



MINUTES

Community Board Meeting

Location:	RFL, House of Sport, Gate 13, Rowsley Street, Manchester, M11 3FF	Date:	Wednesday 22 nd March 2023
		Time:	4.00pm – 7.00pm
In Attendance:	Neil Ashton, Fred Baker, Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton MBE, Steve Curtis, Trevor Hunt, Lee Mitchell, Peter Moran, Stuart Prior, Jan Robinson, Sue Taylor	Chair Person:	Sandy Lindsay MBE
RFL Officers in Attendance:	Marc Lovering, Kelly Barrett, Robert Hicks, Tony Sutton, Rhodri Jones	Invited Guests:	Amy Whitehead (Liverpool John Moores University)

Apologies:

Item No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	Welcome & Apologies Ms Lindsay welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.0	Minutes of the November meeting The minutes of the 30 th of November 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.	
3.0	Matters Arising The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each individual action. 1) Community Game Governance Guidance – In progress. 2) Coach Education – An agenda item at the meeting. 3) Match Official Update – Noted that Liam Moore has stepped down from his role as MO Development Officer - Ryan Cox has been appointed and will pick up the appointments officer role and the development of match officials. The specific data request would sit with the societies so this is something we will look to review during 2023. 4) Make up of the Community Board – Thank you to those members that fed back their thoughts. This will be an agenda item for the June Meeting and Ms Lindsay asked anyone else with any thoughts to feed them through and then a paper will be issued ahead of the next meeting.	Ms Barrett

	<p>Mr Moran requested clarification on the insurance cover in place to mitigate the risks associated with potential historical litigation cases linked to concussion.</p> <p>Mr Hicks confirmed that the historic claims are covered under the Public Liability and Employers Liability Policies that are in place to protect the game.</p>	
4.0	<p>IMG</p> <p>Mr Sutton, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the RFL and Mr Jones, the Managing Director of Rugby League Commercial, joined the meeting to provide a comprehensive overview of the IMG grading recommendations.</p> <p>The Community Board, although broadly supportive of the IMG recommendations, was concerned that there was no reference to the Community Game in the grading criteria. They were reassured that there would be reference to this in the minimum standards that Clubs need to comply with, which would be linked to Development Plans.</p> <p>It was agreed that a copy of the minimum standards would be shared with them ahead of the Special General Meeting in April.</p>	Mr Hicks
5.0	<p>Enjoy the Game</p> <p>Liverpool John Moores University joined the meeting to provide an update to the Community Board on the touchline project that had taken place during the 2022 season. The RFL commissioned Liverpool John Moores University to undertake a research project to monitor touchline environments. They have observed games, undertaken focus groups and conducted a survey with parents.</p> <p>The main theme that came out of the project was that the competitive nature of games had a detrimental effect on the behaviours of coaches and touchlines from Under 12 upwards. Various projects are ongoing in this area, which we will use the research from to progress a paper to be returned to the Community Board.</p> <p>Linked to the review of coaching courses it was further suggested that the behaviours of coaches and their impact on touchlines needs to be part of the coaching assessment.</p>	Mr Lovering
6.0	<p>Head Impact</p> <p>Mr Hicks provided an update on concussive and sub concussive impact in the sport. This included a brief update regarding litigation, insurance, education, and awareness that has been ongoing. He also updated the Community Board on the SRA pan-sport concussion guidelines that the RFL has worked on with government and other sports, this will be rolled out at the end of March.</p> <p>There is a lot of work ongoing in this area and the Board expects to be updated further as the year goes on. Once the SRA guidance is published there will be a series of workshops for clubs, coaches and first aiders, and communication will be sent directly to participants.</p> <p>The Community Board was fully supportive of the need to educate the community game on concussion protocols. It was suggested we should have</p>	

	<p>a themed round which was focused on “looking after your mates” so that players become more self-policing if a head injury occurs.</p> <p>Marc Lovering also confirmed that work is underway to bring in necessary changes from 2024 onwards linked to our desire to ensure we do all we can to mitigate risk. This includes calendar planning, the need for a defined and consistent off-season, review of Primary Rugby League rules and potential law modifications. This will be an agenda item for the next Community Board meeting.</p>	Mr Lovering
7.0	<p>Southern Regional Development Forum Mr Baker provided an update on the work that has been undertaken to form a new Southern Regional Development Forum (SRDF) and supporting groups.</p> <p>One intervention already actioned is the formation of the Southern Competition Management Group (SCMG) which has been formed to be able to support and develop competition structure and format across the South of the country. This group will provide transparency and connectivity across the four regions and competitions and will sit as a subgroup of the SRDF.</p> <p>Mr Baker was appreciative of the support that Stephen Guan (Southern Regional Development Manager) had given in setting up these groups as there was a lot of coordination and effort required to engage with different stakeholders from across the region.</p> <p>It was agreed we will continue to monitor the introduction of the groups with a view to introducing these in other regions.</p>	
8.0	<p>Coaching Mr Mitchell and Mr Baker provided an update on progress made on the review of coach education. Initially the focus seems to be on the course content rather than the delivery of courses.</p> <p>The Community Board requested that a project plan, including the scope of reviewing the delivery of coach education including CPD, be presented at the next meeting. Ms Barrett to speak to Mr Tunningley and Mr Spurr on this.</p> <p>Linked to the touchline behaviour project above, the evidence is clear that coaches’ behaviour can and does have a detrimental effect on a player’s experience and touchlines. It is therefore important that these are addressed in any coach education.</p>	Ms Barrett
9.0	<p>Any Other Business Ms Lindsay congratulated Mr Sutton on his appointment as RFL Chief Executive Officer, which the Community Board also echoed.</p>	
10.0	<p>Meeting Close The meeting closed at 7.00pm</p>	

11.0	Date and time of the next meeting The next meeting will be held on the 21 st of June at the RFL Offices.	
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