



**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

**Belgrave Rugby Football Club
Thurcaston Road,
Leicester**

President:

Richard Green

Wednesday, 22nd June 2016

7.00 p.m.



Annual Report: Season 2015 - 2016

This report reviews the activities of Leicestershire Rugby Union Ltd. for the season 2015 - 2016.

Administration and Governance

The Management Committee remained as elected during the year.

During the season the Management Committee met six times and there were two Special General Meetings and three club's meetings. Attendance at the latter meetings was varied and reasonable. However, some clubs were again still not represented at any General Meetings and it is hoped that these clubs will replace their current LRU Representatives with persons who are more readily available and absorbed in County matters.

Attendance at the six Management Committee meetings has been:

R. Green	6	B. Hesford	6	E. Gregory	5	R. Hickson	6	P. Howard	6
M. Powell	4	S. Rice	6	M. Ross	5	K. Swift	2	B. Welford	2
L. Mackinder	1	D. Toon	5	P. Green	6	K. Whitcombe	6		

The season 2015 - 2016 witnessed the retirement of Malcolm Ross from the role of LRU Representative on the RFU Council, a role in which he served the LRU for over 16 years, a service in which we wholeheartedly thank Malcolm for. With Malcolm stepping aside we saw the CB propelled into the election of a new delegate to the role of LRU Representative on the RFU Council. Following a postal vote Peter Howard was duly elected into the role and we wish him all success in that function.

During the season a continuous review has been undertaken of the committee structures within the union, its constitution and its processes. A LRU planning day was held in May and the outcomes of the day and plans for the season 2016 – 2017 will be discussed at the end of the AGM.

The number of clubs in membership of the Union has increased. The number of RFU Non-Voting Member clubs currently stands at 7 (including the University Clubs) with 28 RFU Voting Member clubs. There are now 24 clubs in Leicestershire that have become incorporated to give them some form of limited liability. It is hoped that those six eligible clubs not currently incorporated will consider incorporating during the next twelve months in order to give their officers and members some protection against any legal action for negligence that may be taken against their clubs.

The Rugby World Cup 2015 occupied the CB Management Committee and its Sub-Committees for most of the last two seasons. Both Malcolm Ross and Kevin Whitcombe were extremely busy during this time, ably assisted by numerous volunteers. A full programme of CB events was organised for the benefit of the Leicestershire Clubs culminating with the Flavours of Rugby Festival on Victoria Park. We enjoyed the presence of the Webb Ellis Trophy as it made its appearance at a number of events around the county. These events necessitated a considerable amount of CB funding but regardless of the last they helped to bring the LRU Rugby Family together. Our thanks go to Kevin and Malcolm together with Steve Rice for all their hard work pulling together the CB RWC 2015 programme. Furthermore, our thanks go to those volunteers who gave up their time and effort to make it happen.

As part of the RWC 2015 Legacy Leicestershire are partnered with Warwickshire and *Hrvatski ragbijaški savez* the Croatian Rugby Union in the World Rugby Unity Project. This project has been developed to provide assistance to European countries and to grow the game in their countries using the expertise of the RFU Constituent Bodies. Outgoing and Incoming Scoping Visits were undertaken during the world cup year and a project plan is being developed albeit somewhat slower than the CB partnership envisaged. It is hoped that Leicestershire clubs will take the opportunity to engage with this project, particularly if club tours could be arranged to Croatia.

CB Rugby Development Partnership – Dean Toon

Last year's AGM saw the CBRDP lay out some short and medium term aims and these for the most part have been achieved:

Attract new volunteers to the team

- Make the LRU more relevant to Youth Rugby
- Work closely with key stakeholders
- Be transparent
- Establish core values

This year has been a year of new faces in the Youth Structure. The competitions team has been bolstered with Wayne and Helen Wrighten and Dave Eabry. Wayne and Helen taking responsibility for all Junior Competitions as well as running the Colts League and Dave assuming responsibility for Tag and Mini Midi Competitions and Festivals. The team have been visible at clubs over the season and we have endeavoured to be transparent, flexible and supportive to clubs working with them to solve challenges which fortunately have been few and far between. We have been proactive in assisting fledging Mini and Junior sections and worked more closely with our partners, principally the RFU.

