

**MINUTE OF BRIEFING MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH RUGBY COUNCIL
HELD BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
AT 5.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH 2021**

Present:

Ian Barr	(IB)	President
Colin Rigby	(CR)	Vice-President
Alistair Forsyth	(AB)	Borders Representative
Bobby Frazer	(BF)	National 3 Representative
Bob Richmond	(BR)	North Regional Representative
Eric Hugh	(EH)	National 2 Representative
Gerry Tosh	(GTo)	National 1 Representative
Gordon Thomson	(GT)	Premiership Representative
Hazel Swankie	(HS)	Midlands Representative
Ian Rankin	(IR)	Co-opted Representative (Pro14)
Jim O'Neil	(JON)	Glasgow South Regional Representative
Jonathan Anderson	(JA)	Schools Representative
Kenneth Knott	(KK)	Referees Representative
Murdo Gillanders	(MG)	Edinburgh Regional Representative
Rosy Hume	(RHu)	Women's Representative
Willie Gardner	(WG)	Glasgow North Regional Representative

Apologies:

Gavin Hastings	(GH)	Co-opted Representative (British and Irish Lions)
Malcolm Offord	(MO)	Scottish Exiles Representative
John Halliday	(JH)	Co-opted Representative (Rugby Europe)

In Attendance:

[NAME REDACTED]	[XX]	Senior Solicitor & Council Secretary
[NAME REDACTED]	[XX]	Head of Regional Development
[NAME REDACTED]	[XX]	Head of Rugby Development Business Operations
[NAME REDACTED]	[XX]	Head of Training and Education

1. Introduction**ACTION**

It was noted a quorum was present and the Meeting was opened at 5.15pm.

Apologies were received from the Scottish Exiles Representative, the British and Irish Lions Representative and the Rugby Europe Representative.

2. Return to Rugby Update

The Head of Regional Development, Head of Rugby Development Business Operations and Head of Training and Education were welcomed to the Meeting.

The Rugby Development Department provided the Council with an update on the Return to Rugby Roadmap. The Head of Training and Education highlighted that the update was based on Scottish Government guidance. He noted that, due to the ever-changing landscape, all dates outlined were indicative and were subject to

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amendment. He emphasised that as the Scottish Government continued to progress its guidance out of lockdown, further updates to the Council would be provided.

It was noted that the information provided to the Council would be distributed to the Clubs on Friday 26 March. Feedback and questions from Clubs would then be collated and a FAQ document would be prepared. Webinars for the Clubs would also be scheduled for appropriate times.

The Council Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

During questions it was noted that the Rugby Development Department were reviewing the options available for the upcoming season in a number of different respects, including promotion and relegation.

The Head of Business Operations advised that the Rugby Development Department, with the input of the President and Vice-President, were preparing a survey to be sent to Clubs to gather feedback on the return to rugby plans and options for next season.

The survey would be sent to the Clubs once the content had been agreed with the Council. The Rugby Development Department would collate the responses given and present the feedback to the Council before any decision were made on the preferred option for next season.

The importance of gauging the players' view on the survey questions was emphasised and it was agreed that Clubs should be encouraged to consult with their players ahead of completing the survey.

The Head of Regional Development provided the Council with an update on the 2020/21 Scottish Rugby Community Recognition Awards. He noted that despite not being able to hold the usual awards, Clubs should be recognised for their efforts and successes over the COVID-19 period. He outlined the premise of the awards and the proposed regional judging panels.

The President thanked the Rugby Development Department for the update and the Rugby Development Department representatives left the Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

3. AOB

Under AOB the following points were noted:

- It was **AGREED** that **[NAME REDACTED]** would replace **[NAME REDACTED]** as a Trustee of the Murrayfield Injured Players Foundation. The Pro14 Representative noted **[NAME REDACTED]**'s credentials for the role and thanked **[NAME REDACTED]** for his significant contribution to MIPF.
- The President confirmed that he, the Midlands Representative, the Edinburgh Representative and the Referees Representative had offered to populate the Women's game sub-Committee. The Women's Representative thanked members for volunteering and advised that she would be considering further members in the coming weeks.

- The National 2 Representative noted that he would be circulating a note to the Council, via the Council Secretary, in relation to the Player Payment Working Party's recommendation on the SDR 4.1 provision. He asked Council Members to provide feedback and comments on the proposed change.
- In relation to the financial information presented at the previous Meeting by the Scottish Exiles Representative, the Council Secretary's understanding was that all documentation presented was for Council's consumption only. She would confirm this and revert back to the Referee Representative accordingly.
- The Vice-President congratulated the Scottish referees who had recently taken on high-profile appointments. He noted that this was, in part, due to the substantial work undertaken by the Referee Representative and the Rugby Development Department.

The President noted that additional meetings had been required over the last couple of weeks, due to the increased amount of business, and thanked the Council Members for their efforts and time commitment.

With all business completed, the meeting was closed at 6:45 p.m.