



RFL COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIR SUMMARY – 22ND JUNE 2022

Dear Community Game Colleagues,

The Community Board met again on Wednesday afternoon. We were joined by colleagues from IMG, the RFL/SLE Strategic Partners. IMG are embarking on a series of consultation meetings with key stakeholder groups from across the sport which included the Community Board. The bulk of agenda time was set aside for what proved to be a positive and beneficial conversation. The various members of the Community Board present set out the challenges the sport faces across the areas they represent and there was a healthy and open discussion. The Community Board, I believe, gave a great insight into the Community Game.

Tom Brindle, RFL Head of Growth, then joined the meeting to give an update on “Inspired By” the RFL’s campaign to increase awareness and participation in the lead up to the RLWC2021 and galvanise support for the three England teams competing. Further details on this will emerge in the coming weeks including activity and opportunities for the entire Community Game to get involved pre, during and post the RLWC2021.

We were also delighted to be joined by Mick Hogan the RLWC2021 Revenue Director. He provided an update on the Community Club Roadshows they will be undertaking to promote the tournament. Watch out for further information on these and please do get involved – the following meetings have been set up to help you understand how to do so, so please do attend if you can and let’s make this the best tournament ever!...

- Wednesday 20th July – Wakefield Trinity Stadium
- Monday 25th July – Hull MKM Stadium
- Tuesday 26th July – Lowca ARLFC
- Wednesday 27th July – Warrington Wolves Stadium
- Monday 1st August - Online

Mick also explained that the CreatedBy small grants programme is still open for applications, including an additional sum which is now available. I would encourage those Clubs that have not already benefited from the programme to apply.

We then had an update from the RFL’s Nichola Spencer on the benefits that players have access to as part of their Our League Active membership. It was great to note that a number of players have accessed discounts from Oxen merchandise and that players are receiving points via Rewards4 for just playing the game they love. These points can be used to purchase merchandise or if they build up enough points can be used towards their future membership fees. We are approaching nearly 40,000 Our League Active Members which includes players and coaches and volunteers who opted to donate.

Kelly Barrett then provided an update on Regulatory matters including potential changes to the 2023 Operational Rules. As always Clubs will be consulted on these in August.

Finally, we received an update on Coaching and more particularly around the cost and financing of courses. This led to a much wider discussion around some of the issues and challenges around coaching throughout the Community Game. Given several issues were raised and the time limitations we agreed we would include Coaching on the agenda for the next Community Board meeting where we could give proper considerations to the matters raised. If you have thoughts on coaching the



Community Game, please do feed these through to Kelly ahead of the next meeting so that your views can be included.

The next meeting is scheduled for 21st September 2022.

Sandy Lindsay MBE, Chair, RFL Community Board