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**MINUTE OF BRIEFING MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH RUGBY COUNCIL
HELD BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
AT 5PM ON MONDAY 18 OCTOBER 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
Jim O'Neill	(JON)	Glasgow South Regional Representative
John Halliday	(JH)	Co-opted Representative (Rugby Europe)
Ian Rankin	(IR)	Co-opted Representative (URC)
Jonathan Anderson	(JA)	Schools Representative
Murdo Gillanders	(MG)	Edinburgh Regional Representative
Rosy Hume	(RHu)	Women's Representative
Willie Gardner	(WG)	Glasgow North Regional Representative

Apologies:

Malcolm Offord	(MO)	Scottish Exiles Representative
Kenneth Knott	(KK)	Referees' Representative

1. Introduction**ACTION**

The President noted a quorum was present and opened the Meeting at 5pm.

Apologies were received from the Scottish Exiles Representative and the Referees' Representative.

2. Rugby Development Update

The President noted that as the Meeting was focused on Governance, he had asked the Rugby Development Department to provide a written report, rather than attend the Meeting in person.

The Report was taken as read. The following points were noted:

Reset - Welfare

- AYRTPR – There continued to be very few applications for playing up, with only elite players currently being considered. A date would shortly be scheduled to review whether sufficient rugby had been played to allow applications for all to restart in the New Year.
- It was noted there had been a significant rise in the reporting of Covid cases by clubs over the past couple of months. The rise in cases followed the national trend and rather like the more recent reports of rates slowing

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nationally, that was reflected in the number of reports of the last week, which seemed to have reduced quite significantly.

Recover – Playing Opportunities

- Match fulfilment rates had been positive in September, with 82% of adult fixtures completed.
- In addition to the league and conference fixtures, there had also been significant development fixture opportunities created in the Women and Girls game, where in excess of 770 Girls and 370 Women have participated in over 70 fixtures or events. These opportunities continued to grow and be supported by the regional teams, clubs, and schools.

Rebuild – Grow, progress, sustain

- A significant change to SCRUMS for season 2021/22 was the introduction of a new process asking that clubs and schools submit the results of their fixtures. The process was now established and working well, with the vast majority of adult fixtures having their results submitted within two hours of the game taking place, as requested.

The new Training & Education section of SCRUMS continued to offer access to both online and face-to-face training courses. Since July 2021, over 700 places had been booked on courses offered across Coaching, Match Officiating and First Aid.

Match Officials

- Super 6 had been a high-quality affair with match officials playing a big part in its success. The High-Performance MO group had worked hard before, during and after matches to ensure their performances had been at the level required for the tournament.
- With the return to competitive rugby domestically, national and regional match officials had been covering matches up and down the country at all levels of the game.

Training and Education

- The two new coach and match official courses that launched last month had been delivered successfully in each region.
- First Aid Courses - A series of World Rugby First Aid in Rugby Level 1 courses were being delivered in each region to support the return to rugby efforts and improve standards of player welfare.
- RugbyRight – 2,670 coaches and match officials had completed the 2021-22 RugbyRight online course.

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- Girls Coach Support Programme (powered by SP Energy Networks) - The programme aimed to strengthen coaching skills and support young female players towards performance improvements and was due to run initially between October and December 2021.

Each club would work with an appointed Coach Development Officer from Scottish Rugby, who would provide club coaches with bespoke support including 1-to-1s, development plans, match and training observations and reviews.

The 10 coaching groups selected for the programme were: Angus Girls, Kelpies Rugby, Garioch RFC, Orkney RFC, Edinburgh Harlequins, Kelso RFC, Biggar RFC, Whitecraigs RFC, Annan RFC and Greenock Wanderers.

The President noted that if Council Members had any questions for the Rugby Development Department on the content of the Report these could be directed to him or the Director of Rugby Development.

3. Governance Update

The President provided the Council with an update on the work of the Council's Standing Committee on Governance (SCOG). Council Members were given the opportunity to ask further questions.

[SECTION REDACTED – COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE]

The President asked Council Members to provide feedback on the most recent proposal over the course of the week, which would then be fed in to SCOG's deliberations.

3. Council Nominated Board Director Vacancy

The President noted that due to M Offord becoming a member of the House of Lords he would be required to step down from the Board and Council.

As such, this meant a Council Nominated Board Director position would become available.

The President asked Council Members to consider what they wanted to do about the vacancy.

He highlighted that due to the impending changes of the governance review, it may be sensible for the Vice-President to fill the position. He noted that he had done this as Vice-President when a position became available. He suggested that, from a continuity perspective, this may be a favourable option but it was a matter entirely for the Council to consider.

The President encouraged Council Members to consider this and approach the President and Council Secretary if they had any thoughts or wanted to put their name forward.

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5. AOB

The Council Secretary advised she would circulate the updated Expenses Policy to Council Members.

The Glasgow South Representative asked whether there was a remotely accessible Rugby Record for changes to Club Committees to be noted. The Council Secretary noted she would check with the Head of Regulation.

The National 2 Representative noted that at a recent National 2/3 forum the issue of ambulance waiting times had been raised. The President confirmed he would raise the matter at TMG.

The Borders Representative raised that the under 19s scrummaging rule had caused confusion for Clubs and had not yet been resolved. It needed to be communicated to Clubs so they understood what the rules were. The last Council Minutes available on the website needed to be updated to reflect this.

It was noted that COP26 was likely to cause significant travel disruption throughout central Scotland and Clubs should be made aware so they could plan accordingly.

The URC Representative noted that the Murrayfield Injured Players Foundation was continuing to assist Clubs in fitting defibrillators. Only 13 Clubs were yet to have them fitted and he was hopeful these would be addressed quickly.

It was agreed the President would write to the Rugby Development Department to request that Women's games are moved to earlier in the day on the day that the International team are playing to allow them to both play and watch.

The Vice-President noted that he had enjoyed recently attending different schools and women's games. He encouraged Council Members to do the same to see all aspects of game. He also emphasised the success of a recent schools competition at Merchiston which had included Clubs teams. He congratulated the Schools Representative and asked the Council to consider how events of that type could be rolled out elsewhere.

The President noted that the Referee Representative had raised a point of AOB ahead of the Meeting as he could not attend. **[SECTION REDACTED – COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE]**

With all business concluded, the President closed the Meeting at 6.50pm.

Date of next meeting: 22 November 2021

APPROVED 15 NOVEMBER 2021