Richard Lewis	RFL Chairman
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In Attendance:

David Gent	Director of Participation & Strategic Partnerships
Matt Birkett	Head of Participation & Regions
Chris Rostron	Head of Partnerships
Andy Harland	National Development Manager
Kelly Barrett	Community Games Services Manager
Angela Adams	Personal Assistant

ACTION

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
 The Chairman welcomed Fred Baker as the new Community Board member. Fred was from Telford Raiders and had been heavily involved in Midlands Rugby League for many years.

 The Chairman asked all to note that with only 32 days until the start of the new season, it is a very exciting time for the community game.

 The Chairman also made mention of the inductions to the RFL Roll of Honour of Ray Unsworth, English Schools Rugby League, Ron England, English Schools Rugby League, Jackie Reid MBE for his role at BARLA, and Andrew Cudbertson of Student Rugby League.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 6th October 2011 and 13th December 2011**
 The minutes of the previous meetings were confirmed as an accurate record.
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **COMMUNITY STRATEGY**
 - 4.1 **Appointment of Independent Community Board Member**
 The Board formally noted the appointment of Fred Baker to the role of

Independent Member of the Community Board.

4.2 Appointment of Community Representative to the RFL Laws Committee

Mr Gent referred to agreement reached at the 13th December meeting to have a representative from Tier 3 and Tier 4 of the Community Game on the RFL Laws Committee.

D Gent

4.3 RFL Education Policy

Mr Rostron, the RFL Head of Partnerships, presented details of the proposed strategy on the RFL approach to education and rugby league. There was general support for the aims and objectives of the strategy.

4.4 RFL Community Game Operational Rules

The amendments to the Operational Rules agreed at the meeting of the 13th of December were circulated in a paper with the agenda.

It was noted that the Regulatory Group will meet on the 13th of February to determine how best to implement the operational rules with each league and a report on this will be produced for the next Community Board meeting.

K Barrett

The Board agreed with the amendments to the Operational Rules as per the paper.

4.5 Women and Girls Rules

The Board considered the operational and competition rules for the RFL Women's League. The rules were accepted without any amendments.

The Board noted a paper on how the women's game will be organised in the 2012 competition.

4.6 Sport England Audit

Mr Gent advised the Board that over the last 18 months, Sport England, UK Sport and the DCMS have been looking at how sport was governed. The Board considered a paper on good governance and in particular the seven key principles of good governance as suggested by the Sport & Recreation Alliance. It was agreed that over the next two years, the Board will consider each principle and determine how best it can achieve the principles.

Mr Gent will produce the relevant papers on this at each Board meeting over the agreed period.

D Gent

4.7 Community Board Terms of Reference

The Board noted a draft terms of reference for the Board based on the regulations of the RFL. It was agreed that Board members would review the document and, at the next meeting of the Board, agree and finalise the terms of reference.

ALL

5. COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010 to 2012

5.1 Results of Final Quarter 2011

The Board considered the results from the final quarter of 2011 to achieve the RFL Community Strategy 2010 to 2012. It was noted that despite a year of numerous significant challenges such as de-commitment of WSP funding and significant staffing changes in both the

volunteer and paid staff, much had been achieved.

The Board noted that significant progress had been made in relation to Touch Rugby League. It was noted that the number of registered participants is now over 100,000. This has grown from a figure of 50,000 in the period from October 2010.

The Board asked various questions on the individual targets as to why they had or had not been achieved. Overall it had been a most successful year.

The Chairman stated he believes this to be a very good report in terms of doing what is right for the sport and its participants, and data such as this is key, as it sets out what everyone is trying to achieve.

5.2 Priorities for 2012

The Board noted and agreed the priorities for 2012 which are as follows:-

1. 109,000 registered 16+ participants on the RFL Database
2. Targeted work to increase frequency of participation (20 week participant)
3. Successful implementation of critical Four Seasons work
4. Business-as-Usual items
5. Begin realignment to 2013 strategy principles

5.3 Community Game Budget 2012

Mr Gent advised the Board of the challenges faced in terms of budgeting for the community game. Mr Gent confirmed that he and Mr Wood would look at a review of how the community game is financed and this will be discussed further at the July Community Board meeting but it was clear that the Board needs to look at other areas of funding. Mr Gent and Mr Birkett will be looking to speak with all members of the Board to provide assistance in this area.

