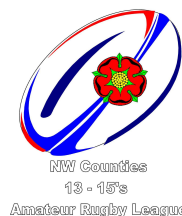


North West Counties 13 – 15s Amateur Rugby League Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting 7th July 2010

Committee Members:

Margaret Byrne (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sam Armstrong (League Secretary & BARLA/RFL Rep)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David Lowe (Registrations/Transfers Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lindsay Bissett (U13's Fixtures Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Edwards (U14's Fixtures Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Darren Hayes (Referee Appointments Officer)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Davidson (Discipline Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brian Edwards (Child Welfare Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Mitchell (Vice Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Apologies: Darren Hayes

Next Meeting: Wed 4th August 2010 at 8.30pm, Golborne Parkside ARLFC

I. Attendance

Accrington Wildcats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bank Quay Bulls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Blackbrook Blues/Royals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackpool Scorpions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bold Miners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burtonwood Bulldogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cadishead Rhinos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chorley Panthers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clock Face	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crosfields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Culcheth Eagles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Folly Lane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Golborne Parkside	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Halton Farnworth Hornets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Haresfinch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Haydock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hindley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ince Rose Bridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Langworthy Reds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Latchford Albion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leigh East	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leigh Miners Rangers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leyland Warriors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liverpool Lions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manchester Storm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Milnrow Cobras	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newton Storm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New West Lions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oldham St Anne's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orrell St James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pilkington Recs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Portico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rochdale Mayfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Runcorn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rylands Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saddleworth Rangers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shevington Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thatto Heath Crusaders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waterhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	West Bank Bears	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Westhoughton Lions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Widnes Moorfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Widnes St Maries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wigan St Cuthbert's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wigan St Jude's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wigan St Patrick's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Woolston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

The League formally welcomed teams moving up from the NW Counties 8-12's especially the new clubs and those old names making a return.

Clubs not present at the meeting have been fined £30 as per the League's Constitution.

(Cheques to be made payable to NW Counties 13-15 ARL)

II. Minutes & Updates from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the June 2010 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Wigan St Pats and seconded by Widnes St Maries.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

Friendlies/Festivals/Tournaments/Tours

The League have received the following requests for authorisation of friendlies/festivals/tournaments/tours, namely:

Newton Storm U13s who have organised a cross-league friendly with Chester Gladiators U13s of the Kukri Midlands League on Saturday 24th July 2010.

Burtonwood Bulldogs U15s who have organised a friendly against West Bank Bears as a curtain raiser to the Widnes Vikings vs. Sheffield Eagles match on August 15th at the Stobart Stadium.

Thatto Heath U15's requested permission to play a pre season friendly against West Bowling. The match is scheduled for 1st August at West Bowling with a return match at our Club on 22nd August.

All of the above were approved by the League and we wish all those participating a good day.

Season Structure

Sam Armstrong read out the following statement received from the Community Board on the season structure.

"The Rugby League Community Board has unanimously accepted the findings of a formal consultation and report on a possible change to the community game season structure.

The Community Board has agreed that it indicated a clear desire to work towards a March-November season and structure for the bulk of the community game.

Richard Lewis, Community Board Chairman said: "This is a significant step forward for the sport.

"The Community Board has reviewed the findings of the formal consultation which indicated strong preference for a March-November season in particular from the players involved in the winter game.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Rugby League and we will now move forward to the next stage of a fully integrated playing structure within our sport."

The consultation involved both a telephone survey of players currently playing in the winter months and an online survey across the whole community game. The surveys were conducted by Vision Twentyone, a leading independent research company using recognised industry standards.

The Community Board accepts that some leagues will continue to play during the winter months and also that there are a number of detailed issues to work through. These issues will be addressed as part of an ongoing consultation process and there will be a series of formal presentations to leagues and associations on the proposed structures over the next few months.

The Community Board will reconvene on July 16 to approve a timetable and action plan on how a March-November competition structure and framework could be implemented by 2012 at the earliest.

Further information will follow over the next few weeks.

David Gent"

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

There was no report in the absence, due to work commitments, of Darren Hayes.

VI. Registration/Transfer Secretary's Report

David Lowe thanked those Clubs who had been quick in sending Registration documents in, this had certainly helped him ease them through the system before the bulk arrive.

Problems are being experienced when Clubs are sending player pictures in with many merely printed on standard paper. Sadly, these do not process well and result in very poor quality images on the cards and so the floor was asked that when photos are sent in could they please ensure that they are sent on proper photographic paper.

Clubs were also reminded that they need to send an addressed envelope with applications for cards so they can be sent out direct with the minimum of delay.

Finally, David asked that each Clubs propose a single Liaison Officer for their Club to deal with Transfer & Registration information. He will, in turn, supply that Liaison Officer with a complete list of up to date information for their registered players.

VII. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report

No Report

VIII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report

New proposed Divisions for the 2010/2011 Season were issued by Paul Edwards however Paul highlighted that these are not yet set in stone and are subsequently still open to change dependent on how many teams apply for membership.

IX. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report

Jackie Clowes announced that the U15s will be staying with 4 divisions for the coming season despite the loss of teams which may have allowed 3 larger divisions to be formed.

Due to the inclusion of at least one new team it was not deemed reasonable to expect four or five weaker/development teams to be playing against teams from a higher division.

By staying with 4 divisions she said she would be able to give teams more games against teams of their own ability which will not deter them from playing as it may well do if they are enduring heavy defeats on a regular basis.

Again, at this point the Divisional structures issued are provisional but she hoped to be able to finalise them soon and will advise the final structures as soon as she possibly can.

