

MINUTES

Community Board Meeting

Location:	RFL, House of Sport, Gate 13, Rowsley Street, Manchester, M11 3FF	Date:	Wednesday 20 September 2023
		Time:	4.00pm – 7.00pm
Invited to Attend:	Fred Baker, Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton MBE, Stuart Prior, Sue Taylor, Lee Mitchell, Steve Curtis, Neil Ashton, Trevor Hunt	Chair Person:	Marc Lovering
RFL Officers in Attendance:	Kelly Barrett, Robert Hicks, Darby Sladdin	Invited Guests:	
Apologies:	Sandy Lindsay MBE, Peter Moran		

Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome & Apologies Mr Lovering welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Ms Lindsay was unable to attend the meeting.</p>	
2.0	<p>Minutes of the June meeting The minutes of the 21st of June 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
3.0	<p>Matters Arising The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each individual action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Community Game Governance Guidance – Is now completed and available on the website. This is also referenced in the More than a Sport Report. 2) Enjoy the Game – An update is provided in the More than a Sport Report. 3) Coach Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New online booking system through RFL Webpage will go live by end of September with new courses available at the back end of 2023. - Level 2 Review still ongoing. Warrington College to set up and train Chris Spurr on Google Classroom to create online content. Delay with the College closed during summer. 4) Sport England Reporting – Update provided in the More than a Sport Report. 	Kelly Barrett

	<p>5) Community Board Evaluation Survey – Board to continue to feedback. 6) Community Board Skills Matrix – An agenda item for the meeting. 7) Our League Active – An agenda item for the meeting. 8) Volunteer Strategy – An agenda item for the meeting.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Brain Health Mr Hicks presented an update on the Brain Health recommendations work which has been undertaken by the Brain Health subcommittee and provided some initial feedback.</p> <p>There are 46 recommendations which cover both the Professional and Community Game and cover potential amendments in operations, on field laws, medical and first aid, and coaching support. Mr Hicks took the Board through each of the recommendations relevant to the Community Game.</p> <p>He noted that there is a further Brain Health meeting in mid-October, followed by a Laws Committee on the 1st of November and then an RFL Board meeting later that month.</p> <p>The Community Board were asked that this information be kept confidential at this stage and assured they would be kept updated on the recommended changes.</p> <p>The Board discussed and debated several points and understood there would be an opportunity to debate and discuss the recommendations at Council on 4 October 2023.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Volunteer Strategy Mr Darby Sladdin, the RFL Volunteer and Social Impact Officer, joined the meeting to present on the new Volunteer Strategy that has been created.</p> <p>The strategy comprises of four key areas of volunteer support (Grow, Develop, Value, Diversify) and sets out our ambitions for volunteering.</p> <p>A roadmap for delivery, annual action plan and baseline measures underpin this strategy and provide the building blocks for success. A copy of the strategy can be found HERE.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>More than a Sport Report – Mid Year Strategy Update In advance of the meeting, the Community Board were issued with the More than a Sport Mid-Year Review.</p> <p>Mr Lovering took them through a summary of the main areas to note as detailed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The numbers of active participants who participate in community club settings are up 4% compared to the mid-point of 2022. • The RLWC2021 contributed to a significant increase in the numbers of females playing rugby league (up 28%) and taking part in inclusive playing offers (up 51%) at the midpoint. • Community Rugby League at male open age is facing challenges with concerns over the number of teams withdrawing from structured competition. • Reducing the rates and risks of concussion and sub-concussive events through a clear action plan is a priority for the organisation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social offers of Rugby League including non, limited, and minimal contact have become more of an integral part of Rugby League’s active participants in 2023. • New and enlarged programmes continue to drive growth in the numbers of girls playing the sport for the first time. • We are now entering Phase 3 of the Women and Girls Strategy which launched in 2017 which will see continued evolution of a full national pyramid. • The current financial climate is challenging for clubs which we continue to support daily through a variety of initiatives. • We are working with 28 Foundations who are supporting the delivery of Area Development Plans. • Projects and initiatives designed to improve touchline behaviours and environments have resulted in a slight reduction in the number of misconduct cases. • Participation numbers across education settings have increased in 2022-2023. • We continue to work on programmes designed to increase personal development and improve health and wellbeing. • We have significantly increased our data capabilities leading to more informed decision making and a more targeted approach to supporting under-represented groups. • As part of our drive to build stronger communities we are encouraging clubs to become environmentally sustainable, and this forms a key part of our decision making. • We have delivered against our obligation to deliver a new Volunteer Strategy. • With the ongoing support of Sport England and the Football Foundation we continue to ensure community clubs can access facilities funding. <p>A full copy of the report is available on the RFL website HERE.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Community Board Skills Matrix</p> <p>In advance of the meeting, the Community Board undertook a skills and competencies matrix which Kelly Barrett provided an update on.</p> <p>This identified that we had a lot of experience on the Board of running/managing competitions and working with volunteers however there were gaps in experience in playing, coaching, social offers, disability sports, women and girls and equality, diversity, and inclusion.</p> <p>It was noted that three of the current Community Board members were standing down at the end of 2023, so this was as an appropriate time to review and recruit new members to the Community Board.</p> <p>Agreed that an open and transparent recruitment process would take place in October/November this year.</p>	

	Ms Barrett to update Ms Lindsay and then move forward with advertising for new Community Board Members.	Ms Barrett
8.0	<p>Our League Active Update In advance of the meeting Ms Barrett prepared a paper on Our League Active.</p> <p>The Community Board received an update on the income received to date and the associated costs.</p> <p>The Board were also asked to consider a review of the Our League Active fees for 2024 and were presented with various options. It was agreed that the fees would be increased in 2024 by £1. This will now go to the RFL Board for ratification.</p>	
9.0	<p>Any Other Business Mr Clayton informed the Board that this would be his last Community Board meeting as he was retiring from the RAF and a replacement would be sought to represent UK Armed Forces. The Community Board thanked Mr Clayton for his support and contribution over the years.</p> <p>Mr Hunt expressed concern that there appears to be a shortage in match officials across the game, with Cumbria in particular being a region of concern. Mr Lovering stated that the Match Officials department are currently creating a match officials recruitment strategy which aims to help resolve this. Mr Lovering agreed to pick up with them.</p> <p>Mrs Taylor stated that any monies that BARLA received relating to misconduct cases would be put into a pot to either provide more head cams or education to the game. Mrs Taylor hoped that other Leagues would also do the same. Ms Barrett agreed to pick up separately with BARLA and the Leagues when we conduct a review of the season.</p> <p>Mr Ashton thanked BARLA for their support in providing a bag of balls, and water bottles for those in the final. He went on to say that they were delighted that the Y7 final was back at Wembley.</p>	<p>Mr Lovering</p> <p>Ms Barrett</p>
10.0	<p>Meeting Close The meeting closed at 7.10pm</p>	