

## RFL COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR SUMMARY – 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024

Dear Community Game Colleagues,

The Community Board met on Tuesday evening which was the second meeting of the newly enlarged group (see picture – it was a full house with three joining on Teams). The first meeting in April was very much an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and reconfirm and agree the purpose of the Board and how we would engage and share ideas. The intention was then for the Terms of Reference to be amended to reflect the changes agreed.

The most significant change to the Board has been its membership, as we move to having representatives and members who have broader skills from across the Community Game which has evolved considerably over the past few years. Further information on your Board will be shared with you separately, giving more details on the members.



Robert Hicks and Kelly Barrett presented the suggested revised Terms of Reference. In principle the Board was supportive however they requested that the membership section be reviewed to ensure that we had the appropriate people attending and representing the Community Game at the Rugby League Council meetings. In advance of the next scheduled meeting in September we agreed to have a way forward finalised.

Next on the agenda was David Raybould, National Development Manager, who presented on player retention following a review and refresh of the Whole Game Review which took place prior to covid. It is concerning that we are seeing an increase in poor behaviour across the Community Game. David 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. Given the significance of this piece of work we have asked that David continues to attend and update the Board moving forward.



Marc Lovering then provided an update on competition structure including applications received from Clubs which had expressed an interest to join League 1. Marc 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. 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.

Marc also 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.

Many thanks for reading as always and do let us know your thoughts.

**Sandy Lindsay MBE**  
**Chair RFL Community Board**