The LRU Youth Cup competitions were all keenly contested and the spirit of Rugby was prevalent throughout. All junior age groups up to Under 16 competed in a Cup Bowl and Plate format whilst the Colts competed in a straight knockout competition. Congratulations go to all teams taking part producing the following Roll of Honour –

Cup Winners:

Under 13's	Market Harborough RUFC
Under 14's	Market Harborough RUFC
Under 15's	Market Harborough RUFC
Under 16's	Market Harborough RUFC
Under 18 Colts	Oakham RFC

Next season sees the introduction of the new Age Grade Rugby Formats and all new playing calendar. This has been designed to ensure schools', clubs and representative fixtures do not clash with the aim of players not being over played and better utilisation of squads.

The Youth Team along with other members of the LRU Management Committee have represented the County at various meetings and roadshows to fully engage and fully understand the many implications of the changes for the coming season. It is fair to say the changes have divided opinion but the section will work proactively alongside our partners to support and effectively communicate the changes in play and the playing calendar across the county.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all involved in the LRU Youth Committee, their commitment and work during the season.

Leicestershire Schools Rugby Football Union- Brian Welford

The past year has witnessed the introduction of the Age Grade Rugby roll out also the New Rules of Play. Both initiatives have been introduced in clubs and schools and have been supported on all fronts. The All Schools programme has continued led most ably by Jenna Bonser and her team. Her support for the CSU is greatly valued along with her assistance at our meetings.

It was a great sadness that Geoff Gay passed away after a brave fight. His work over the past 30 plus years in running the schools Under 14 team and then in recent years the school's competitions ensured that these important areas were well organised and run. I have been involved with Leicestershire Schools rugby for 40 years and can honestly say that in that time Geoff stood out among the many teachers who have served the CSU.

The competitions this year came partly under the wing of Team Leicestershire and as often with any new arrangement had some teething problems. Following a series of discussions many of these have been resolved and we look forward to the next season. New cups and medals were introduced and the finals held at Leicester Grammar School were a great success.

The NatWest school's cups did not feature any Leicestershire Schools in the finals this year. The whole competition has been re-organised in an attempt to make a level playing field and to give weaker schools a chance of success.

One new feature is the introduction of all lead coaches taking the Headcase on line module. It is intended long term for all teachers involved with rugby to take the module and to encourage parents also.

At our recent AGM Ian Sharpe stood down as Chairman and his work over many years for Leicestershire and also England Schools was outstanding. Jason Button has been elected as the new Chairman.

Our appreciation of his work is extended to Ian Sharpe and a warm welcome to Jason Button as the newly elected Chairman.

Congratulations go to the Schools Union on another successful season and thanks to all their committee for their work within the Leicestershire and Rutland schools.

Development Committee – Craig Marshall

The overall strategic objective of the CB Development Committee for the season 2015 - 2016 has been to develop, manage and deliver an annual coaching, club referee and player development plan that not only increases the number of active coaches and referees within the LRU, but assists with the retention of players of all ages within the game of Rugby.

During the season 2015 - 2016 we have continued to deliver coaching programmes as outlined in the PFR. Furthermore, all of our coaching and CPD courses including for the first time the level 1 coaching children course have been free to Leicestershire coaches.

Thanks go to all of the Development Sub-Committee members for their efforts during the season, and in particular the substantial efforts of the Rugby Development Staff who have delivered the variety of training throughout the LRU are very much appreciated.

Director of Rugby – Mark Powell

The under 16's successfully had 7 players selected for the academy squad. Regrettably Staffordshire are possibly dropping out of the selected regions for the Leicester Tigers. We will monitor that outcome but they will possibly be linked to Wasps. Next seasons structure will involve 3 games in January 2017 and an open trial in November over and above the DPP programme. The under 16's have appointed a new manager Stuart Davies from Market Harborough (on a 3-year Term) to Assist Troy Thacker.

