**“Promoting Rugby for One and All”**

**“Avonsya Rugbi Rag Onen Hag Oll”**

Minutes of the Management Board Meeting

Wednesday 30th Aug 23, 7pm @ Camborne RFC.

**Present:** David Saunter, Jane Bell, Andy Richards, Kevin Thomas, Tony Knightsbridge, Alan Milliner, Paul Hayes, Daubroy Delahunty, Lee Maher, Tom Magill, Bill Hooper, Cozette Shrosbree, Ashley Shopland, Joanne Holden & Nicola McCombe.

**On Zoom:** Andy Reed & Reggie Gough.

**Welcome:** Chairman Dave Saunter welcomed everyone, especially AS, new Hon. Treasurer & JH, new Women’s Rugby Representative.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Steve Murley.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** All agreed that these were a true and accurate record they were signed by David Saunter.
3. **Matters arising:** None

**Confidential Items under Item 7:**

1. **Reports;**

**Executive:** Executive has not met.

**Treasurer’s Report:** AR had sent out the accounts. The accounts for 22/23 had been finalised and were with the accountants. Overall a profit circ £20k due mainly to 2 home games in Bill Beaumont Cup. Funding for representative rugby £6k from RFU. Men’s spend last season was £24k, Under 20s £6k over budget, Women’s broke even.

**RFU Council Rep:** AM had circulated his report which made for gloomy reading from HQ. AM added his congratulations to St. Austell RFC on winning the Cornwall Cup. Truro were delighted hosting the final. Also thanks to CRFU officials who manned the gates. He had concerns about the path the RFU was heading and the divisions that are all too apparent. DS reported that 6 Nations ticket sales for 2024 appeared flat.

**Finance & Governance:** PH reported that the committee hadn’t met will do once AR & AS have completed the handover of the Finances.

**Club Development & Volunteers:** TM had no report.

Request from Bodmin RFC for retrospective grant £500 for tarmacing and works from last season plus a further £500 grant towards a total £31k spend on facilities at the club. TM recommended and asked for MB approval which was passed. DS reminded everyone that we need to push our clubs to apply for grants. NM asked how much was left in the pot AR said we had £4k left in the pot. Rachel Millar could push on the club visits.

**Safeguarding:** CS had sent in her report.

CB audit to be done, clubs aware of their audit to be completed. NM said the portal was updating weekly to show which clubs had completed. NM will ensure CS has access. Next week meeting with referee’s society and also assisting Helston RFC with GMS and DBS checks.

**Game Development:** DD had sent in a report.

DD had managed to recruit some new members to his committee. Needs to look at budget to see what program he can put in place. Bringing in coaches, coaching conference and the awards scheme. Course numbers were again a concern with some in danger of being cancelled. Club Clusters to be looked at and will be re-jigged. Celebration of rugby, archive material at county matches.

**Youth & Education:** TK reported that from their ERDPP Under 18s, 12 girls had been selected for the COE. However, they are barred from playing age grade County matches. Big blow to the rest of the squad. Potentially we could be looking for a new coach for the Boys Under 18s. Andy Hawken has done 10 years and will be stepping down. Mark Pullen could also call it a day. TK will speak to Mark Pullen next month.

**Representative Rugby:** KT had sent in a report. Asked MB to confirm appointment of Senior Coaches Graham Dawe, Marek Churcher & Chris Fuca. Approved.

Proposed match v Royal Navy, 28th February 24 at St. Austell RFC. Discussion around potential player availability and the time of year given the weather.

General consensus was we are keen to play. JH asked about the possibility of a Women’s fixture against RN Women. KT would ask the question.

Selectors, Trevor Spargo has done 14 years as selector. Trevor has indicated that he will step down at end of 23/24 season. Requested the Nominations Committee to consider an award to Trevor. There is a volunteer who has agreed to shadow this season with a view to taking on a Selectors role in season 24/25. This would be on a no expenses no vote basis whilst shadowing. MB agreed.

**Competitions:** LM will contact clubs as some of the regulations in the County Handbook are incorrect. Correct ones are on the website.

Consultation with clubs regarding the re-jigging of Cornwall Counties Leagues for 24/25 season. 16 responses, only 2 against. Counties 2 & 3 would be reduced from 12 clubs to 10 clubs. Reason being we have no room in the current leagues for new teams coming in, nor if any Cornish club from Counties 1 is relegated.

The idea is to then create a Counties 4, 6 sides currently playing in the Merit Table, they will be invited to join Counties 4 for 24/25 season. It would give the league structure some wriggle room if needed. Competitions committee have approved the changes.

A good discussion took place regarding pro and cons of the proposed set-up. DS felt that we needed to see how the Merit Table fixtures go during first part of the season. If games are not being played then we will have to think again.

Also potential incentives to help support struggling sides in the Merit Table to keep rugby being played.

**Rugby Safe:** RGsubmitted his report. Mentioned that Bob Hubble had stepped down as RugbySafe lead at Falmouth RFC.

**Diversity & Inclusion:** No report from SM.

**Discipline:** BH reported a first Match Official Abuse report from the Cornwall Cup Final involving a member of the Cornwall Referee’s Society. Still collating statements at this stage.

**Correspondence:**

JB had received a request for information from minutes from 1908 concerning how Cornwall were informed of their participation in that year’s Olympic Games in London. Would require a visit to All Store.

**A.O.B:**

JH spoke about the Women & Girls Forum, an attempt to get a better structure for the Women’s game.

KT, regarding sponsorship, feels that we need a dedicated person to deal with sponsorships and partnerships. Need to look after existing sponsors but also lookout for new opportunities with our great brand. KT is happy to draft an advert for that type of person. DS said he and SM had discussed the issue and were happy to be involved, happy for KT to draft advert.

AM, Carl Price Chairman of Truro RFC is very poorly.

AR, His name had been taken off by RFU as contact for International Tickets. Other clubs had also had problems. PH said that St. Austell also affected, appears to be a fault at RFU end. NM was aware of an issue.

DS, Thanked Andy for his work and transparent records in his time as Hon Treasurer, round of applause.

BH, Nominations Committee, need another member. AR was proposed and voted on as the third man!

DS, Meeting with O’Neills due at Bodmin KT & AS to attend. Peter Kennedy bringing down his replacement.

DS, Congratulated St. Austell on winning the County Cup and indeed all 3 of their senior sides all winning their respective County Cups for season 22/23. Great feat.

DS passed on the sad news that Logan Treloar only 15 years old, had passed away having suffered with lymphatic leukaemia. We presented him with a Cornwall shirt and shorts. DS had expressed the CRFU’s condolences to the family.

DS reminded the MB that his term of office as Chairman will end at the 2024 AGM. He will seek out a replacement from within the current MB.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27th September @ Bodmin RFC, 7 pm

Meeting closed at 8:54pm.

*Approved: Wed 27th Sep 23 via Zoom / Chair – David Saunter*