

# MINUTES

## Community Board Meeting

<b>Location:</b>	RFL, House of Sport, Gate 13, Rowsley Street, Manchester, M11 3FF	<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 3 April 2024
		<b>Time:</b>	4.00 – 7.00pm
<b>In attendance:</b>	Jake Brook, Mark Cordeaux, Steve Curtis, Martin Coyd, Tony Fretwell, Anji Gardner, Trevor Hunt, Steve Langrick, Tracey Leung-Fullerton, Nick Leigh, Stuart Prior	<b>Chair Person:</b>	Sandy Lindsay MBE
<b>RFL Officers in Attendance:</b>	Kelly Barrett, Marc Lovering, Tony Sutton	<b>Invited Guests:</b>	Maria Wright (Executive Coach)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Neil Ashton, Fred Baker, Lt Col David Groce, Lee Mitchell, Sue Taylor		

Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Ms Lindsay welcomed all Community Board members to the first meeting of 2024. There are several new members who have been recruited to the Board and the main aim of the meeting was to hopefully assist everyone in understanding how we will operate as a Board going forward.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>What makes an effective Board?</b></p> <p>Ms Lindsay introduced Marie Wright from Bold Bean Coaching who ran a session allowing members to get to know each other, clarify the purpose of the Board and start to think about how the Board should operate in a united way.</p> <p>Each Board member gave an overview on their experience within the Community Game and what they brought to the Board in terms of skills, knowledge, and experience.</p> <p>The Board then discussed their purpose, how they would engage on the Board and shared ideas as to how this would work.</p> <p>Ms Lindsay thanked Ms Wright for running the workshop.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Community Board Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>Ms Lindsay stated that we would be reviewing the Community Board Terms of Reference as, going forward, the Board will be a mix of representatives and people with relevant skills and experience. A paper will be prepared in advance of the next meeting.</p>	Ms Barrett

4.0

**Development 2023 Review and 2024 Plans**

Mr Lovering provided the Board with an update on the work undertaken by the development team in 2023 and the 2024 plans.

Points to note:

- Active Participants are up 5%
- Accelerated growth in Women and Girls (33%) Wheelchair (74%) Inclusive offers overall 51%
- Open age numbers overall no change but men are down 3%. David Raybould will be leading on a review of lapsed and existing players.
- 44 Brain Health Recommendations – Ongoing implementation and review
- 200 events 30 showcase finals delivered by the team.
- Community players opportunity to play for country through England Community Lions 9 teams - 27 games first ever women’s tour to Serbia.
- 13,982 players across 5 different social formats – TTR important partnership

The More than a Sport Review of 2023 can be found [HERE](#) where more detail is available.

Mr Lovering, in advance of the meeting had shared the Community Strategy Refresh 2024 document and the 2024 National Facilities Strategy.

The strategy refresh document covers 3 Roadmaps – Core Community, Education and Social Impact. There are 15 work programme areas which directly link to strategic goals, milestones and measurables with timelines and responsibility assigned to relevant staff.

The focus for 2024 are:

- Retention – big focus on the dropout rate and understanding why
- Consolidation of new programmes launched in 2023
- Communication – We need to tell the story better on what the Community Game delivers. We have a new communications role which will assist in this
- Partnerships – Try Tag Rugby and Community Integrated Care – we need to ensure we continue to build those relationships.

Finally, Ms Barrett provided an update on Enjoy the Game.

Key Measures	End of Year 2021	End of Year 2022	End of Year 2023	Reduction 22 v 23
Reduction in Match Official abuse	200	200	108	46%
Improved behaviour of touchlines in the Community Game/ Improved behaviour of coaches and players	1010	817	590	28%

	<b>Improved behaviours in crowds at Professional Clubs</b>	21	45	25	44%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campaign name changed from 'Enjoy the Game' to 'Respect'. There will be a new communications strategy and marketing toolkit which will be rolled out during the year</li> <li>- Leeds Rhinos currently running a pilot on parent and coach workshops to educate and change behaviour</li> <li>- The Head cams will continue to be used across the community game.</li> </ul>						
<b>5.0</b>	<p><b>Championship &amp; League 1 Structure</b>          Mr Sutton joined the meeting and provided an update on the proposed Competition Structure in 2025 for Championship and League 1 which potentially could include movement between Tier 3 and 4.</p> <p>Mr Hunt requested the Mr Sutton attend an NCL Management Group to explain the rationale. Mr Sutton agreed to attend a meeting.</p> <p>In addition, a linked piece of work is under way, reviewing the community game structure beneath Tier 3. Mr Lovering is internally leading on a group to review this which will be widened to include external stakeholders over the next couple of months.</p> <p>The consensus was that there should be a pyramid, however there were factors to work through.</p>					Mr Sutton
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>          Wheelchair RL – Mr Coyd wanted to put on record that Wheelchair RL appreciate the financial support that the RFL have provided through the Created By towards the cost of purchasing wheelchairs.</p> <p>Meeting Dates - Ms Barrett to share the dates with the Board to check availability.</p> <p>All agreed that a Community Board WhatsApp Group would be a useful way to communicate in between meeting, as well as to enable Board members to receive and be able to help disseminate social media posts. This will be created.</p>					Ms Barrett
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>Meeting Close</b>          The meeting closed at 7.00pm.</p>					