The age grade is in the planning process of linking together with the U17/18's in order to establish flexibility and joined up thinking across the development of the age groups

The under 17/18's assistant manager role has been filled and James Monteiro from Syston has been appointed as part of the groups succession planning. We look as if we have secured a new sponsorship deal with Berryworld for this age group however ongoing discussion may secure further funding across the age groups and genders.

The group is planning 3 x 1-day training sessions at 'Bradgate Park' during the summer and a cohesive development plan and play book based on the senior's game plan book. Again this will give the teams more flexibility and smooth the transition into senior rugby.

The under 20's didn't materialise this season. However, Midlands have stated that they are keen on us being in the competition. A joint meeting will be required with our level 3-4 team coaches and the Midlands's selector and Manager to discuss the way forward? Again we are actively working towards an under 20's for the new season and will be looking to commence the Coaches and Manager Appointments in the next few months based on the success of the above meeting.

Woman and Girls have had their successes this season and a comprehensive report has been compiled by Tom Kilburn.

Our senior squad has had a successful season with the step up to the division 2 of the Bill Beaumont County Cup. Albeit that our 2 wins and 1 loss did not secure us a trip to Twickenham. Next season will be interesting and will afford us better rugby week in week out. We also have some ambitious sides and the quality of player in the level below who may possibly eventually play in the squad. I have been advised that the current senior coaching team may be stepping away after next season and have commenced reviewing the succession plans.

My thanks go to Leicester Forest who did a sterling job and were very hospitable. The opposition on the day really enjoyed the occasion, the social festivities, and the mixing up the players was well received so much so that they themselves will be doing that in the future.

Next season we be looking at 2 home games next year with plans to take the games to Oakham and Lutterworth but we have not ruled out a possibility of taking the game(s) to the Tigers? We will be planning to host 2 Barbarians games against Staffs and NLD in April 2017. Sponsorship is also high on the agenda so if there is anyone who may be interested in sponsoring our representative rugby then please contact the CB Director of Rugby.

On behalf of the County our thanks go to Mark Powell and his management team, the team of coaches across all of the age grades for all their hard work and to the players without whom we would not be able to reap reward.

Women and Girl's – Tom Kilburn*

It is encouraging to note that there has been growth in Women and Girl's rugby within the CB and that the phrase "this girl can" can be truly said of the CB.

There has been a lot of activity within the CB. A new coaching team has been put into place led by head coach Tom Kilburn, with a number of newly recruited assistant coaches that have included the assistance of several young leaders. The luxury with having the same coaches involved across the whole women's and girls' program has allowed us to employ consistency in training.

In terms of recruitment we have adopted an all-inclusive approach and our players have displayed a wide range of skills with a number of them picking up a rugby ball for the first time. The section is working closely with the RFU CRC's who have been visiting the schools and at the last festivals we organised the total number of players taking part has been circa 120 at under 15's and 73 at under 13's. Very few of these girls play in clubs at the moment as they take part in a wide selection of other sports but our aim is to change the last.

The Under 15 and 18 program concluded in December and in our final round matches we hosted both Staffordshire and North Midlands.

As a result of our Under 18 programme 8 players were given the opportunity to attend the Midlands trials. Of the 8 that attended 5 were selected into the midlands squad. Our congratulations go to Leah Bartlett, Amy Relf (both Loughborough), Georgia Watson, Tabitha Copston (both Market Harborough), and Alice Birr (Leicester Forest).

Further selection success has been achieved in the Under 18 programme:

Midlands 7's Team

Tabitha Copston and Amy Relf were both selected for the Midlands 7's squad.

England under 18's TDG

Tabitha Copston and Leah Bartlett both represented England Talent Development Group twice against Canada. Tabitha and Amy are part of the England under 18's TGD for next season.

England under 18's Sevens Team

Amy Relf is also in line for the U18 European 7's Championships in France, taking place this summer, after securing a coveted place on the national U18 7's training squad.

England under 20's Squad

Leah Bartlett has been selected for the Under 20's squad to take on Canada in a 3 test series at Nottingham Trent College in August.

The Under 15 programme also experienced selection success 12 players were given the opportunity to attend the Midlands trials, unfortunately Tia Rich had to drop out due to the national Judo championships. And of the 11 that attended 8 were selected into the squad for the first time.

