



DEVON RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Management Board Minutes

Date: 17th December 2025

Venue: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Present: Simon Fuller, Simon Farmer, Rob Masters, Nicola Vaughan, Graeme Gillard, Keisha-Ann Down, Chris Forster, Sian Brooks, John Drew, Tim Warren.

Apologies:

Declaration of Interests

None

Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed by Simon Farmer and Seconded by Chris Foster. Minutes approved.

Re the Club Voice:

- We need to give more time for clubs to voice their concerns/questions. Each Director to give brief introduction to their responsibilities only
- How do we get more clubs engaged in the meetings as a number of clubs did not attend.

Actions

1. Chris and Simon (Finance) to agree additional spending for Transition Festivals.
2. Graeme to liaise with Steve Harland re session with Plymouth Rugby Referees on the Disciplinary Panel Processes.
3. Sian and Simon (Chair) to catch-up re County Championship teams.
4. To identify two Directors for the RFU meeting at Torquay RFC on 21st April.
5. Chris to work through a proposal to encourage clubs not to enter then withdraw from DRFU cup competitions.
6. Directors to send Chair nominations for possible President Elect by Sunday 21st December.

Additional Points

Chris informed the group that Cup Final dates would need to change due to postponed league games.

Chris is looking for additional funding to support the development of Transition Festivals

Graeme highlighted the excellent work Chris Ward is doing within the Rugby Safe remit.

Discipline is very busy at the moment. There have been some concerns from the Plymouth Referee Society re Panel decisions. Graeme to discuss possible session with their Chair.

Kit for three County Championship sides have been ordered and will use the same sponsors from last season.

Under 18 boys finish their series of games with an away trip to Cornwall (since switched to Ivybridge due to weather conditions). The Under 16 girls have won three, lost three and drawn one (v Gloucestershire).

Under 20s trials will be on Sunday 18th January at Ashbury.

Tamar Cup will be held at Plymouth Albion on Easter Saturday. County Championship home fixture venues are being planned by the two Team Managers.

Keish highlighted the increased visibility of the Women's Game with clubs driving content. Website has been updated.

Keish discussed cup competitions as a way of creating more game time and will develop a proposal for cup and shield competitions. A possible approach might be festivals this year and full competition next. Chris will work with Keish on this.

Nicola discussed a Women's World Cup trophy tour in the new year (details to follow) and that the CB can send two representatives to a meeting with Steve Grainger on the 21st April in Torquay.

Rob briefed on Council (briefing paper attached to email)

Secretary's report attached to email.

Sponsorship funding is still coming in.

Discussion on club withdrawals from DRFU cup competitions. Chris to work through a proposal for 2026/27.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday the 28th of January (Plymouth Argum)

