

# MINUTES

## Community Board Meeting

<b>Location:</b>	RFL, House of Sport, Gate 13, Rowsley Street, Manchester, M11 3FF Parking - <b>M11 3DU</b>	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
		<b>Time:</b>	4.00 – 7.00pm
<b>Invited to Attend:</b>	Neil Ashton, Fred Baker, Jake Brook, Mark Cordeaux, Steve Curtis, Martin Coyd, Tony Fretwell, Anji Gardner, Lt Col David Groce, Trevor Hunt, Steve Langrick, Tracey Leung- Fullerton, Nick Leigh, Lee Mitchell, Stuart Prior, Sue Taylor	<b>Chair:</b>	Sandy Lindsay MBE
<b>RFL Officers in Attendance:</b>	Kelly Barrett, Marc Lovering, Robert Hicks (part) David Raybould (part)	<b>Invited Guests:</b>	
<b>Apologies:</b>			

Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> Ms Lindsay welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that each member provide a brief update on their background and involvement in rugby league.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>Minutes of the April meeting</b> The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each individual action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Community Board Terms of Reference – An agenda item for the meeting</li> <li>2) Championship &amp; League 1 Structure – Mr Sutton attended an NCL meeting to talk through the proposed structure. Mr Lovering providing an update at the meeting.</li> <li>3) Creation of a WhatsApp Group – Done</li> </ol>	

<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Community Board Terms of Reference</b> In advance of the meeting Ms Barrett had prepared and circulated a paper.</p> <p>The main changes to the Terms of Reference that required discussion were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of the Board</li> <li>• Meeting Structure</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> </ul> <p>The frequency of meetings was discussed with the Board agreeing that if a full day was required then notice must be given. Furthermore, it was requested that meeting dates be scheduled for the year so diaries and work commitments could be considered.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion the Board, in principle were supportive but requested that the membership section be reviewed to ensure that the Board has the appropriate people attending and representing the Community Game at the Rugby League Council meetings. Mr Ashton, for instance, felt that as the school's game represented a significant number of participants then there should be a representative in attendance at Council meeting.</p> <p>Ms Barrett and Mr Hicks are to take into consideration the above and circulate an amended Terms of Reference for the Board to approve prior to the next Council meeting in September.</p>	<p>Ms Barrett/Mr Hicks</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Game Wide Review – Refresh</b> Mr Raybould, RFL National Development Manager, joined the meeting and presented on player retention and a review and refresh of the Whole Game Review which took place prior to covid.</p> <p>The Board was concerned that we are seeing an increase in poor behaviour across the Community Game with an increase in safeguarding and unacceptable language and behaviour misconduct cases.</p> <p>Mr Coyd and Mr Baker stated that Club Accreditation was a good tool to improve standards of clubs and should be reintroduced.</p> <p>Mr Raybould will be leading on a piece of work in this area and will be producing an updated action plan to try and tackle these issues and will continue to provide updates to the Board and request feedback and involvement.</p>	<p>Mr Raybould</p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Regulatory Update</b> Ms Barrett provided an update on the work areas the Community Board Regulatory Group (CBREG) is undertaking in 2024.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay requested that a paper be prepared to explain the role and purpose of the CBREG, including who attends the meetings as it was felt that additional members of the Board might be useful additions to the Group. Ms Barrett agreed to prepare this and circulate to the Board.</p>	<p>Ms Barrett</p>
<p><b>7.0</b></p>	<p><b>League One Applications</b> Mr Lovering provided an update on the League One competition structure including applications received from Clubs which had expressed an interest to join League 1.</p>	

	<p>Mr Lovering confirmed that three clubs, Anglian Vipers, Bedford Tigers and Goole Vikings had formally applied following 11 expressions of interest. It was interesting to note the level of interest expressed by clubs from across the country and from different levels of the game. We are expecting a final decision to be announced in September.</p> <p>Linked to the wider competition structure update is the possibility of introducing movement between League 1 and the community leagues. The possibilities around this will be discussed further at the next Board meeting in September.</p>	<p>Mr Lovering</p>
<p><b>8.0</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Mr Lovering gave a brief update on the Match Officials strategy and the Coaching strategy – both of which will be presented back to the Board in September for input and thoughts.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay reminded Board members to feed in any items they wish to be placed on the agenda and to also keep each other informed about meetings and events from around the Community Game via the WhatsApp group Ms Lindsay is keen for members of the Community Board to be visible across the Community Game. Ms Leung-Fullerton suggested some kind of badge or identifier could be produced and given to all Board members – Ms Barrett to explore.</p> <p>Mr Ashton wished to place on record his appreciation to Andrea Murray and Jonny Dowler for all their work on the Champion Schools Competition. He also thanked BARLA for their support in providing water bottles and balls for each school. There was also discussion about the trophies being used in this tournament as well as a question on why the Y7 final is boys only, rather than alternated, for instance, with girls – Ms Barrett to explore more on both topics and feedback.</p>	<p>Ms Barrett</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Ms Barrett</p> <p>Ms Barrett</p>
<p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Close</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.00pm.</p>	