Midlands Squad

Congratulations go to Solitaire Moonen-Leadetatt, Kenzi Pepper, Chelsea Page (all Coalville), Mathilda Renault, Erin Cameron (both Lutterworth), Sabine Brewster, Tahei Baikeinuku (both Market Harborough), and Phoebe

Andrews (Oakham). Five of these girls Mathilda, Erin, Chelsea, Tahei and Olivia have been selected with a further year to play in this age group.

TDG

In addition, Olivia Chantrey was invited to attend a TDG training day after good performances in the County matches but unfortunately struggled with illness at the trial.

Midlands 7's Team

We had 4 girls involved in the Midlands 7's squad, Solitaire, Phoebe, Kenzi and Olivia.

National under 18's TDG

Solitaire and Phoebe have been added to next season's talent development Group.

Senior Side

The Women's game saw a major change this season with the creation of a New Women's County Championship Cup and Plate competition. Leicestershire were in the Cup competition and faced a tough draw in the inaugural competition. We started the season with a home game against Yorkshire followed by an away game against East Midlands. Unfortunately, we had to withdraw from our game against Staffordshire. The side was captained by Ellie Turner who was one of this years under 18's. Ellie was also the proud recipient of the LRU young female player of the year award.

I would like to thank Shaun Porter, Maria Crowfoot, Scarlett Cooper-Wall, Shane Fox and Paul West for their support on the training pitch. Jon and Alison Foster for managing the teams and the Coalville young leaders David Kennedy, Nathan Orme-Herbert and Guy Hagon who assisted on match days and at training as part of their development. Sam Hagon for fulfilling the role of under 13's manager. A big thankyou to Lauren Dobson the program physio, for dealing with every issue thrown at her. Further thanks to Paula Brotherhood and Del Townsend for the manging of the women's team. And finally I would like to thank the representatives of the management team that have supported and witnessed first-hand the women and girls over the last few months.

We really do have some talented players and it's a pleasure to work with them.

Our congratulations extend to Del Townsend, Tom Kilburn and all of those involved in the delivery of a successful Women and Girls programme.

*A full report on the Woman and Girls 2015 – 2016 season is available on request

Safeguarding – Liz Mackinder

2015 - 2016 has been a steady, but busy season for Safeguarding. It has been an interesting year with various incidents across the county. Unfortunately, several clubs have experienced a number of coaches being declined DBS certificates with one coach being suspended from coaching by the RFU. There have been the usual minor issues concerning the touchline tourers or over keen parents.

After facing a few problems with the RFU and a lack of educators within Leicestershire an "In Touch" course was finally held for Safeguarding Officers and was attended by some new safeguarding officers, we had 5 clubs underrepresented. In the forthcoming season there will be recommendations for those clubs to attend a course and that all Safeguarding officers will be required to complete an "in touch" course every 3 years. The CB has been assured by the RFU that we now have educators in Leicestershire and we will be able to book courses a lot easier.

Club Audits were completed and sent to RFU. The new audits for next season will be sent out in August ready for the start of the season, and arrangements will be made to visit as many clubs as possible, especially those with new safeguarding officer's.

It is planned to hold a workshop with all Safeguarding officers so they can meet each other and share good practices within the clubs. The delivery of a Play it Safe programme will form part of this workshop.

A combined delegation of safeguarding and discipline attended the RFU safeguarding conference as the CB is exploring the stratagem of working together as Safeguarding and Discipline at times do merge into the same work stream. The Conference was informative and has generated the necessity to check club website navigation in relation to their Safeguarding and Welfare policies.

Safeguarding is high on the agenda within clubs and every club within the CB has at least one Safeguarding officer. The last can only assist safeguarding initiatives in order that the CB can deliver safety in rugby and continue as a successful county for all players and spectators to enjoy.

There are no outstanding issues at the end of the season.

Welfare – Liz Mackinder

Only 5 incidents have been reported during the 2015 – 2016 season. From a welfare perspective we are hoping that this is a good sign and not one that clubs are failing to report overnight stays to the CB.

