

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 8th April 2026

Present: Mr D. Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs, C.A. Baker, K. Bennetta, P. Deakin, H. Hughes & M. Downs.

In Attendance: Messrs, C. Jones, B.H. Stott, R. Jones, D. Westhead & I. Spivey.

Apologies: Messrs, G.A. Burns MBE, C. Gaffey, A.N. Crabtree, A. Soutar.

I & D.

Catherine Jones Reported:

1. Ramadan report: two players asked to work on it next season 18 responses to survey.
2. Two players signing up for the ERCA course
3. Iftar at Bolton mosque. Inter Mosque games for boys and girls working with Muslim sport foundation.
4. Community day at Bolton RUFC with Krimz girls on 11th April.
5. 250 mini rugby balls given out at Bolton market.
6. Currently working with the Jewish community in Whitefield
7. TREADS delivered to 6000 people.
8. Presentation given to madrefs on neuro diversity in rugby went down very well with clubs, including a female autistic referee from Yorkshire.
9. Lancashire versus Yorkshire next ability rugby game at Sedgely Park on the 19th of April.
10. RJ - is there an inclusivity and diversity policy in Lancashire, no, RJ did one for England schools and will forward to CJ.
11. RJ would like contact details for Jacob Pickering for the England schools finals.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed per procuracionem as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Regional Managers Report (Appendix 1).

D Westhead reported:

1. There is no update on Bulaks replacement.
2. DC – De la Salle have opted to play in the NOWIRUL leagues.
3. Broughton are doing well with good numbers training. DW to contact.
4. Club engagement sessions – Very much like the old carousels, next ones are at Kendal RUFC on 5th May and Moore RUFC on 20th May.

RFU.

1. DC reported that no vote against the Governance Review Report currently had approximately 300 clubs supporting, the goal is to get to 400.

Club & Community.

No Report

Discipline.

BHS reported:

1. Having to deal with increased numbers of cases where parents have involved or reported to the police.
2. Match Official Abuse cases are down by 70%.

Finance. (Appendix 2)

PD Reported:

1. PD applied to Youth Trust Fund for 4 x £5k donations to fund schools / clubs link projects.
2. KB – requested breakdown of costs for sponsorship of senior teams.

Mens & Boys Rugby.

HH reported:

1. The U17s have now got 165 nominations from 38 clubs, 28 schools. This will mean there will be 2 assessment sessions due to high numbers.
2. Met with Noel Speed about releasing players back from the academy.
3. U20s last game will be on 3rd May v Northumberland at Wigan.

Mini, Junior & Schools.

IS reported:

1. Refs and Finals days had been sorted. 19th April for U12s Waterfalls at Burnage & Leigh.
2. 26th April for the Plate & Vase finals at Rochdale.
3. 3rd May for the Cup & Bowl finals at Vale of Lune.
4. Girls festival day at Chester on 26th April.

RJ reported:

5. 3 different end of term dates with 5 finals still to be played. It is possible the U16s Plate may not be contested due to exam date clashes.

Safeguarding.

CAB reported on a single issue in confidence.

Volunteering (Appendix 3).

Womens and Girls.

KB Reported:

1. U18s season now finished, U16s last game on Sunday 16th April at Eccles.
2. Womens trials over 2 sessions with approximately 95 attending.

Correspondence.

There was none appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

Southport Ladies had requested support for change of name to Southport Women.

50:50 Draw

<u>Apr 2026</u>	Value
BH Stott	£39.00
A Clarke	£6.50
M Brennand	£6.50
K Andrews	£6.50
G Spengler	£6.50

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Tuesday 5th May 2026 by Teams.

Any other business.


PD – Barry Mackelston from Wythenshawe RUFC has raised £7k for the club by completing a John O'Groats to Lands End journey using his bus pass. Sadly whilst away he was burgled. County to give £100 to his just giving page.

BHS – a complaint from Ormskirk U15s who were knocked out of a cup semi final and want independent referees.

