

RFU Council Meeting Report 25.11.22.

- Bill Sweeney CEO. Topics covered: Topics covered are as follows: - Community Game Outlook - Player Affiliation - Coach Succession Planning - Newcastle Falcons Investigation - Listening Forums - HIPM Update - DCMS Committee - PGA Renegotiation - Global Calendar - Premier 15s 3.0.
- Match completion statistics are being collected weekly. Challenges from Covid still apparent in the game. RFU Finances looking to break even against a projected £8 million profit. Debt free currently. Looking to invest £1/4 Billion into the community game over the next 10 yrs.
- Tom Ilube. Board Chair. Board Strategy Day December 7th. Looking forward to the new PGA Agreement for 2024-2025. Stadium Masterplan Overview. Minutes from Board of Directors meeting on Nov 16th tabled. He stated that reflections on his first 12 months in post were from an optimistic point of view. 'I know about the bad things, but look to the good things'
- Player affiliation for August 2023. Final proposal to Council in February 2023. Agreement to be reached on sanctioning and timescales. Policy decision on whether to permit multi-club player sign up.
- Women's English Qualified Players (EQP) system. A paper requesting Council approval in respect of the introduction of a regulated English Qualified Players (EQP) system and removal of the existing foreign player cap for the Women's Premier 15s competition from 2023/24 onwards presented. Council was requested to consider:
1. EQP for Stage One of the AP15s for the 23/24 season is set at an average 13, increasing to an average of 14 in the 24/25 season and to an average of 15 in the 25/26 season (to be reviewed ahead of each season using available data). 2. EQP for the Knock-Out Stage of the AP15s is set at 13 per round for the 23/24 season, increasing to 14 in the 24/25 season and to 15 in the 25/26 season (to be reviewed ahead of each season using available data). 3. The removal of the foreign player cap from the AP15s competitions from the 23/24 season onwards. 4. Delegated authority to Governance to review, amend and approve the regulations to reflect the regulatory recommendations set out in this paper and such other changes as may be required.
- RFU Way Forward. Presented by Sue Day & Bill Sweeney. Acknowledged that too much is being done by too few (both voluntary & RFU Staff). Referred to as the virtual circle. To set out for Council the complexities of the work to determine the shape of rugby for the next decade or so, the various projects that will influence that shape and then, explore how they might be tackled in a coherent way. Currently, there are various major pieces of work underway that will shape the game in England for the next decade. These are: a. The shape of the elite game for men and women, and the RFU's relationship with the clubs, who provide our current international players and those with the potential to achieve international status in the next five or so years. This consists of two aspects; firstly, what is colloquially known as the "PGA renegotiation" and, secondly, the re-shaping of the P15s and the structures to support women's & girls' player development. These are about achieving our strategic objective of a "Winning England". b. The shape of the community game and, in particular, the "club of the future" to achieve our strategic

objective of flourishing rugby communities Question to CB's: What is not been developed within CB's? (GRFU?).

- Sue Day. Chief Finance Director. Q1 business report in line with budget. Annual report 2021-2022 to be issued this next week. Revenue £189.1 million (£97 m for 2012). Profit £1.5 million.
- Council was asked to note the following: 1. The 2023 AGM will be 'de-coupled' from the June Council Meeting and held on a separate, mid-week date; Wednesday 21 June 2023. 2. The 2023 AGM will be conducted virtually using Lumi as was the case with the 2020 and 2021 AGMs, but with the top-table panel in person.

Keith Gee & Simon Thornton.