Leicester Tigers F C

Congratulations again go to those members of the Leicester Tigers club who have represented their countries this season. We wish them and the club success in the future.

Thanks also go to Leicester Tigers for their use of the Welford Road ground for the Senior County Cup and the Laurence Fenton Colts Under 18 County Cup Finals.

Leicester City F C

I presume it would be very negligent of the union not to congratulate Leicester City Football Club on their momentous achievement in winning the football premiership.

Competitions Report –David Bonser

Congratulations go to all the competition winners and a massive thank you goes to those people who helped make the Competitions happen.

The fourth annual finals day was organised at South Leicester RFC and was a great success. Next year's finals Day will be held on Saturday 6th May at Melton RFC. Please note due to Easter falling late in the calendar and designated League weekends running up to the end of April will have been given no choice but to move this event to the first Saturday in May following the bank holiday.

This year's county cup was also a great success with all fixtures being honoured by participating clubs throughout all four rounds. Clubs also benefited from the exposure of draws being made live on the BBC 'Rugby Hour' which is the highest listened to show/podcast on the station. Plans are already in place to hold the final at Welford Road on Tuesday 3rd May 2017. This will be the 47th consecutive season the competition has ran and I am sure you will all agree it has been great to see the resurgence of this competition over the last couple of years. Thanks go to Henri Ginvert for all his hard work pulling this completion together.

The LRU Awards Presentation Evening held again at Cosby Golf Club was a success thanks to the organisational capabilities of Ken Palfreyman, Richard Green and Pauline Harding.

The competitions summary for Season 2015/16 is as follows:

Cup Competitions:

Senior County Cup Winners	Melton Mowbray
Senior County Cup Runners Up	Hinckley
Senior County Bowl Winners	Loughborough
Senior County Bowl Runners Up	Aylestone St James
Senior Presidents Cup Winners	Burbage
Senior Presidents Cup Runners Up	Stoneygate
David Brookhouse 2 nd XV Cup Winners	Syston
David Brookhouse 2 nd XV Cup Runners Up	Leicester Lions
Veterans Cup Winners	Loughborough
Veterans Cup Runners Up	Coalville

Thanks go to the host clubs for their support.

Thanks also go to the Club Fixture Secretaries for getting the Cups completed, Henri Ginvert for the countless hours spent calling and emailing entrants and Simon Chaperon who successfully organised proceedings on the night of the County Cup final at Welford Road this season.

Leicestershire Merit Tables

The number of completed games has vastly improved this season with the introduction of the new merit table format. The quality of games has also improved with results being much tighter than previous years and heavily one sided games being avoided. Merit B also trialled the opportunity for fixture secretaries to set their own fixture dates and decide when they play teams in their table with many opting to marry up Midlands League fixtures when possible. This will be rolled out across all tables for the 2016/2017 season. The coming season will also consist of 3 tables of 8 sides.

Merit A Winners	Leicester Lions 2nds
Merit B Winners	Loughborough 2nds
Merit C Winners	Ashby 2nds

Senior Colts Winners	System Under 18s
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RFU National and Midlands Leagues

This season has seen mixed fortunes for a number of clubs however some noticeable promotions have been achieved (Listed below). Loughborough Students, Leicester Lions and South Leicester all maintained their league standings in their respective National Leagues. They will next season be joined by Hinckley following their playoff win. System also maintained their National (Midlands) 3 position with a mid-table finish. Midlands 2 South (East) saw no fewer than 8 Leicestershire sides compete for promotion, Melton recorded their second successive promotion and will be joined in Midlands one next season by Lutterworth who beat West Bridgford to move up to level 6. Loughborough won promotion at the first attempt from Midlands 3 and will be replaced by Birstall who won promotion from Midlands 4 South.

Following a vote of the RFU council to change the format of the leagues for the 2017/2018 and beyond being in favour of change this was later thrown out and the league pyramid will continue in its existing format for the foreseeable future.

