

RDBA League Meeting 2021- Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 20.00

Location: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Mark Hope, Steve Turner, Darren Hawes (Lutterworth BC), Tim Gordon (Avon BC), Simon Piercy (Hunters BC), Steve Sirman (St Philips BC), Neil Pulsford (Trinity BC).

Apologies: Simon Outhwaite, John Wardropper, Phil Pelton & Vish Parmer (QDJ)

Discussion Items:

1) Committee was proposed and voted in as follows:

Mark Hope – RDBA Chairman

Steve Turner – RDBA Secretary

Darren Hawes – RDBA Fixtures Secretary

Simon Outhwaite – RDBA Treasurer

John Wardropper – RDBA Juniors Representative

7 votes FOR, 0 votes Against, 0 Abstentions

Question was asked regarding what the Junior Representative does for the RDBA. Steve responded that the Junior Rep position provides a conduit for all junior clubs from the area into the RDBA. The position will normally be held by a coach from one of the junior clubs within the Rugby and District area. John, who is currently fulfilling the role is also the 'webmaster' for the RDBA.

Following the meeting an **action** has been taken by Steve to put together a description of all roles on the RDBA and what their function is. A summary will be presented at the next RDBA meeting.

2) Each club presented their situation and availability of teams for the new league

a) Avon BC (Tim Gordon):

No player losses from before the pandemic. Mark and Tim have taken over the running of the club from Bob Gale.

Predict that they will be entering 1 team in the league.

b) Harris BC (Mark Hope, on behalf of Ajit Barot):

Running with 7 members, happy to put a team into lowest division.

c) Hunters BC (Simon Piercy):

Top 3-4 players have unfortunately left the club, but we continue to run with a healthy number of players. Waiting to see how that translates into memberships in the new season.

Have now moved venue from Rugby High School to Harris Sports Centre. Currently only playing on Thursday nights, going to explore options for match play.
Predict that 2 teams can be entered in Rugby league. One team in 2nd division, one team in 3rd.

d) Lutterworth BC (Darren Hawes):

Predicting to enter 3 teams as before. Running with a similar membership to prior to pandemic.

Currently struggling with the venue as can only book an hour. Looking at venues where matches can be played.

e) QDJC BC (Not present, update from Phil P by message):

Currently not reformed as QDJC is not allowing club play. Phil is negotiating with QDJC to get the club back up and running.

f) St Philips BC (Steve Sirman):

Membership has reduced to 17 members. Moved session to Wednesday evenings. Predict 3 teams can be entered into the league, with option to insert a 4th team mid-season, even if it is for friendlies.

Club night remains on Wednesdays at Collingwood, Friday nights for matches at Houlton School. Possibility of a hall share on a Friday night as they may not be able to use the whole hall.

g) Trinity BC (Neil Pulsford):

Venue issues at Hinckley Leisure Centre so looking for alternative venues. Currently running with 12-17 members. Predict 2 teams can be entered in Rugby league.

Note that the Leicester league starts in November.

3) Proposal by Steve Turner

We abandon 2019-20 season as this seems to be the simplest way forward with the expected changes to all clubs (loss of players, reduced teams, etc).

7 votes FOR, 0 votes Against, 0 Abstentions

4) Counter proposal to Item 3 – Submitted by Avon BC

Play off the remaining games in a single day using a tournament format.

Not needed – proposal above carried

5) Possible formats for the new league

Keep the same as before. 4 rubbers and 2 split rubbers.

Question was asked by Steve Sirman regarding Ladies being able to play in all divisions. This was confirmed by the committee. Ladies can indeed play in all divisions as long as the team is collectively strong enough to compete in that division.

Mark Hope suggested adding a reverse split to the match format. Steve mentioned that Leamington league trialed a reverse split a while ago, Tim confirmed. It was agreed that a reverse split would elongate the matches and clubs may struggle to get the matches finished in the time.

Action for Mark, Steve and Darren to formulate the divisions using the club updates in the meeting and publish to the clubs to review. This meeting shall take place in two weeks following this meeting to allow for holidays.

6) Agree method of arranging fixtures and schedule any meetings, etc.

It was agreed that this can be decided once the divisions are approved.

7) Any Other Business

a) Friendly matches prior to season start:

A number of clubs are interested in friendly matches prior to the season start. Club Match Secretaries should contact opposite numbers to arrange.

b) RDBA to provide COVID policy for match etiquette:

Action for Steve to put together a brief for all clubs regarding match etiquette during pandemic.

c) David Lloyd friendlies:

Gerry Walker has contacted a number of clubs to ask for friendly matches for his up-and-coming players. Any interested clubs to contact Gerry directly.

d) League fees:

League fees were suspended following a generous donation from Long Lawford Badminton Club when it was closed down a number of years ago. The RDBA funds remain healthy, so league team fees will continue to be suspended until a time where the funds are depleted. This has and will continue to be reviewed each year at the AGM.

e) Do players need to be registered with the league in order to play?

Answer is yes as the players need to be registered in the league republic site to enable the submitting of match results.

May not require nominations but this depends on the division structures when they are released.

f) Potential for hall share with St Philips on Friday nights at Houlton School:

Any clubs interested in hall sharing with St Philips at Houlton School on a Friday night to contact Steve Sirman directly.

8) Meeting Close

Steve closed the meeting by thanking all that attended for their support at such short notice.

Club representatives thanked the committee members for continuing to keep the league running following the pandemic.

Steve followed up by thanking Mark Hope for returning as Chairman to assist the RDBA following his planned retirement as Chairman and Secretary in 2019.