



RUGBY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Rugby Development Partnership (RDP), incorporating the RFU, the Lancashire County Board and other stakeholders, plans, agrees and implements strategy for the development of rugby in Lancashire. The RDP reports directly to the County's Executive Committee.

During the period under review the RDP continued to redefine and monitor progress on Lancashire's Strategic Plan to take the game forward over the next five years. This included producing an annual plan for the season and beginning an outline plan for the coming season; major targets have been met on time. Our progress in most fields, and particularly in Coaching Development, would place us very high on a merit table - if one existed.

Planning Strategies approved by the RDP are:

CLUB DEVELOPMENT	increase the number of club volunteers, increase participating adult players (coaches and Officials)
FACILITIES	complete club facility audit, update facility strategy
7-18 & SCHOOLS	provide programme of playing opportunities of players 16+; increase participation of players U12-16; increase participation of players aged 11 and under; create greater opportunities for 16+ players through linking Further Education Establishments to clubs; increase numbers of schools playing 6 games
COACHING	Adult Section meet national requirement of coach to player ratio; Youth Section meet national coach/player ratio; support club coaching co-ordinators; reinstate County Coaching Committee; provide coach education; provide introduction to the game and support Lancashire Schools programme; develop the next generation of coaches
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT	provide framework for players to ensure their maximum development; establish Schools of Rugby; run County Representative Squads
REFEREEING	increase and improve the number of referees; further develop the Young Referees Scheme
WOMEN'S RUGBY	create a common age group (U12) of girls to support club rugby; develop emerging schools; retain and develop existing senior women representative and non-representative; identify and support girls rugby at U11
STUDENTS	create a database for players in higher education; provide greater playing opportunities and link the activity to local clubs
EQUITY	develop Club Welfare Officers
GOVERNANCE	prepare strategic and Annual Plans; further develop with Sale Sharks and other stakeholders

Other than the strategic plan, policy was debated and decided on a number of

- The appointment of a new Child Welfare Officer (CWO) and supporting the CWO's ongoing work in registering Clubs complying with the CRB check requirements;
- Integrating the Lancashire County Womens Development Committee into the RDP and supporting the development of Rugby for Women in the County;
- Monitoring the national Go Play Rugby initiative and approving ongoing developments specific to the County;
- Fostering initiatives to introduce young referees to competition games;
- Working with the County Web Master and supporting his efforts to improve the County Web Site, most recently dealing with a Rugby First National effort to standardise titles and roles for County Officials;
- Appointing County Squad Coaches and Officials for the season and approving initial research into the viability of introducing a playing programme and a tour for players in the 20 - 25 year age group;
- Producing briefs for clubs to assist them in preparing Facilities and Funding bids;
- Reviewing the standard of medical coverage for County Squads;
- Supporting the 17 - 18 Year Group in dealing with selection issues for North Division and Lancashire's representation in this process;
- Supporting and approving the work of the 7-16 Year Group in dealing with a variety of complaints;

In all planning and operational tasks the RDP was aided by the Schools, the Colts and Mini Junior Committees, the Referees Societies and the Academy. Details of the developments, actions and programmes undertaken by these sections are contained in the relevant Section Annual Reports. The RDP development programme also included co-ordinating with the Regional Rugby Development Manager's (RRDM) work programme, full details of which can be found in the RRDM's Annual Report.

Members of the RDP attended a full programme of National Conferences and Seminars which have been reported previously and are covered to in the relevant Section Annual Reports.

TOM FITZGERALD
RDP Hon. Secretary