IS – Playing calendar finished. Colts appear to be playing every week of the season except Christmas and Easter.

MD – request to change the AGM to 10th June. Approved.

Meeting ended at 8:05pm



Chairman
pp

Date: 5th May 2026

Appendix 1.

Regional Managers Report to Board – 8th April 2026

Local Engagement Session May 2026

Locations for the North

Moore Rugby Club – 20th May 2pm – 8pm

Newcastle Red Bulls

Kendal Rugby Club

Selby Rugby Club

Please let me or David Westhead know if you wish to attend/ have a table.

CB Funding

Email outline CB funding moving forward has been communicated to CBs.

Each CB's funding will be made up of:

- £13,000 fixed amount
- £250 per voting member club
- £2.20 per registered player (adult and age grade)

See attached current figures for Lancashire.

Discussions regarding how we can work together to ensure players are registered will be required soon.

Please let me know when is good for you.

Figures based on GMS data as of 31st May of the preceding season, e.g. GMS data on 31 May 2026 will be used to calculate funding for season 2026/27

CB Reporting 25/26 Season

Further to our CB Funding email on 1st July 2025 and the February CB Drop-Ins, Lancashire's March spend report is now due. Please complete [this form](#) to provide us with an update on your actual spend, allocated and unallocated funds to date.

The deadline to submit your March report is 31st March 2026.

AGCAG Meeting

North Division will meet on :-

Thursday 23rd April at 7.00pm by Teams

Stiga Lawnmowers

The below have signed up for a mower.

Please feel free to promote using the attached poster

Club Name	Status
Aldwinians RUFC	Delivery Confirmed
Ashton-Under-Lyne RFC	RFU FDT Endorsement
Aspull RFC	Process Complete
Blackburn RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Blackpool RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Bolton RUFC	EOI Complete
Broughton Park FC	Process Complete
Burnage RFC	Stiga assessment complete
Burnley RUFC	EOI Complete
Bury RUFC	Process Complete
Clitheroe RFC	EOI Complete
Colne & Nelson RFC	RFU FDT Endorsement
Didsbury Toc H RFC	Process Complete
Eccles RFC	Process Complete
Firwood Waterloo RFC	EOI Complete
Fleetwood RUFC	Delivery Confirmed
Fylde RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Garstang RFC	Process Complete
Leigh RUFC	Process Complete
Littleborough RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Liverpool Collegiate RUFC	Stiga assessment complete

Liverpool St Helens FC	Stiga assessment complete
Manchester Rugby Club	Process Complete
Newton-le-Willows RUFC	EOI Complete
North Manchester RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Old Bedians RFC	Process Complete
Oldham RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Ormskirk RUFC	Process Complete
Preston Grasshoppers RFC	Stiga assessment complete
Rochdale RUFC	Delivery Confirmed
Rossendale RUFC	EOI Complete
Sedgley Park RUFC	Process Complete
Southport RFC	Process Complete
Tarleton RFC	Stiga assessment complete
Trafford MV RFCC	Process Complete
Tyldesley RUFC	EOI Complete
Warrington RUFC	Process Complete
West Park (St Helens) RFC	Delivery Confirmed
Widnes RUFC	Stiga assessment complete
Wigan RUFC	Process Complete

Appendix 2.

