

MIDDLESEX NOTES ON THE RFU COUNCIL MEETING Held at Twickenham - 8th April 2016

The meeting was chaired by the President, Jason Leonard.

1. Premiership Rugby Limited (PRL) Agreement

(Ian Ritchie - RFU Chief Executive)

i. Progress

- a. Ian Ritchie presented the principles of the new agreement to Council.
- b. These have been agreed with the finer detail now being finalised.

ii. Academies

- a. Rob Andrew presented the potential new Academy structure as licenses expire on 30th June 2016.
- b. The new Academy structure will be included in the new PRL Agreement.
- c. The proposed structure changes boundaries and some CBs will be split across two Academies.
- d. In the current proposed structure, Middlesex will be aligned with Saracens and London Irish.
- e. Rob Andrew reminded Council that the Academy structure is meant to result in a world class development system and not result in a recruitment frenzy, although there will be a small deviance with boundaries depending on where the payer lives/goes to school.

2. Chief Executive's Report

(Ian Ritchie - RFU Chief Executive)

i. 6Nations

- a. Ian Ritchie offered his congratulations to Eddie Jones and the full team for winning the 6Nations Championship and Grand Slam.

ii. Rio Olympics

- a. Preparations are continuing with the 7s teams ahead of the Rio Olympics, although there are concerns with the readiness of the venue.

iii. Staffing Changes

- a. Ian Ritchie confirmed the announcement of Joanna Manning-Cooper as the new RFU Director of Digital, Marketing and Communications
- b. The Commercial Director recruitment is still in the final interview stages.

3. Proposal to Rescind ACR Resolution

(Malcolm Wharton - Chairman of the Community Game Board)

- i. Malcolm Wharton presented the reasoning behind the CGB recommendation to propose rescinding the suspension on implementation of the ACR recommendations.
- ii. The CGB will be considering what areas of the ACR are implementable and will report back to Council at the next meeting.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation to rescind the ACR recommendation.
Votes For: 32 / Votes Against: 16 / Abstained: 4
Rob Udwin and Louise Latter voted Against.

4. Nominations Standing Committee Report

(Simon Collyer-Bristow - Chairman of the Nomination Standing Committee)

- i. Council noted the report of the Standing Committee Report.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that W B Beaumont CBE DL and IR Ritchie be the Representatives on World Rugby for the Season 2016-17.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that J Leonard OBE be the Immediate Past President on Council for the Season 2016-17.
- iv. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that D Griffin OBE be the Women and Girls' Representative for the Season 2016-17

5. Approval of Borrowing

(Stephen Brown - RFU Chief Financial Officer)

- i. Council noted the report provided by Stephen Brown on the recent approval by the Board for the RFU to enter into a new £50m Revolving Credit Facility with RBS for 5 years.
- ii. The increased borrowing is to fund the East Stand redevelopment and the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) Strategy in the Community Game.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation to authorize the drawing down of funds above the £25 million level up to the £50 million limit of the facility as required by the business.

6. AGM 2016 Calling Notice

(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Garden Hotel, 2 – 24 Kensington High Street, London W8 4PT on Friday 3rd June 2016 at 17:00.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the AGM 2016 Calling Notice.

7. New Rules of Play

(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. Council noted the update to the New Rules of Play.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that the Under 12s New Rules of Play (currently discretionary) be rolled out on a mandatory basis across clubs and schools in England from September 2016 and thereafter.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that the Under 13s New Rules of Play (currently trialling) be rolled out on a mandatory basis across clubs and schools in England from September 2016 and thereafter.
- iv. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that delegated authority be granted to Chris Cuthbertson, Clive Leeke, Mark Saltmarsh and Alys Lewis to finalise the draft New Rules of Play in advance of next season.

8. Student Pass Pilot

(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. Council noted the update to the Student Pass Pilot.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that the pilot be extended for the 2016-17 season.

