

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 13th July 2026

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

In Attendance: Messrs, D. Westhead, R Jones & I. Spivey.

Apologies: Mr A. Soutar.

Regional Managers Report.

D Westhead reported:

1. There are still some unknowns with regard to the new staff positions. Shared a presentation on the knowns. Now transitioning to the new area in partnership with Cheshire.
2. Pete Taylor will stay in place as the north area training manager along with the three current coach developers.
3. Max Pridmore will be the facilities manager for the northwest region.
4. New amalgamated role of Club & CB Manager Role is still to be filled, as is the club developer role for Lancashire.
5. Aaron Howarth will remain as the competition's development officer.
6. Growth development officer role is still to be filled, as is the safeguarding manager.
7. Is Dave Livesey the head of regional partnerships is Dave Livesey and the regional partnership manager is Dave Westhead.
8. 2 new schools relations managers are in place Adele Dando Liverpool city centre and Jude Ridings in Stockport. This takes us to six in total and they're geographically based on population levels. CG - Is there a list of clubs and schools who the SRMS are linked to. RJ - the priority is numbers of primary and secondary schools are not club links.
9. IS - Had attended a girls meeting at Eccles with James Wright. The intention is to change the northern girls network to all set sports limited a company run by James. There will be 3 pricing band fees one team is £50 two teams is £100, three teams is £150. Both clubs with a cluster team would have to pay separately. A meeting needs to be set up to discuss this further.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 1st June 2026, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed per procuracionem as a correct record.

Matters arising.

1. MD - The regional Congress data does not seem to align with numbers that have been limited by this group. DW will work with the insights team to look at this.
2. DC - Numbers of games in the recent club audit a wrong and therefore could not be signed off.

RFU.

1. DC confirmed that the last council meeting was to verify nominations.

2. PD - A group has been set up to look at the governance review report 3 has been set up with three members one of whom is PD.
3. KB - Women's under 23's competition is being driven by Durham, in principle we can't do this no but this could be a good thing in future.
4. HH - Questioned if we were involved in the interviews for the regional board chairman, we were not. PD had met with the regional manager, taran Kapoor, who is an articulate nice guy. We should crack on as usual.

Club & Community.

CG Reported:

1. Sent out an invite to the 69 clubs to run the survey again this year to see if there are any changes since the last one.
2. Will contact the 9 university clubs in September when they are back from holidays.
3. Will encourage clubs to get registrations up to date and encourage and encourage clubs to use electronic match cards.
4. Club and community committee has some new members.

Discipline.

No Report.

Finance.

PD Reported:

1. The ear end report is complete.
2. We could possibly change accountants currently paying £2300 per year which can be done cheaper at around £1100.
3. Changing accounting software from sage to 0 or QuickBooks. RJ - can schools be invoiced for membership ?

Mens & Boys Rugby.

HH reported:

1. The U17 coaching group is on the final year of their term the U18 coaching group have appointed 3 new coaches.
2. The U20s - Miss Johnson is stepping down and we need a new senior coach.
3. Royals - Martin Scott is stepping down and we will need a new lead coach for the Royals.
4. DC - attended a meeting with Cornwall Yorkshire and Kent to discuss the senior men's county championship, The following was proposed:-
 - Div 1 – Levels 4 & 5
 - Div 2 – Level 6
 - Div 3 – Level 7 & below
 Four teams in Division One is not feasible.

Mini, Junior & Schools.

IS reported:

1. Entry of 150 teams for 12s to 16s competitions. The fixtures are currently being put together. These numbers are slightly up on last season.
2. A meeting is planned with club fixture secretaries to go through the age grade playing calendar.
3. Plan to meet with RJ for club schools linked discussion.

RJ reported:

4. 42 schools had entered festivals for next season six of them new. 16 girls schools playing T1, 10 would like to play girls contact rugby.
5. Fixtures will be added to the website.
6. New England rugby schools representative for Lancashire required as RJ is on the board.
7. There were disappointingly low numbers at the school's AGM.

Safeguarding.

CAB Reported:

1. 270 people had attended the conference at Wye Boston which was good.
2. New England learning webinars have been sent to CSO's and are on the website.
3. Regulation 21 has been updated and modernised.
4. Regulation 15, no date yet for it to be brought in but it is needed for the forthcoming season as it involves playing up approvals.
5. CG - There is a change in regulations about reporting safeguarding issues, reporting is now mandatory where known.

Volunteering.

GAB Reported:

1. Money raised from the sale of caps will be transferred.

Womens and Girls.

KB reported:-

1. Nominations have gone out for the U16. R. Boag step down due to work commitments.
2. U16s kit is looking tired, replacement will come out of PDG funding. U18s need new kit also and sponsorship will be sought.
3. Senior Women, County Championship focus group is to be held, we may consider dropping to Div 2.

Correspondence.

There was none appertaining to this meeting.

New Members.

Ian Spivey	Life Membership	Approved
Christine Spivey	Life Membership	Approved

50:50 Draw

<u>July 2026</u>	Value
R Brookes	£39.00
P Hanson	£6.50
G Spengler	£6.50
RTJ Briers	£6.50
H Henderson	£6.50

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Monday 7th September 2026 by Teams.

Any other business.

IS - U18s National Cup. Leigh, Heaton Moor and Preston Grasshoppers had entered.
KB – request from Sarah Bailey (Physio) for provision of trauma kits, to be discussed.
HH – proposed naming the Lancashire Plate in Peter Hughes honour. Agreed, RJ to seek family permission.
ANC – Rugby Safe Conference, Reg 9 every club needs to complete online review, 1st XV could be docked points if not completed.
CG – what do our members get ? MD – access to International ticket allocation and entry to home games.
KB – what could we offer lady members ?
CG – nephew had played in the North West v North East game at Manchester which was well supported, should we be involved. HH – the game sanctioned or organised by the RFU and therefore players are possibly not insured.

Meeting ended at 8:30pm



Chairman
pp

Date: 7th September 2026