Lancashire County RFU Spend and Funding Report 2025/26

<u>Funding</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Spend (Net Of VAT)</u>		<u>Monthly Spend</u>
<u>PFR Core Funding - £34,521</u>						
<u>Budget Holder - Mark Downs</u>	<u>July</u>	Brian Stott	Meeting with Cheshire	£	125.00	
<u>RFU Funded</u>		Brian Stott	Replacement Printer	£	61.89	
		Preston City Council	Small Society Lottery Fee	£	20.00	
		Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin - July 25	£	200.00	
		Wooden Spoon	Merseyside Womens Shirt Donation	£	300.00	
		Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	40.00	
		Alexander Hough	Storage Rental	£	120.00	
		ERC Accountants	Change to Directors	£	140.00	
		ADM Leisurewear	Dave Clark - Various	£	146.00	£ 1,152.89
	<u>August</u>	Collins & Darwell	Prints/Programmes Unknown	£	342.00	
		Brian Stott	Meeting Room 30/08/25	£	125.00	
		Brian Stott	Stationery, cable & cartridges	£	39.45	
		Brian Stott	Software Update	£	119.79	
		Brian Stott	Presentation Expenses	£	35.00	
		Alexander Hough	Storage Rental	£	120.00	£ 781.24
	<u>September</u>	Brian Stott	Zoom Upgrade	£	98.62	
		Brian Stott	Zoom Upgrade	£	155.88	
		Brian Stott	Meeting Room 23/09/25	£	62.50	
		Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin - September 25	£	200.00	
		Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	120.00	
		Alexander Hough	Storage Rental + Agreement Fee	£	140.00	
		ADM Leisurewear	Howard Hughes - Various	£	38.98	
		Brian Stott	Red Card Income x 11	-£	545.00	£ 270.98

<u>October</u>	Brian Stott	Meeting Room - 09/10/25	£	125.00		
	Brian Stott	PDF Upgrade	£	37.90		
	Brian Stott	Stationery & Cartridges	£	28.56		
	Brian Stott	Presentation Expenses	£	35.00		
	Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin - September 25	£	100.00		
	Alexander Hough	Storage Rental	£	120.00		
	Canva	Subscription: Canva Pro Solo	£	83.33		
	Brian Stott	Red Card Income x 17	-£	850.00	-£	320.21
<u>November</u>	LSH RUFC	Hire Of Clubroom - Lancs GM	£	75.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	160.00		
	Alexander Hough	Storage Rental	£	120.00		
	Brian Stott	Computer Cables	£	34.45		
	Brian Stott	Meeting Room 24-11-25	£	125.00		
	Brian Stott	Red Card Income x 15	-£	745.00	-£	230.55
	<u>December</u>	Gary Don	Insurance Valuation Trophies	£	200.00	
Alister Reid Ties	Caps, Badges etc	£	939.50			
Alister Reid Ties	Various Ties x 106	£	782.00			
Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin - December 2025	£	200.00			
Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	200.00			
Alexander Hough	Storage Rental	£	120.00			
Brian Stott	Red Card Income x 7	-£	350.00	£	2,091.50	
<u>January</u>	England RFU	Presidents Lunch vs Australia	£	105.00		
	Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin - January 2026	£	200.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	480.00		
	Alexander Hough	Storage Rental - January	£	120.00		
	Alexander Hough	Storage Rental - February	£	120.00		
	Brian Stott	Meeting Room	£	125.00		
	Brian Stott	New Monitor	£	87.00		
	Brian Stott	Red Card Income x 18	-£	900.00	£	337.00

<u>February</u>	Brian Stott	Red Card Income x 6	-£	300.00		
	BN Greenwood Ltd	Rugby Posts - Lytham High School	£	416.66		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Counselling	£	280.00		
	Alexander Hough	Storage Rental - March	£	140.00		
	Brian Stott	Virus Software	£	41.24	£	577.90
<u>March</u>	Brain Stott	Red Card Income x 15	-£	750.00		
	Catherine Ryan	Accounts Admin - Feb/Mar 2025	£	100.00		
	Acorn Wellbeing	Accounts Admin - January 2026	£	280.00		
	Brian Stott	Safeguarding Conference Hotel	£	1,075.20	£	705.20
				Total Spend	£	5,365.95
				Remaining Fund	£	29,155.05

