

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 1st June 2026

Present: Mr D. Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs, G.A. Burns MBE, C.A. Baker
P. Deakin, H. Hughes, C. Gaffey, A.N. Crabtree & M. Downs.

In Attendance: Messrs, A. Soutar, C. Hall & I. Spivey.

Apologies: Messrs, K. Bennetta, B.H. Stott, R. Jones.

Regional Managers Report.

A Soutar reported:

1. The Clubs surgery held at Moore RUFC had been well attended by Lancashire clubs. Next season the two events need to be spread across the season.
2. Thanks to ANC & KB for the recent Rugby Safe call.
3. A series of webinars are due to be held on Match Card completions and Adult registrations.

C Hall reported:

4. Womens teams were in the process of being started at West Park and St Edwards OB,
5. The Love Rugby Festival had been held at Waterloo and run by Sale Sharks. A second event is to be arranged at a venue to be arranged.
6. Over the last 2 seasons numbers in the Womens game has increased 15.6% and 16.8% in the girls game which is well above the national average.
7. DC – Broughton have re-joined the Impact League.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2026, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed per procuracionem as a correct record.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

RFU.

1. DC confirmed that there had been no recent Council Meeting but that the AGM was due. There were no contentious issues for the AGM.

Club & Community.

CG Reported:

1. Concerns over the numbers of male adult players as lots of clubs appeared to be losing lower XVs. CH, this is also a nationwide concern and not limited to Lancashire.
2. Age grade Boys growth is good in Lancashire, clubs that engage well with the County are doing better.
3. IS – whilst Age Grade is doing well there is a need to transition through to the adult game.
4. CG – there also seems to be disengagement between universities and clubs.
5. PD – there is a need for a retention strategy plan over the summer which will help the new regional body chairman.

Discipline.

No Report.

Finance.

PD Reported the Bank balance is healthy.

Mens & Boys Rugby.

HH reported:

1. The U17s finished their season with a win over Cumbria. Feedback from coaches and parents has been good.
2. We have 7 players in the U20s North squad.
3. Both Lancashire and Cheshire have not signed off the Age Grade Calendar due to issues with the colts league.
4. CG – regarding the Senior Mens final at Twickenham. Lancashire are deemed the home team. An attempt to arrange supporters coaches had received no response. Working on trying to get a photographer for the game.

Mini, Junior & Schools.

IS reported:

1. A meeting has been arranged for the 3rd June with all partners to sort the Age Grade Calendar.
2. Regulation 15 changes include a standard risk assessment for playing up, new dual age bands for girls @ U11 & U12s and a schools 7s spring term window.

Safeguarding.

CAB Reported:

1. A club had run a full contact Dads v Lads game and posted videos to social media.
2. Had a meeting with the enthusiastic committee at De la Salle who have plans for potentially 2 junior teams.

Volunteering.

GAB Reported:

1. 45 nominees had attended the presentation lunch at Waterloo with good feedback.
2. There had been 200 orders placed for caps.

Womens and Girls.

No Report.

Correspondence.

There was none appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

Cliff Kirkby	Life Membership	Approved
Chris Kirkby	Life Membership	Approved

50:50 Draw

<u>June 2026</u>	Value
H Henderson	£39.00
M Brennand	£6.50
A Clarke	£6.50
RTJ Briers	£6.50
G Jones	£6.50

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Tuesday 7th July 2026 by Teams.

Any other business.

GAB – 3 Royals player caps queried, these are from the Vale of Lune game which were not listed. MD to update.

HH – Lancashire are 1 of only 2 CBs who do not allow lower XVs in the RFU leagues.

19 teams left NOWIRUL last season, 8 have returned.

NOWIRUL AGM is at Leigh on 7th July.

ANC – will attend the Rugby Safe Conference at the end of June at Wye Boston.

Meeting ended at 7:35pm


Chairman
pp

Date: 13th July 2026