National 3 Midlands Playoff Winners	Hinckley
Midlands 2 South (East) Winners	Melton
Midlands 2 South (East) Play Off Winners	Lutterworth
Midlands 4 South (East) Runners Up	Birstall

Ladies Rugby

Following last year's incredible return to the National Championship North Loughborough Ladies found this season to be much tougher following the departure of a number of key players to Premiership clubs and notably Christelene Steinhobel who is currently representing South Africa on the world 7s circuit. However, a number of young players made the step up to maintain their league standing.

Old Newtonians recorded an impressive 4th place finish in National Conference Midlands 1 with Lutterworth finishing in 7th.

Midlands Leagues – Steve Mounfield

Congratulations go to Hinckley RFC on their promotion to National 1 after topping National 2 Midlands, Melton Mowbray RFC on their promotion from Midlands 2 East (South) to Midlands 1 East and Birstall RFC on promotion from Midlands 4 East (South) to Midlands 3 East (North).

Commiserations go Leicester Forest RFC who have been relegated. We wish them and Old Newts, (who withdrew last year but are trying again in 2016/17), the best of fortune in their efforts next season. The promotions of Melton and Birstall are particularly to be commended as it the second successive promotion for both clubs in Midlands Leagues.

Steve Mounfield, Leicestershire representative on the Midlands Division Organising Committee again reports a very straightforward season with only very minor administrative problems and a handful of points deduction penalties.

All clubs seem now to be familiar with and have responded to the Regulations regarding registration and match cards and this has resulted in fewer fines for breach thereof.

Thanks go to both Dave Bonser and his colleagues for their efforts in organising this seasons competition's and to Steve Mounfield for his work as Leicestershire Representative on the Midlands Division Organising Committee.

Rugby Development Officer's Report – Jenna Bonser

Whilst away on maternity leave for part of this season Jenna's role was covered by Scott Johnson until her return earlier this year.

The excellent work of our local RFU team has continued throughout the 2015 – 2016 season. Age Grade Rugby continues its evolution and as a result a new rules of play event for U12's coaches was held, 25 coaches attended this session. The team continued to promote all CPD award courses including the provision of 2 free first aid courses.

Vipers RFC and Aylestone Athletic RFC became the newest additions to the RFU Clubs accreditation scheme and are awaiting their award. The recent LRU presentation evening however saw Oakham, South Leicester, Lutterworth, Syston and Sileby receive their accreditation and in some instances re-accreditation. The family of accredited LRU clubs continues to grow.

The 2015 RWC was high on the agenda for our RDO and CRC giving a major part of their time to supporting the LRU Flavours of Rugby event on Victoria Park organising the social 7's, Touch and Women and Girls fixtures. They supported the Webb Ellis Trophy Tour and specific organised events. And when they thought it was all over they were then to be seen fully immersed in supporting the World Cup Fanzone on Victoria Park.

Touch Rugby continues to grow in the County through the seven O2 touch base clubs, two universities and an army base. The number of female participants is significant and as a result eight teams entered into the mixed touch at both the "Flavours of Rugby" and the festival at Rutland Water organised as part of the RWC 2015 Trophy Tour.

Girl's rugby continues to grow and this season saw numerous fixtures played at the Flavours of Rugby. Support has been given to nine U13 and U15 Girls festivals that attracted 500 participants. And the County Girls Festival involved seven U13 teams and seven U15 teams, with a total of 180 players. A full college and girls programme is planned for the forthcoming season.

The team continue to deliver the All Schools programme. Rugby is flourishing in our targeted schools and rugby is now embedded in their school culture. Links were forged with the British Asian Rugby Association (BARA) and as a result of this alliance a City School Festival ably assisted by Ikram Butt attracted 140 players. We will continue to work with stakeholders in order to develop links with the British Asian Community in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The delivery of a special school's programme working with children with a moderate learning difficulty continues as does the "broadening reach" schools work strand.

Remaining with Schools 3 FE Colleges festivals attracted 2100 players and 2 City Schools festivals attracted 450 players. The last festival in December was attended by 11 teams at U13 and 5 teams at U15. These included schools such as Fullhurst Community College, Babington and Lancaster Boys who have not entered for a number of years. The latter is testament to the observation that there is still a passion in schools to play rugby. Further work will continue next season.

