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| **1** | **Apologies** | **ATTENDANCE** |
|  | Mal Yates  Jackie Dyer  Mike Waplington | Jeff Mapp (Chair)  Richard Carpenter (Treasurer)  Dave Andrews (Game Dev.)  Brad Magnus (Hon Sec)  Tim Bembridge (NLD Disc Chair)  Sam Heath (Derbyshire RFU)  Chris Brookes (RFU Council)  Dilwyn Evans (Resources)  Bob Curry (Hon. President)  David Brett (Facilities)  Paul John (Refs Society)  Steve Whiteside (Refs Society) |
| **2** | **Minutes of previous meeting** |  |
|  | Agreed as a true and accurate record of meeting. |  |
| **3** | **Matters Arising from those minutes** |  |
|  | HVOTY held over the summer. Future events could maybe be led by someone who has done before, rather than President who is always new in role.  Development – Head Coach Girls DPP appointed ; Guy Hoag. 2 Assistant Coaches also appointed.  New Head of Coach & Match Official Development appointed – Paul Westgate. Very qualified.  Chloe’s report – adult registration is simple but difficult to get players to do it. Email is not best communication avenue for 18-25 yr olds; Chloe has taken that on board. Numbers for registration are poor and have to be done each year.  Safeguarding – Jeff has access to Safeguarding email and is almost caught up with outstanding applications.  Finance – this year need to reduce expenditure as reserves are being used. |  |
| 4 | **Finance** |  | |
|  | Core funding up to just over £29k. 10% increase on core from last year. Rep rugby £8k, £10k U16s girls DPP, U18s girls £2k U17/18 boys £5900.  Projected internal income around £16500. Reserves around half of pre-covid balance.  Recruit and Retain will change to Innovation Fund. Will find out amount of funding mid-September.  RugbySafe budget includes £2k underspend from last year.  Projected spend this season of £118k, creating deficit of £47,100. Would take 50% of reserves, so need to look at where savings can be made and where the best return of recruitment and retention/benefit can be made from the investment of money across all budget streams.  Lots of change coming in next year with finances within RFU, so regional funds may cover some of our existing expenses, but unsure what new system will look like.  Rep Rugby has one of biggest budget streams, but only benefits around 1% of players. Lots of players/clubs not buying into it.  All grants that can be applied for will have to be allocated to programmes and can’t be used to reduce deficit.  Other CB’s have big sponsorships which boost funds. Look at companies who can recruit sponsors for NLD.  AGM buffet was expensive so will not be provided in future. | Write to clubs to say this is last year we can support U20s and Seniors Rep Rugby due to finance and lack of engagement - CB  Examine what benefits come from conference – JM  Look in detail at AGR and Rep Rugby budgets - DA  DE & JM will speak to contacts about recruiting sponsors.  BM will ask Steve Smith at RFU for advice. | |
| **5** | **Innovation Fund** |  | |
|  | Ref Society – developing good relationship with NLD. Grade availability is challenging. Larger number of Grade 6 games. 150 referees on books. 40 new refs in last year. Some refs left society during covid so recruitment has gone well since then.  Colts games will be challenging. Expect not to provide refs to all Saturday Colts games. Promote Friday fixtures. Most Sundays covered ok. Lots of costs increased. Match fees have increased and so have subscriptions for referees. Interested in having joint conversation about gaining sponsors for NLD and society. Thanks for work done in areas of common ground.  Thanks to Jeff and Tim for better relationship with NLD, Discipline and Refs.  Innovation Fund introduced by Jeff. Bidding for the £10k. 4 objectives.  Ref society have a planning day each year and now have a 5 year financial plan. Hoping to generate more income. 6 ideas – 1. Club referees; knowing where they are located and who the co-ordinators are. Leonie at RFU may be able to help. Oct-Feb, hold 3 regional events, intro to Rugby courses. Targeted at existing club referees. Lots of Mums at Age Grade level have shown interest.  2. Deliver female MO event and YMO event and see if we can recruit more. Some university referees have come on board in recent years. Around 4 FMOs across the CB just now. Would like to get to point of every female game being officiated by FMO.  3. Social/educational events. Friday night floodlight games. Invite club refs for pre-game drinks.  4. Build on relationship with NLD. Recent successful events with A&E doctor focused on rugby referee nutrition & a day in the life of a Level 4 referee. Would love to attend conference again this year.  5. Kit for NLD club referees.  6. Get club referees on WTR so society can communicate with them that way.  Would like to award trophies to clubs who are really good at hosting referees.  Timescales identified based on funding coming in the next 4 weeks.  CB – NLDRFURS is miles ahead of other CBs in terms of activity, so congratulations to the Society for that.  Coaching and MO support is lacking.  Ref Society build confidence to referees by running the line first as parts of teams of 3 and can support people who just want to be Ars.  2 – Player recruitment. Max grant of £10k  Support player transition from age grade to senior & recruit and retain adult players in lower teams.  Through Club Action Plans, clubs have been identified as those who ask for help. Jeff plans to contact club Chairs to confirm interest within 7 days, or others will be contacted. Asking for £500 for each club.  Additional funding for Colts Fest, £1500 applied for; U17s competition in each of 3 counties. Building on success of transition of players from U16s – U17s. £250 for each county.  Ties – Asked for £500 for transition ties. | Clubs can make comments on WTR – need to get it out to clubs that they should use it.  CB will ask why there is not an easier way for NLD to see who has gone through referee and coaching courses in clubs.  Info from Ref Society to go on the NLD website/newsletter, explaining what they can offer, such as just offering AR. – SW & PJ | |
| **6** | **Roles & Responsiblities** |  | |
|  | *Time ran over in the meeting so this item could not be discussed in depth. Jeff sent out document detailing roles & responsibilities and asked everyone to review.* | Look at Roles and Responsibilities of your own role. | |
| **7** | **Safeguarding Lead** |  | |
|  | Candidate who was lined up has had to pull out.  Jim was covering U17s playing up and U16s to U17s which was not his role. Jeff will cover the U17s playing up and has asked Tim Wilbraham to cover U16s-U17s.  2 clubs looked at RFU for safeguarding reasons. No-one able to deal with it at the moment. | Get the role description out. | |
| **8** | **Coaching Courses for clubs** |  | |
|  | Recent coaching courses delivered have been player-centric and an updated approach to coaching. It doesn’t seem to be getting through to training practices as even those who have been on courses don’t seem to follow through with the course content.  Difficult to monitor that as no CRCs available to support anymore. Not in NLD remit to enforce it; the clubs have to take ownership.  Next meeting will be hybrid. |  | |
| **9** | **AOB** |  | |
|  | Next meeting will be hybrid |  | |
|  | **Meeting closed at: 9.35pm**  **Next meeting 7th October 2024**  **7.30pm**  **YMCA, Newark** |  | |