APPENDIX 4: Rugby Directors Report

Evening all,

Apologies for not being present and delivering this myself. Work & family commitments have gone to a different level in what is hopefully now the new normal post COVID. Rather than reading each of the senior team reports I think it would be more apt to look forwards head to the 22/23 season – touching on some of the work that has gone in to give us the best possible opportunity to win the league next year – moving back up to the level I firmly believe the club should operate at – National 2 North.

Immediately after the season finished we conducted a thorough review – following a process to consult with various trusted members of the club; players (past and present) and individuals who have a totally external view of the club (some of which are currently working at the very top of our game). This led us to identify some key areas to address:

1. The structure of the senior club

Chaos has taken many of you through this. Essentially we have put in more infrastructure to support all teams in terms of coaches; physios; managers hopefully ensuring each team has the appropriate resource for the season ahead. We have taken the decision to move away from 4 formal senior teams – instead moving to 3 formal senior teams and a strictly 'social' side which will look to play friendlies on Friday nights a couple of times each month. We'll also formally integrate the Colts sides into the senior teams – giving a clear pathway on which to progress their rugby development at the appropriate age / when the time is right. The focal point of the senior side of the club will be our Head Coach (a change from the current 'Lead' coach position we adopted a few seasons ago). The Head Coach will set the tone in terms of our style of play – this blueprint style will then be adopted by all senior / colts sides – thus allowing the transition between team easier, providing more continuity for all.

1. Investing in our Coaches

It was clear that we needed to invest in our coaching set up in terms of numbers; quality; development & mentoring capability. We followed a process to find the best coaching team– benchmarking against what was available in the market. I'm delighted to announce that following this Andy Appleyard will be our Head Coach for the 22/23 season. Andy (Apps) was incredibly patient throughout the whole process which we recognise couldn't have been easy for him – it's testament to his character he approached this in the way he did. Joining Andy's 1st XV coaching set up will be Clive Griffiths. For those who don't know Clive he brings an immense amount of expertise to our club, having previously worked for Wales; Doncaster Knights and Worcester Warriors. Very recently Clive worked with Hull – who won promotion to National 1 at the end of the 21/22 season. Success has followed Clive wherever he's been and I'm confident that will continue as Macclesfield next year. Clive will be our full time coaching consultant and will support all the coaches across all areas

of the game while also supporting the set up and development of the Macclesfield academy. Our final appointment is our forwards coach Ben Wade. Again Ben joins us having played professional rugby for Rotherham and coached at a variety of National league clubs (both Sheffield clubs to name a few). Ben will be entirely new to Macclesfield and with that comes a fresh pair of eyes, and the opportunity to make changes from his own experiences. Please take the time to welcome and congratulate Andy; Clive and Ben when you see them.

1. Committee Role for Senior Rugby

We now need to find someone to join the committee as a Head of Rugby operations. The role will be to oversee the new structure we've put in place, ensuring that all positions are filled and everything operates as planned. At the same time it's to ensure we continue to operate within a sustainable financial structure which sees long term success on the pitch. At this point in time we don't currently have anyone nominated for that role – so I put it to the committee if that's something you'd like to find out more about please do get in touch. Likewise if you could think of a suitable candidate from outside of the membership please do again reach out to us.

Finally for those who don't know I'm stepping down from my current role on the committee. I'd like to thank all my fellow current and past committee members for their support; understanding and patience. By the very fact that I can't be with you tonight says it all – that simply the role had become too much for me to fore fill while careers / family life continue to become more and more hectic. I'd like to formally apologise to the membership for my sporadic commitment this year – it became apparent early on in the season I'd bitten off more than I could chew. Over the last couple of months I've done as much as possible to leave everything set up for success – which I believe we will have now next year. I'll still always look back at my time on the committee fondly – now able to fully appreciate the volume of work that goes on 'behind the scenes'. I hope to see many of you next year – I'll be likely stood in the normal spot behind the posts (flag end) doing my best to keep Henry entertained / not totally get cover in mud!! Thanks again – good luck for next year.

Kind Regards

Tom Davenport