Thanks go to both Jenna and Scott for their continuing hard work during the year. Thanks also go to the Community Rugby Coaches for all their hard work.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report – Helen Wrighten

Since taking over this role towards the end of 2015 I am still trying to get to grips with what is expected of the role. I attended a volunteer evening at Lutterworth which I felt privileged to be invited to and have spoken to a number of clubs.

Plans for the forthcoming season to start to build a relationship with all of the Clubs in the County. Run a workshop for Club volunteer co-ordinators, a volunteer evening for club volunteers and work with the Task Group to support where needed.

Our thanks go to Helen for her work this season.

Facilities and Funding Coordinator – Richard Hickson

The facilities group met 4 times this year in order to oversee the LRU facilities plan for 2015 - 2106. The Plan made provision for selected clubs to receive grants for new goal posts and grants towards pitch maintenance plans. The facilities group also delivered an energy evening in April which was attended by 11 clubs. Several initiatives were outlined in respect of energy saving opportunities, grants and green loans, with discussions on the Planning Funding and Reporting protocols for next year.

This season the group instigated the facilities survey and have nominated the Leicestershire clubs going forward to the Nat West Challenge. We have encouraged and, hopefully, helped clubs to focus on finding funding both from the RFU and from other, external sources, and completed the Social Spaces Initiative.

The group have also discussed the clubs going forward for RFU funding priorities in the next year and have discussed the major RFU Artificial Grass Pitches [AGP] initiatives expenditure within the county.

In the 2016 - 2017 facilities programme we will continue the funding initiatives that have proved to be successful and are encouraging the LRU to have more involvement in funding within the county.

Over the past few years the facilities group have gained a tremendous insight both into funding priorities and also in planning and facilities design and have encouraged Leicestershire clubs to be more confident in their facilities ambitions. We are looking to continue with this programme in the coming seasons.

In terms of the future as already alluded to we will continue to deliver as appropriate our initiatives. In terms of development in the coming season we are looking for suitably qualified individuals to join us in order for us to promote facilities and funding within Leicestershire.

Thanks go to Richard Hickson and his team for the work that they have put in on behalf of the CB and the Leicestershire Rugby Union Clubs.



Discipline – Peter Howard

There are no further cases in the pipeline for hearing.

At the end of the season there were a number of junior discipline cases reported to CB Youth Discipline Secretary, Les Vernon; whose role it is to monitor school and club actions, to advise and to ensure that they are taking appropriate action and imposing appropriate sanctions: I have been awaiting final details for inclusion in this report; unfortunately, now that I have received them, I find that I cannot readily copy the details across from the format in which they were received. I have therefore arranged for those details to be sent out separately.

On the senior side the season has been remarkably quiet; we met just 13 times and held two virtual hearings dealing with four straightforward, guilty plea cases virtually, by email: 23 cases in total; in fact, the quietest season for discipline that I have known.

Date	NAME	CLUB	OFFENCE	NOTES
24 September 2015	Phillip STIMPSON	Melton Mowbray	10.4(s) Match official abuse	42 days
	Jamie HOWE	Aylestone St James	10.4(a) Punch	28 days
16 October 2015	Jordan CONNELL	Old Newtonians	10.4(c) Kick	21 days
29 October 2015	Joe COX	Aylestonians	10.4(s) Match official abuse	DNA – Banned <i>Sine Die</i>
	Gareth LOVE	Sileby Town	10.4(a) Punch	7 days
26 November 2015	Joe COX	Aylestonians	10.4(s) Match official abuse	35 days
	John HUGHES	Loughborough University	10.4(a) Punch	7 days
19 December 2015 (Virtual/on papers)	Paul WILSON	Leicester Lions	10.4(a) Punch (Giving false name)	14 days
28 December 2015 (Virtual/on papers)	Ryan GIBSON	Market Harborough	10(4)(m) Two yellow cards	SoS