<u>Adult Rep Rugby £8,000</u>						
<u>Budget Holder - Howard Hughes</u>	<u>November</u>	Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Trial - Pitch Side Aid	£	100.00	£ 100.00
<u>RFU Funded</u>	<u>December</u>	Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Training - Pitch Side Aid	£	100.00	£ 100.00
	<u>January</u>	Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Training - Pitch Side Aid	£	100.00	£ 100.00
	<u>February</u>	Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Training - Pitch Side Aid	£	100.00	
		Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Training - Pitch Side Aid	£	100.00	
		ADM Leisurewear Ltd	Essential Kit x40	£	3,538.00	
		ADM Leisurewear Ltd	Playing Kit	£	776.25	£ 4,514.25
	<u>March</u>	Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Pitchside Aid - 08/03/26	£	100.00	
		Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Pitchside Aid - 13/03/26	£	100.00	
		Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Pitchside Aid - 15/03/26	£	100.00	
		Hayley Rose Summer	U20s Pitchside Aid - 22/02/26	£	100.00	
		Ted Catering	U20s - Leigh Meals	£	538.00	£ 938.00

	Total Spend	£	5,752.25
<u>Further funds to be allocated from reserves</u>	Remaining Fund	£	2,247.75

Referee Recruitment Funding £4,000

Budget Holder - Paul Deakin

RFU Funded 24/25 carried forward

Total Spend	£	-
Remaining Fund	£	4,000.00

Direct Support to Clubs - £8,124

Budget Holder - Chris Gaffey

RFU Funded

November	Eagle RUFC	Schools and youth engagement	£	466.00		
	LSH RUFC	Schools engagement U13/14/15s	£	466.00		
	Ruskin Park	Tuesday touch rugby.	£	466.00	£	1,398.00
February	Blackley RUFC	Pitch Hire	£	360.00	£	360.00
March	Eccles RUFC	Community Scrum Down Event	£	233.00		
	Tyldesley RUFC	`	£	233.00	£	466.00

Total Spend	£	2,224.00
Remaining Fund	£	5,900.00

U23s Funding - £2,000

Budget Holder - Howard Hughes

RFU Funded 24/25 carried forward

Total Spend	£	-
Remaining Fund	£	2,000.00

Playing Opportunities - £1,852

Budget Holder - Chris Gaffey

RFU Funded

Total Spend	£	-
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Remaining Fund £ 1,852.00

Volunteer Recognition - £2,223

<u>Budget Holder - Gill Burns</u>	<u>January</u>	Adforce UK Ltd	Pin Badges x 100	£	405.00	£	405.00
<u>RFU Funded</u>							
						Total Spend	£ 405.00
						Remaining Fund	£ 1,818.00

Age Grade Player Pathway U17s/18s Boys - £5,900

<u>Budget Holder - Howard Hughes</u>	<u>October</u>	Chloe Hull	U18s Trial Physio	£	120.00	£	120.00
<u>RFU Funded</u>							
		<u>November</u>	ADM Leisurewear	Under 18s Essential Kit	£	2,097.00	
			ADM Leisurewear	Under 18s Playing Kit	£	718.75	£ 2,815.75
		<u>December</u>	Preston Grasshoppers	Under 18s Catering	£	466.67	
			Players	Players Kit Contribution	-£	1,150.00	-£ 683.33
		<u>March</u>	Ethan Brazo	Physio - 8 Occasions	£	827.50	£ 827.50
						Total Spend	£ 3,079.92
						Remaining Fund	£ 2,820.08

Age Grade Player Pathway U18s Girls - £2,000

<u>Budget Holder - Kate Bennetta</u>	<u>December</u>	Players	Players Kit Contribution	-£	900.00	-£	900.00
<u>RFU Funded</u>							
						Total Spend	-£ 900.00
						Remaining Fund	£ 2,900.00

Girls U16s Player Development - £10,000

<u>Budget Holder - Kate Bennetta</u>	<u>October</u>	ADM Leisurewear	Various Kit & Balls	£	1,494.75		
<u>RFU Funded</u>							
		ADM Leisurewear	Various Kit & Equipment	£	661.30	£	2,156.05

