

RFU Council meeting 30.09.22.

- Presentation by Eddie Jones. 12 months to the 2023 RWC. Recent international rugby has seen a levelling of playing standards and training methodology plus talent differentiation. It has been seen that refereeing decisions can have up to a 25% influence on results. England are now preparing a competitive edge through Coaching, Leadership, Tactical flexibility to take them to the next level.
- CEO Report. Bill Sweeney. Focus very much on the 2022-2023 Community Game season start. Reported upon the recent Game Congress at Warwick University. A look at the proposed Schools Sector Strategy to be led by an independent Chair. Mention on Coach succession planning. Nigel Redman and Connor O'Shea to formally report to Council in November. Report on work undertaken with the Newcastle Falcons Investigation/Listening Focus. A brief mention on the HIPM work being undertaken within the RFU (See later in this report).
- Worcester & Wasps update. Wasps are currently in a pre-administration process, up to 10 days from 30.09.22. Have active scenarios in action. Worcester a more complex situation. Stadium in administration. Players contracts do not sit with the stadium. Will not be paid today along with the general staff. Case to be heard this coming Wednesday. Both clubs have suffered insolvency which could lead to relegation at the end of the season. Many moving parts! Over 100 professional players potentially out of a job. Salary cap impact.
- Chairman's Report. Tom Ilube. Inclusion session just undertaken by Council members very positive. Commented upon the communications to go out this week re concussion. Obviously, a great deal in the media recently. RFU statement to follow. PGA discussions for 2024-2025 have started. The shape of the game continues to change. To be a focus for the RFU Board at their planning day in December 2023. Main focus to be fewer things to a higher standard/quality.
- RFU Strategy & Delivery Plan. Sue Day. Aim to enrich lives, introduce more people to Rugby Union and Develop the Sport for future generations. Have scarce resources, both £'s & people. Volunteers already stretched. Must not as a Union add to these demands currently. To work on a Night Club scenario. Policy of one thing in and one out!
- NGB Review. Mike Wallington. Focus on deferred recommendations put to Council in June 2022. Funding framework had been accepted by the RFU Board. Work of the Community Game Board addressed. Also, the Nature of organizational effectiveness. Stressed the DOIT principles. The DO-IT model ensures clarity across the organization making it clear who is involved and what their role is.
- EQP – Women's Premiership. Looking for a levelling out of EQPs within the league with possible points deductions for infringements. For 2023-2024 onwards.
- Governance and Business Transformation Project. Club Management Health Report. This is not an AUDIT, but a self-help tool initially targeted at clubs at levels 1-6. Entirely funded by Sport England, due to go live in next few weeks. A resource as to how clubs might improve and what they need to do to do so, and how to access supporting material. Tool to be extended to assist CB governance, and to be trialed

in 6 CB's before rolling out in 2023-2024. An online tool.

- Game Congress. David Roberts. Full slide pack now available on the GRFU Web-site. Consensus gained re the Contact, Non-contact, and the Game of the Future.
- HIPM (Head Injury Prevention) - a communications strategy to be formulated early October to get wider publicity for positive work being done in this area, particularly things like instrumented mouthguards.
- Business Operations. Sue Day. Inflation linked risks continue to spiral for the RFU. Full attendance at the Six Nations home fixtures did help to bring in much needed revenue (Previously scenario set at 50% attendance).

Keith Gee & Simon Thornton.

October 2nd 2022