	Dan CAVNER	Syston	10(4)(m) Two yellow cards	SoS
14 January 2016	Harry BUCKBY	Vipers	10(4)(m) Two yellow cards	SoS
	Jack KYLE	Belgrave	10.4(a) Punch	14 days
28 January 2016	Matthew GOGGINS	Syston	10.4(a) Punch	7 days
	Alex SALT	Hinckley	10.4(s) Match official abuse	49 days
11 February 2016	James DRIVER	Market Bosworth	10.4(c) Kick	Not proved
10 March 2016	James MUGGLETON	Leicester Forest	10.4(s) Match official abuse	14 days
27 March 2016 (Virtual/on papers)	Guy NORRIS	Market Bosworth	10(4)(m) Two yellow cards	SOS
4 April 2016 (Virtual/on papers)	Ben CONNELL	Syston	10(4)(m) Two yellow cards	7 days
14 April 2016	Sean KYLE	Belgrave	10(4)(m) Two yellow cards	7 days
	Richard BOWDEN	Vipers (Coach)	10(4)(m)(s) Dissent/Abuse	21 days
	Hinckley RFC	Whole club	Poor disciplinary record	Fined £1000 (suspended to end 2016/7 season on no recurrence). All coaches at all levels to be represented at a Core Values course to be delivered by the RDO at the beginning of next season
21 April 2016	Fergus CLARKE	Market Harborough	10(4)(j) Tip Tackle	14 days
	Alex SALMON	Loughborough	10(4)(c) Kick	14 days
19 May 2016	Luke COLTMAN	LRU	10(4)(a) Head butt	Sending off sufficient



There are currently vacancies for two or three new discipline panel members and the existing panel has met to consider the potential candidates. Brian Hesford the discipline secretary will address how the panel proposes to deal with those, going forward; as well as to address the issue of a proposal Chairman, for the approval of the Management Committee.

All that remains for me is to offer my heartfelt thanks to all the current panel members and especially the Secretary, Brian Hesford, who has made the role an easy pleasure; but also to panel members and secretaries with whom I have worked in the past 15 or so years, for their wisdom and their camaraderie. I wish the panel plain sailing for the future.

YOUTH (CLUB) CASES CHARGED AS 10.4(m)

REASON FOR 10.4(m) (E.G. SPITTING, ABUSE, ETC)	NUMBER OF CASES
	0

YOUTH (CLUB) CASES CHARGED UNDER 5.12

REASON FOR 5.12	SANCTION/OUTCOME
U18 MATCH ABANDONED FIGHTING	8 GAMES

YOUTH (CLUB) DISCIPLINE CASES BREAKDOWN

AGE GROUP & CHARGE - e.g. U16 10.4(a)	SANCTION/OUTCOME (INCLUDING ENTRY POINT)
U16 10.4(a)	MID ENTRY 4 NETT 3
U16 10.4(a)	MID ENTRY 4 NETT 3
U16 10.4(s)	MID ENTRY 6 NETT 5
U18 10.4(a)	MID ENTRY 3 NETT 2
U15 10.4(a)	LOW ENTRY 2 NETT 2
U15 10.4(c)	MID ENTRY 4 NETT 3
U18 10.4(a)	MID ENTRY 3 NETT 2
U18 10.4(a)	MID ENTRY 4 NETT 3

The thanks of the Management Committee go to Peter, his team of willing panel members and to his discipline secretary for all their hard work throughout the season



Concluding Remarks

Congratulations go to all players that have represented Leicestershire at all levels so admirably over the last season.

The Management Committee, Sub Committee Chairmen and Team Managers would like to thank all those member clubs who have supported and assisted the Union during the season both in supplying players for our teams and for the use of their facilities. In particular I would like to thank those clubs who have hosted County finals matches and congratulate them on their hospitality.

Lastly a vote of thanks goes to our outgoing President, Richard Green, who during his year of office visited almost every County club and supported our County matches at many venues. Richard attended many of the RWC events and even found time to be a volunteer in the pack of during the RWC competition. Richard has been yet another very good ambassador for the Union at those functions to which he has been invited. His support at County events and matches has been welcomed by all the hard working Team Managers and Committee Members.

Kevin Whitcombe
Honorary Secretary
Leicestershire Rugby Union Ltd

13th June 2016