One of the potential new teams had already decided not to run in the under 15s meaning she will now have 29 or 30 teams for the forthcoming season.

The Divisions have been based on last season's finishing positions, with promotion and relegation taken into account first of all.

Jackie went on to ask on behalf of all three Fixture Secretaries that in future when requesting permission to play in, or host, Friendlies, Tournaments or Festivals in the UK could all Clubs please ensure that they forward their request to your relevant Fixture Secretary for approval.

X. Child Welfare Officer's Report

Brian Edwards had nothing to report but it was highlighted from the floor that the "old" style CRB forms will no longer be accepted.

There were some concerns that submitted CRBs appear to be "disappearing" into the system. In response, John Farrell of Liverpool Lions kindly informed the Meeting of a couple of websites, which anybody can access, which may help trace the status of applications.

http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/services/online_tracking_service.aspx

Alternatively, this is the specific page for checking on the status of individual applications:

<https://secure.crbonline.gov.uk/enquiry/enquirySearch.do>

Debbie Lucas, one of the RFL's Regional Welfare Officers for the North West kindly offered to check through CRB documents if brought to the next meeting in her capacity as a Section X Verifier.

A list of other Verifiers in the region is available to view at:

<http://www.therfl.co.uk/clientdocs/Section%20X%20North%20West.xls>

XI. Disciplinary Secretary's Report

Kevin Davidson introduced himself and issued the Verdict Notifications from the Disciplinary Meeting which took place on Thursday 17th June at Golborne Parkside.

Kevin went on to explain that, hopefully, with only friendlies on for the next few weeks it is unlikely that there will now be any further Disciplinary Meetings until the new season commences.

XII. BARLA/RFL Representative's Report

1. ClubMark Steering Group

Sam Armstrong explained that he had been requested on behalf of the NW Counties 13-15s to become part of the Clubmark Steering Group.

It was highlighted that the League may be aware of issues at Clubs that need to be dealt with before Clubmark accreditation or revalidation.

For example the Club may need assistance to eradicate Touchline behaviour issues and this may be an area where the League can assist/report improvements.

Going forward, the Service Area Co-ordinators will inform Carol Savage before the final visit for accreditation or revalidation. Carol will then contact the League/s to ensure no such issues exist.

If any problems are brought to light Carol will contact the Regional Development Officer, who will ensure that the Club writes into their Action/Development plan how they intend to improve this issue.

If no improvement is seen the Clubmark award may be suspended or retracted completely. Carol will also inform the Operations Department.

It will be persistent offenders not "one offs" that will be highlighted. With the help of the Leagues it is hoped that they can raise the quality and integrity of the Clubs.

The process document will be amended to reflect this change.

2. BARLA AGM

The BARLA AGM took place on Sunday 13th June 2010 at the George Hotel, Huddersfield.

Phil Woolas MP was re-elected as President and John Patinson as Vice Chair.

A minutes silence was held following the tragic murder of Workington Town player Garry Purdham and the death of Sean Mullaney the PRO for the Cumbrian League

Board Representatives were elected with, on the Youth & Junior side, Alan Boot and Ken Tinsdale voted in to represent our age-groups.

The Associations' accounts were, again, sadly not available for review but, it was explained that, there was a potential future income of up to £27000/annum from the leasing of the BARLA Headquarters (West Yorkshire House) to UNISON due once they move in.

BARLA will retain the right to use the Boardroom whilst UNISON will pick up all the overheads of the building.

XIII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £15034 at the time of the meeting.

1. Cliff Littler & Trevor Barton MBE of Leigh Miners spoke to the floor regarding a proposal to commemorate the memory of Workington Town player Garry Purdham following his recent tragic murder during the Cumbrian shootings. Any teams/clubs who would like to participate or help please pass your details on to Sam Armstrong.

The League was also sad to hear at the young age of 42 of the death of Sean Mullaney on June 10th 2010 following a motorbike accident. Sean was well known in the area having been a prominent member of the Wigan St.Patricks' pack for many years and captained Lancs county as well as representing Greater Manchester Police and touring with the British Police team,

In another tragic incident, former Crosfields & NW Counties 13-15s player Private Thomas (Tom) Sephton, aged 20, from Great Sankey was wounded in an explosion whilst on patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province on Sunday.

He was flown by helicopter to Camp Bastion and then flown back to the UK. On Monday afternoon, with his family present, the decision was taken to switch off his life support machine and he sadly died of his wounds.

His family have made the following statement: "Tom meant the world to everyone who knew him. We are so very proud of our brave soldier. He will be with us forever in our hearts."

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hadfield, his Commanding Officer said: "Private Tom Sephton was courageous and selfless to the last, placing himself in harm's way to save others. When he was mortally injured he was alongside his best friend Private Charlie Emina, and amongst his mates whom he did so much to help.

"Tom Sephton was not a particularly big man in terms of size, but he had a big heart, and was full of fun and energy. He was a keen rugby player and enjoyed playing on the wing for his Company, where his fitness and speed were more than a match for most.

A minutes silence was held by everyone present in memory of Garry, Sean and Thomas and the thoughts of everyone at NW Counties are with their families as they come to terms with their losses.

2. The League's new mascot, "Tommy Tacklebag", made his debut at Burtonwood on Saturday 3rd July and was particularly well received, quickly becoming a focal point for many of the young children present who, it is hoped, will remember the friendliness of the character as they grow and become involved in the game.

Again, Clubs were reminded that the mascot is available for any Club promotional event ... all we ask is that you return him clean, tidy and in the condition you receive him.

3. