



RFL COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR SUMMARY – 11th SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Community Game Colleagues,

The Community Board met on Wednesday evening. We began by announcing the very sad news that the Warrington Wolves and England Lions PDRL player Mike Addison had tragically passed away the night before. Mike played in the same England PDRL team as Community Board member Nick Leigh who was able to eloquently put into words what a positive impact Mike had across the sport.

We received the latest update on the development of the new coaching and match officials' strategies as both areas impact considerably on the community game. We are expecting both to be finalised by the end of the year.

The first substantive item on the agenda was the Terms of Reference of the Community Board, which as I reported from the previous meeting, have been adapted to reflect the changes to the game and the committee.

The recently updated Community Board includes individuals with a wide range of skills, knowledge, and experience, some of whom have been with us a while and many new members. This diversity ensures that the Board is well-equipped to address, engage and inspire the various aspects of the community game. The members bring expertise from across multiple areas, including:

- Running community clubs, managing competitions, playing, officiating, coaching, volunteering, disability sports and other settings of the Community Game and education settings.

For further details on the Community Board members please visit the RFL website. [HERE](#)

The Community Board received a summary of the "More than a Sport" Mid-Year Review for 2024 which provides an overview of the activity undertaken by the Development Team up to the end of August against the objectives set out in the Community Strategy. This includes reporting on the number of participants currently playing Rugby League. The RFL Council will receive an update at their meeting next week, following which it will be shared with the Community Game. We are frequently asked about the work the RFL does across the Community Game and this review does give a comprehensive overview so please do take the opportunity to review once it is circulated.

Mr Lovering then provided an update on the application process that has been running to select a new club to join League 1 and the potential for promotion and relegation between League 1 and the Community Game. There was an interesting discussion around the advantages and disadvantages of movement between competitions with an appetite to discuss the possibilities in greater detail. Both matters will be considered by colleagues on the RFL Board next week and it was agreed that a working group should be set up to brainstorm new ideas and approaches going forward

The Community Board discussed the revenue generated by the Our League Active scheme during 2024 and the associated costs of servicing the Community Game. While these costs have risen, they are not isolated, reflecting wider pressures on our communities, which generated healthy debate. There remains a substantial and increasing gap between the scheme's income and the costs of servicing the Community Game. The Board agreed in principle of the need to increase the fees in 2025 but requested more information in a number of areas. Part of the revenues generated by the scheme come from donations, which have accrued over the last two years and are ringfenced to be reinvested directly in the Community Game. The Community Board will give further thought to the distribution of these funds at the next meeting.

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

Sandy Lindsay MBE
Chair RFL Community Board