D Gent

6. COMMUNITY GAME STRATEGY 2013 to 2017

6.1 Sport England Revised Strategy and Funding Principles

The Government was investing £1b into sport over the next five years and of this £450m will form Whole Sport Plans through National Governing Bodies. The submission date for applying for this will be the 14th of May 2012. Of this £450m funding, approximately £25 has been earmarked for investment into sport in higher education; and £48m into the transition from education into a community environment. A further £250m will be invested into sporting facilities to ensure participation is a high quality experience; whilst a further £150m will be available to schools and school games and £250m invested into local facilities such as County Sports Partnerships, and local authorities.

It was noted that a larger element (two-thirds) of funding will be from lottery funds and this will mean it will be less restrictive as to when the funding can be spent. Other factors were, for the first time the age would be from 14 (formerly 16) for participation and there will not be an overall national participation target. It was noted though that NGB's will still be subject to some form of national participation survey to measure overall performance.

Mr Gent confirmed that at the next Community Board a full presentation on the detail of the funding submission will be made.

M Birkett

6.2 Draft Community Game Strategy Principles

The Board received a presentation on the draft Community Game Strategy Principles for 2013 to 2017. The main purpose of the strategy was to meet the needs of Rugby League and receive sufficient external funding to support the sport properly.

The Board were content with the general direction and approach of the revised strategic approach. It was agreed to consider at the next meeting the strategy in written form for approval.

D Gent

7. COMPETITION

7.1 2012 Community Competition Structure

The Board received a presentation on the number of teams in the men's, womens' youth and junior, and wheelchair at tiers three and four of the RFL competition structure in 2012. It was noted that 79% of male adult players and 91% of youth & juniors will play in a March to November season structure for contact Rugby League. Mr Gent advised the Board of the various issues being faced or resolved at each tier of the competition

7.2 Community Cup Competitions

The Board considered a presentation on proposed community cup competitions for all these at tier three and four taking into account the majority of teams will play in a March to November season. It was noted that the Challenge Cup – to ensure entry from tiers three and four – needs to be renewed to allow for an appropriate access.

The Board whilst in agreement with the suggestions also stressed that there should be as little disruption to the new season as possible for 2012 but the view that all arrangements, be they changes or additions to the cup competitions, be sorted out and in place for the 2013 season.

7.3 Community Board International Group

Mr Gent confirmed that a very positive meeting of the above group had taken place on the 23rd of January and the minutes of this had been circulated to the members of the Community Board for their information. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 8th May 2012.

7.5 Primary Rugby League

Mr Gent advised the board that a review of the rules at this age level has now taken place and these rules will be presented at the next regulatory group meeting on the 13th of February and Youth & Junior Forum on the 11th February,

The Chairman stated the need for clarity on what the overarching intention is in order to ensure everyone who plays at this age level has an enjoyable experience and this is something which should form the basis of the policy. The terms of reference and remit of the Primary Rugby League working group will be presented to the Community Board for approval.

A Harland

8. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Player Pathway

Mr Gent advised the Board that as a result of various meetings, real strides have been made in relation to this area and at U15 and U16 age

groups it has been agreed for scholarship games and community games to not clash in the 2012 season calendar.

Mr Mather, who attended the meeting for this item on the agenda, advised the Board that throughout the process of setting the calendar all professional clubs have been aware of the importance of the community games which are scheduled to take place.

Mr Gent confirmed this is an area which will form part of the Sport England funding submission. He will meet with Mr Mather and the RFL Performance Department and table a paper at the next Community Board meeting in April which will seek to resolve or provide solutions to the issues outlined.

**D Gent &
BJ
Mather**

9. CLUBS

No items for this meeting

10. COACHING

No items for this meeting

11. VISIBILITY & PROFILE

No items for this meeting

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Mr Prior referred to the England Youth training camp which will clash with a BARLA cup competition. Mr Mather agreed to resolve this.

**BJ
Mather**

12.2 Mr Prior asked for a credit to be given to schools upon players being selected for scholarships as this was a detail which would keep players in schools as they recognise it as being part of the pathway to this level of playing. Mr Mather said he would feed this back and ensure it was incorporated at the professional clubs.

**BJ
Mather**

12.3 Mr Bray referred to issues and concerns in relation to safeguarding. Ms Barrett confirmed this matter will be dealt with at the next Regulatory Group meeting and the conclusions and recommendations will be brought to the Community Board in April to consider and approve.

K Barrett

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 11th April 2012

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.20pm.