



DEVON RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Management Board Minutes

Date:	25 th February 2026
Venue:	MS Teams Virtual Meeting
Present:	Simon Fuller, Simon Farmer, Rob Masters, Nicola Vaughan, Graeme Gillard, Keisha-Ann Down, Chris Forster, Sian Brooks, Glenn Channing, John Drew, Tim Warren.
Apologies:	None
In Attendance	Mike Dymond (for Tamar Cup item) and Mark Long (for Volunteer item)

Declaration of Interests

None

Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed by Chris Foster and Seconded by Rob Masters. Minutes approved.

Actions

- Keish to design Tamar Cup poster and forward to Simon Farmer.
- Tim to add Tamar Cup fixture to March newsletter.
- Sian to liaise with Jacob to promote Tamar Cup fixture on social media.
- Tim to invite Plymouth clubs to nominate young players for guard of honour.
- Sian to confirm date and venue for Devon Women v Army fixture and liaise with Mark regarding promotion.
- Tim to invite volunteers once venue and date are confirmed.
- Tim to arrange certificate presentations at club events for clubs with large numbers of volunteers.
- Tim to invite Bryan Pitman (RFU Volunteer of the Year 2025) to the event.
- Chris and Tim to plan and agree a suitable rugby-related event for the Lord-Lieutenant's visit.

- All Directors to confirm availability to Chris for attendance at County Cup Finals
- Management Board Review to be agenda item to be included at next in-person meeting on Monday 25 March, Exeter Athletic.

Additional Points

Tamar Cup

The Tamar Cup will take place on Saturday 4 April at Brickfields, Plymouth Albion. Devon RFU will hire the ground and retain 100% of gate receipts, while Plymouth Albion will provide food and beverage services and keep these profits.

- Entry fee: £10 per person (Under 16s free)
- Expected attendance: 1,500–1,800
- Profits to be allocated equally across the three County Championship teams under Representative Rugby.

A promotional poster will be designed and distributed to all Devon clubs. The fixture will also be promoted via CB social media channels and newsletter. Plymouth clubs will be invited to nominate young players to participate as guards of honour.

Volunteers

The RFU has confirmed 82 nominations, equating to 88 individuals from 19 Devon clubs. Each nominee will receive:

- An RFU certificate recognising their contribution to rugby in Devon
- An engraved Devon RFU whiskey glass

Certificates and glasses will be presented at the Devon Women v Army fixture, subject to confirmation of venue and date. Clubs with a high number of volunteers may instead receive certificates at a club-based presentation event.

Bryan Pitman, last year's RFU Volunteer of the Year, will be invited to attend.

Lord-Lieutenant of Devon

It was agreed that the Lord-Lieutenant of Devon should be invited to a suitable rugby-related event. Potential options discussed included:

- Youth training activity
- Devon Women v Army
- Tamar Cup fixture
- Devon v Somerset County Championship match

Chris and Tim to discuss and agree next steps.

Cup Competitions

Men's cup competitions have been significantly impacted by adverse weather conditions. Confirmed finals are:

- Senior Cup: Brixham v Exmouth – 14th March
- Intermediate Plate: Newton Abbot v Cullompton – 14 March
- Junior Cup: Exeter Saracens v Honiton – 9 May

The County first Super Vets fixture at Exmouth also takes place on 14 March.

Confirmed CB representation includes John Drew, Simon Farmer, Conrad Sutcliffe, and Tim Warren. Keish to confirm availability.

Some postponed fixtures (e.g. Tiverton v Topsham, Barnstaple v Okehampton) may be played at the start of next season.

An appeal has been submitted to the RFU Competitions Committee to request a league fixture change to allow cup finals to take place.

An update was also provided on the new Devon Women's Cup and Shield competitions, scheduled for late April and early May.

RFU CB Officer Feedback

World Cup Trophy Tour:

Sunday 29 March

- Teignmouth RFC: Love Rugby Series (9:30–12:30)
- Women's fixture at 2pm
- Trophy moves to Bideford (4:30–7pm)

Monday 30 March

- Flowerpots (10:00–12:30): VIP and stakeholder event hosted by the Lord Mayor
- Schools megafest-style event (12:30–2:30) delivered by SRM Dan Lugg and Exeter Chiefs Community Team
- Plymouth Albion: Women's open training session (6–8pm), followed by Plymouth Uni v Marjon

CB members and club representatives are invited to attend; names and emails to be submitted.

Additional Updates

- Floodlights: Topsham, Torquay Athletic, and Withycombe progressing through feasibility stage
- CB Reviews (RugbySafe, Safeguarding, Discipline): Communication to be issued covering 1 March – April
- Payment of Players: Communication to clubs issued 1 March; declaration window open until 30 June
- Stiga Mowers: Allocation list confirmed; EOIs complete for Brixham and OPMs

Management Board Review

The Board reflected positively on the new governance structure, noting:

- Improved Club Voice engagement
- More efficient Management Board size
- Effective balance between online and in-person meetings

However, some role overlaps and volunteer onboarding challenges were identified. It was agreed that a full review will be a dedicated agenda item at the next in-person meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 23rd March at Exeter Athletic