



Durham County Rugby Football Union
Season 2025-26
Minutes of the General Committee Meeting 1
Durham City RFC
Tuesday 8th July 2025



<u>Voting Clubs</u>						Washington	J. Pope [JP]	P
Barnard Castle	J. Raper [JR]	P	Hart Rovers	C. Collins [CC]	P	W Hartlepool	K Waites [KW]	P
Billingham	C. Ker [CK]	P	Houghton	P. Teare [PT]	P	Westoe	J. Anderson [JA]	P
B Auckland	R. Parkin [RP]	P	Jarroviaans	T. Thompson [TT]	A	W Vulcans	C. MacFarlane [CMac]	P
Blaydon	H. Redpath [HR]	P	N Aycliffe	R. Malvern [RM]	P	Yarm	M. Taylor [MT]	P
Consett	I. McGeorge [IMcG]	P	Peterlee & Horden	J. Cheeseman [JC]	P	<u>Non-Voting Clubs</u>		
Darlington	C. Anderson [CA]	D	Ryton	G. Wright [GW]	P	Chester le Street		
DM Park	K. Robinson [KR]	P	Seaham	N Roseberry [NR]	P	Dolphins	S. Havery [SH]	P
D City [IM Rep 2]	M. Berriman [MB]	P	Seaton Carew	K. Braham [KBr]	A	D Masonic		
D University	S. Cully [SC]	P	Sedgefield	I Edwards [IE]	D	Hart & District	M. Bowden [MB]	P
Gateshead	S. Havery [SH]	A	S Shields	L. Belshaw [LB]	P	Northeast XV		
Hartlepool	D. Carson-White	P	Stockton	J. Johnson MBE [JJ]	A	WH Amateurs	A. Wilson [AW]	A
Hartlepool BBOB	E. Arnell, [EA]	P	Sunderland	P. Geehan [PG]	P	WH TDSOB	J.G. Dove [JGD]	P

Other Representatives - Non-Voting

Coaching Society	M. W-Atkinson [MW-A]	P	Rep to RFU	J.P. Candlish [JPC]	P	<u>Others</u>		
Discipline	J.G. Dove [JGD]	P	Ind. Mem. Rep	A. Openshaw [AO]	P	RFU Club Dev.	L. Lines [LL]	P
Referees' Society	S. Williams [SW]	A	RugbySafe Lead	V Barrow [VB]	P	CB Admin	S. Etchells [SE]	P
Schools' Union	C Kirkland [C Ki]	D	Safeguarding	P. Geehan [PG]	P	Asst Treasurer		
Women and Girls	J. Duncan [JD]	A	Age Grade	C Snowdon [CS]	D	Observer		

Directors

Chair	J. Raper [JR]	P	Rep. RFU Council	J.P. Candlish [JPC]	P
President	B. Malvern [BM]	P	Chair GSC	D Jackson [DJJ]	P
Secretary			Chair CRSC	D. Trott [DT]	A
Treasurer	P. Maguire [PM]	P	Chair RRSC	J.G. Dove [JGD]	P

Past Presidents

J.F. Ainslie	A	R. Jackson	D	D. Parker	D	C.T. Thoburn [CT]	P
K. Bannon [KB]	P	B.M. Lewis	D	M. Riby MBE [MR]	D	A. Thompson [AT]	D
J.S. Denham [JSD]	P	M.J. Lyons [MJL]	D	K Robinson [KR]	P	D.A. Thompson [DAT]	P
J.G. Dove	P	F.G. McDonald	P	B. Robson	D	R.D.R. Wannop [RDRW]	A
A.D. Howe	P	C. McLoughlin	P	D.C. Sawyer	D	A. Wilson	A
D.J. Jackson [DJJ]	P	A. Openshaw	P	J.V. Scott	D	E.R. Wood	D

A=Apologies

P= Attended Meeting

Blue = Replacement Rep

D = Did Not Attend

N.B. To ensure an accurate account, those reporting to the Committee are asked to provide a written summary of their report.