<u>November</u>	ADM Leisurewear	Essential Kit	£	3,142.70		
	ADM Leisurewear	Coaches Kit	£	371.74	£	3,514.44
<u>December</u>	Sarah Bailey	Physio vs NLD	£	113.49		
	ADM Leisurewear	Various Kit x 8	£	566.00		
	Players	Players Kit Contribution	-£	1,845.00	-£	1,165.51
<u>January</u>	ABC Coach Ltd	Travel to Rockcliffe RFC	£	995.00		
	Stephen Brice	U16s Food	£	200.00	£	1,195.00
<u>February</u>	Sarah Bailey	Physio x 5, plus first aid materials	£	709.00	£	709.00
<u>March</u>	Marks With Splendour	Meals - Lancs Rugby Rubies	£	343.00		
	ABC Coach Ltd	Coach to Billingham	£	895.00		
	Thyme & Season	Post Training Food	£	136.00	£	1,374.00
				Total Spend	£	7,782.98
				Remaining Fund	£	2,217.02

Lancashire Royals - £3,000

Budget Holder - Howard Hughes

Lancashire Funded

<u>December</u>	Samuel Dunn	Match Day 1st Aid	£	70.00		
	Samuel Dunn	Trial 1st Aid	£	50.00		
	ADM Leisurewear Ltd	Essential Kit	£	1,839.75	£	1,959.75
<u>March</u>	Tyldesley RUFC	Meals etc	£	524.50	£	524.50
				Total Spend	£	2,484.25
				Remaining Fund	£	515.75

Rugby United - £28,112

Budget Holder - Paul Deakin

RFU Funded - £20,000

<u>July</u>	Trylt Rugby Academy	Rugby Delivery - MG25 Games	£	840.00	£	840.00
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				Total Spend	£	6,402.95
				Remaining Fund	£	13,597.05
General Reserve - £,000						
Budget Holder - Paul Deakin	July	MG Catering	Pre Match Food Fylde v Yorks	£		280.00
Lancashire Funded		Orion Travel	Womens Travel	£	795.00	£ 1,075.00
These items relate to 24/25						
	September	Charlotte Purvis	Durham PDG U16s Physio	£	50.00	
		Ella Pye	Matchday Keswick U17s Boys	£	237.95	
		MADREFS	Travel Exp Royals v AA	£	60.00	
		MADREFS	Ref Team U20s v East Mids	£	120.00	£ 467.95
	October	Bolton RUFC	Mixed Ability Sessions Feb	£	135.00	
		Bolton RUFC	Mixed Ability Sessions Mar	£	135.00	
		Bolton RUFC	Mixed Ability Sessions Apr	£	101.50	£ 371.50
	January	West Park RUFC	U17s Vs Cheshire catering	£	186.67	
		West Park RUFC	Lancs Women Vs Yorks Catering & Drinks	£	973.51	
		West Park RUFC	Volunteers Awards Lunch	£	833.33	£ 1,993.51
				Total Spend	£	3,907.96
				Remaining Fund	-£	3,907.96
Total 2025/26 Budget - £120,713						
				Total Spend	£	40,855.25
				Total Budget Remaining	£	79,857.75

Current Account Bank Balance 1st July £ 52,799.00
Current Account Bank Balance 31st March

Appendix 3.

Volunteer of the Year awards at Firwood Waterloo on 10/5 at 12:00

- * There were 105 nominees - all who did not respond initially have been emailed at least twice
- * 7 had already been recognised in the last 3 years so can't be included in event although they will receive a certificate
- * 41 no response
- * 14 apologies sent
- * 43 winners attending
- * 35 guests booked
- * Other diners include the volunteers who run event & some Waterloo officials

We'll have approximately 100 in the room and a hot and cold buffet that will be served at 12:00.

President Ian Spivey has agreed to hand over the certificates to the winners and the event host will be Laura Latham, my Volunteers Assistant. My experienced volunteer presentation team Rachel Gooding, Julie Bennett, Helen Cox, Fiona Henderson & Ken Andrews will ensure the event runs smoothly.

We don't yet know who has been chosen to be the 2 Lancashire winners by the National panel but this will be announced on the day.