

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH RUGBY COUNCIL
HELD AT 5.30pm ON MONDAY 23 MAY 2022
HELD BY MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Present:

Ian Barr	(IB)	President
Colin Rigby	(CR)	Vice-President
Alistair Forsyth	(AF)	Borders Regional Representative
Murdo Gillanders	(MG)	Edinburgh Regional Representative
Ian Rankin	(IR)	Co-opted (United Rugby Championship Limited)
Jim O'Neil	(JON)	Glasgow South Regional Representative
Kenneth Knott	(KK)	Referees Representative
Gordon Thomson	(GT)	Premiership Representative
Gerry Tosh	(GT)	National 1 Representative
Bob Richmond	(BR)	North Regional Representative
Bobby Frazer	(BF)	National 3 Representative
Eric Hugh	(EH)	National 2 Representative
Hazel Swankie	(HS)	Midlands Representative

Apologies:

Gavin Hastings	(GH)	Co-opted (British & Irish Lions)
John Halliday	(JH)	Co-opted (Rugby Europe)
William Gardner	(WG)	Glasgow North Regional Representative

In Attendance:

[NAME REDACTED]	(XX)	Senior Solicitor & Council Secretary
Gavin Scott	(GS)	Director of Rugby Development
[NAME REDACTED]	(XX)	Head of Business Operations
[NAME REDACTED]	(XX)	Competitions and Compliance Manager

1. Introduction**ACTION**

The President noted that a quorum was present and opened the Meeting.

The President welcomed the representatives of the Rugby Development Department to the Meeting.

He noted that a Council decision was required on the recommendation made by the Male Adult Season Working Group, which had been circulated to the Council in advance of the Meeting.

2. Season Structure Consultation

The Director of Rugby Development referred to the Report which was taken as read. He highlighted the key points:

- The Male Adult Season Structure Working Group had completed their consultation process and had recommended to the Council that change to the format of the adult male national leagues was required.

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The consultation process had taken place over three years and had involved over 50 consultation workshops, 'check and challenge' groups and league forum meetings.

- The recommendation to the Council was that, from season 2023/24, the Men's Premiership would be contested by ten teams of one division and the Men's National leagues would be contested by 30 teams in three divisions of 10.
- It was noted a number of other proposals had been considered by the Working Group but over 75% of Clubs had supported the current recommendation.
- It was noted that Bye-Law 14.2.3 set out that the Clubs had the right to determine the format of national club competitions, with prior consultation and subsequent approval of the Clubs at AGM/SGM. The Council Secretary highlighted that the Council needed to consider whether this recommendation resulted in a "format" change.

In accordance with Bye-Law 27, where there was a difference in opinion regarding the meaning of a Bye-Law, it was for the Council to determine the meaning.

The President thanked the Director of Rugby Development for the update and asked Council Members to consider the information presented.

With the exception of the National 3 Representative, all Council Members were of the view that, following the extensive consultation phase, the recommendation should now be submitted as an AGM motion to allow the membership to discuss and debate the topic and ultimately decide whether or not they wished for it to be implemented.

The National 3 Representative noted that National 3 were not in favour of the recommendation, if it was passed at the AGM 50% of the National 3 teams would drop out of the National Championship and all teams wanted to continue playing national rugby. He reiterated that the National 3 Clubs were opposed to this recommendation and would oppose it at the AGM.

After discussion and debate, the Council **AGREED** that the Male Adult Season Structure Working Group's recommendation should be incorporated into a motion to be proposed by the Council to allow the membership to fully debate and vote upon the proposed change.

The Council Secretary confirmed a motion would be drafted on that basis for the President to sign and submit ahead of the AGM motion deadline on 31 May 2022.

The President thanked the Rugby Development Department for the substantial work undertaken on the consultation process.

3. **AOB**

The President informed Council Members that the Women's Representative had resigned from Council and an election to appoint her successor would commence in the coming weeks.

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With all business concluded the Meeting was closed at 6.10pm.

Date of next meeting: 6 June 2022.

APPROVED 20 JUNE 2022