



## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING REVIEW OF 2020/2021 SEASON AND ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The year from June 2020 to June 2021 will be one none of us will forget for many reasons. Whilst as a club and as individuals we all have sadly been affected by Coronavirus in different ways the club has still been able to maintain an element of growth and a focal point for the young people of our community.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I want to personally thank each and every one of our players, their parents, volunteers and members who have contributed to the survival and success of our Club this year in so many ways and for everyone's patience whilst the club and the leagues sought ways to get the children to be able to return safely to playing the sport which we all know and love. We would also like to thank all our coaches who have worked tirelessly in difficult circumstances to ensure Rugby League remains at the heart of our Community.

The fact that so many of our members agreed to keep paying their membership fees during the course of the year have ensured that we are stronger together and looking forward to a bright future.

### GOVERNANCE

We are a club of approximately 350 playing members spread across an age groups from Cubs (5 year olds) to Under 16s. Our teams compete in the 3 junior and youth North West Counties Leagues as well as the Girl's Rugby League. All of the leagues have their own competition rules but the operational rules for game are managed by the RFL.

The RFL are our National Governing Body and are responsible for referees, insurance, safeguarding, drugs in sport and concussion protocols. Not all of the leagues we operate in are directly run by the RFL. Our members are subject to the operational rules which we promote via our website to ensure all of our Coaches and volunteers are kept abreast of changes in the rules and any new practices that maybe adopted.

All of our members are subject to a DBS check prior to volunteering and those that are Head Coaches have a recognised qualification which is sourced via the RFL Coachwise programme. We have First Aid operatives across the club who are certified to the required standards and have a selection of volunteers who are trained in the use of the defibrillators which are held on site.

Our Club is a not-for-profit members club which is governed by our constitution which is reviewed each year. We have an annual AGM at which the accounts, independently prepared, are approved by the members present.

We pride ourselves on having an inclusive club to welcome and include all, regardless of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or religion. We have a fair membership scheme which considers those members who from time to time suffer severe hardship.

We have had no issues to report in the year in breach of any of the rules by which we are governed. We have a transparent reporting system which is modified from time to time on advice from the NGB or appropriate agencies.

As a club we receive from time to time external funding to assist in our development. During the course of the pandemic we have received funding from the local authority and Sport England to aid with Covid survival.

## **Team/Club Performance as at June 2021**

In late 2020/early 2021 Covid had significantly disrupted all amateur sport but by mid 2021 there had been a gradual return to normality insofar as playing matches was concerned.

Despite Covid, the club still had fantastic numbers at all age groups and had at least one team from every age group from U7s to U16s plus girls teams at U11s, U12s and U14s based at the Academy section.

The Committee were pleased with the progress and general playing and training for fun and development attitude of the teams at U11 and younger in their non-competitive structures. The development was apparent with the club providing finalists for the Lancashire Cups and NW Counties cups at all competitive age groups apart from one with those finals due to be played in September 2021. No other club in the North West provided teams for more than one final across all the age groups.

The girl's teams in the competitive age groups of U13s and U14s are also in prime position to top their respective North West competitions.

## **2021/2022 – Strategic Plan**

For the forthcoming Season we are setting realistic and attainable goals in which the whole club has to play a part.

I have summarised some of the main issues below against which we will monitor our success and the end of the next Season:-

1. Clubhouse Refurbishment – including new safety flooring and new social area for use in club functions.
2. Fence Surround – we are looking to raise finance to fence off our site for the safety of our players and members and protect the site in general.
3. Floodlight renewal – The old style floodlights which have served us well over the last 10 years or so are starting to fail and we are looking to upgrade to a new LED system which will provide better lighting conditions and be more cost effective to the club.
4. Proceed with an application to the RLWC CreatedBy fund to create a modern, high quality Artificial Grass Pitch in place of our existing fenced main pitch.
5. Build on the success of all of our teams by concentrating on support for coaches and improving their experiences at the club, giving them the tools to make our players the best they can be.