9. NatWest Regulations

(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. Council noted the update to the NatWest Regulations in relation to the NatWest Cup/Champions Trophy format changes.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation to approve the structural changes and to grant delegated authority to Jeff Blackett, Stuart Potts, Mark Saltmarsh and Alys Lewis to make such changes to the NatWest Cup and Champions Trophy Regulations as may be required as a result of the revised **competition structure**.

10. Compensation Advisory Panel (CAP)

(Geoff Simpson – Chairman of the Compensation Advisory Panel)

- i. Geoff Simpson presented the background to the existing Compensation Scheme and issues that have been identified with the existing scheme.
- ii. The Compensation Scheme was originally established to ensure that those Council members with the appropriate qualities should not be prevented or deterred by their employment arrangements from seeking election to the Board of Directors. Compensation paid to their employers would allow release from employment for them to carry out their duties. This is a very special dispensation as every other volunteer in the game, including Council members not on the Board, have to accommodate their contribution as a volunteer within the constraints of any employment commitment.
- iii. Council discussed some of the issues around the existing scheme and requested further information on the existing scheme to be circulated for review.
- iv. Council will be sent a summary of the existing scheme and compensation amounts, along with a questionnaire to complete. The results of this questionnaire will be presented and recommendations submitted for Council to vote on at the June meeting.

11. Chairman's Report

(Bill Beaumont – RFU Chairman of the Board of Directors)

- i. Bill Beaumont updated Council on the status of his application to become Chairman of World Rugby. Bill Beaumont is the only nomination and would mean that it is the first time an English representative holds the position.
- ii. The official World Rugby vote will be held on 11th May 2016. If successful, he will take up the role as of 1st July 2016 and will have 6 months to relinquish all other positions.

12. World Rugby U20s Championship

(Rob Andrew – RFU Director of Professional Rugby)

- i. Rob Andrew updated Council on the World Rugby U20s Championship and introduced three of the competition organising committee.
 - a. The competition runs from 7th – 25th June 2016 in Manchester, with 30 matches played in 2 venues. 12 teams.
 - b. This is the first time since 2003 that the RFU have hosted a junior World Cup.
 - c. 18 matches will be broadcast live by Sky Sports with the other matches being streamed by World Rugby.
 - d. CBs are encouraged to promote the tournament in their communications and on their websites.
www.englandrugby.com/U20championship
#FutureStarsofRugby
 - e. Ticket prices range from £5 for Juniors, £10-£15 for adults for the pool games up to £25 for the Final.
 - f. Council were updated on the Activation and Legacy programme around the U20s World Cup, which is focused on the North West area and are aiming to have 25 new club teams by October 2016, 50 new young referees and 50 new young coaches and a young rugby reporters competition.
 - g. Council were encouraged to support and attend matches.

13. Financial Report

(Steve Brown - RFU Chief Financial Officer)

- i. Steve Brown presented the Flash Financial Reports for January and February 2016. The Union continues to be in a strong financial position.

14. Professional Game Board (PGB) Report

(Ian Metcalfe - Chairman of the Professional Game Board)

- i. Ian Metcalf updated Council on the work of the PGB.

15. Community Game Board

(Malcolm Wharton - Chairman of the Community Game Board)

- i. Malcolm Wharton updated Council on the ongoing work of the CGB and its sub-committees.
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16. Governance Report

(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. Karena Vleck updated Council on the ongoing work of the Governance Committee.

17. International Rugby Report

(Bill Beaumont , John Spencer, Rob Udwin and Ben Calveley)

- i. Council questioned the intervention of World Rugby in the Joe Marler case. Karena Vleck updated Council on the disciplinary hearing and that there would be no appeal.
- ii. The RFU cannot prevent World Rugby from stepping in. It was noted that World Rugby need to provide clear specifics of when they will intervene.
- iii. It was noted that World Rugby need to address the issues with FFR in relation to domestic and international issues.

The next Council meeting is on 3rd June 2016.

Rob Udwin & Louise Latter

8th April 2016

These notes are our personal recollections of the meeting and include those matters which we believe will be of interest to Middlesex Clubs. No attempt has been made to convey all of the opinions expressed during the debates.