Items sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting will be distributed so that they can be read by the other members of the Committee in preparation for discussion



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All apologies and those present were recorded.

1. A minute's silence was held at the AGM prior to the meeting for all those we have lost since July 2024.
2. **Minutes of Season 2024-25 Meeting 5** held on 15th April 2025 were agreed [proposed by JGD; 2nd BM]
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Correspondence:**
Northeast Women's Rugby Ltd – Discussion was held. Board recommended that clubs voted in favour of the establishment of the new team and reassured the clubs that this team will not be an academy and supported the idea of clubs being given a criterion of which Level of players would be invited. Vote took place: 24 [for] – 1 [against]. **SE to inform NE XV and RFU of new non-voting team.**
Hon Secretary – The Board received the resignation from our Hon Sec Alex Clark; this is due to time restraints with work and family. Board to consider whether the County needs an Hon Sec going forward due to having a Full Time Administrator.
DN3 Fixtures – [DAT] There was no Promotion or relegation from DN3 this season. Due to clubs leaving the league, it has left it with 8 teams. Discussion was held over how or whether the 'pilot' format will work and whether teams in other leagues [DN2 & Candy League] were consulted over joining DN3. Question raised over whether the County can re-visit allowing 2nd teams into the league. **IMcG to investigate both on Counties behalf with NROC.**
5. **Directors Report:** Covered in AGM documents K. Robinson

Standing Committee Reports:

- a. **Community Rugby Standing Committee:** 13th May 2025 D Trott
See Minutes with Agenda – No questions.
[JA] Does Safeguarding inform clubs of visits? [PG] Not always!
- b. **Representative Rugby Standing Committee:** 24th June 2025 J.G. Dove
See Minutes with Agenda – No questions.
Thanks, from the County to Rep Volunteers who are stepping down this season: Stu Darby [33yrs] & Andy Dixon [16yrs]- kitmen for the senior men; Jeff Lamb[19yrs] as U20's coach; Colin Davison as Senior Women's Manager & Referee; David Hill from the U17/18 Boys Pathway Lead.
- c. **Governance Standing Committee:** 27th May 2025 A.D. Howe
See Minutes with Agenda – No questions
[TH] Thanked everyone for their kind words on his 'retirement'.

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6. **Finance:**

P. Maguire

See Report plus Profit & Loss sheets

In process of finalising the accounts, will be ready for the October meeting.

[CT] Club Membership – if a club doesn't pay its membership, will they have the membership rights suspended? [JR] Yes they will until it is paid.

7. **External Reports:**

a. **Rugby Football Union:**

J.P. Candlish

See Report the minutes and AGM Documents.

LL – gave a report on the growth in all areas within Durham County. Due to GMS Registration most Male Adult players are playing at L7-L8.

Discussion regarding re-registration of adult players and at what level the RFU Reg should come in allowing more players to be Club Registered players.

8. **Competitions :**

I. McGeorge

[DAT] *Ian McGeorge is now the Durham Voting Representative on North Regional Organising Committee.*

[IMcG] County Cup from Club submissions forms: 8 teams in Senior & Inter; 6 in Junior; 20 in 2nd xv; 12 in 3rd xv. Draw to be made at the end of the meeting.

Blaydon asked if Senior Cup Final could be played at the end of the season. [IMcG] Finals have been brought forward to correspond with free league weekends and not impact on the end of league seasons, however we are governed by the RFU and their new national cup competition.

9. **Any Other Business:**

[MW-A] – Reminded Clubs that the County Coaching Conference is on Saturday.

[MB] – Thank you to the County for getting the NC3 league changed for the County women's clubs.

[SH] – Reminded clubs to organise their referees for pre-season friendlies as soon as possible.

Chair Closed the meeting

Date of next meeting.

TBC

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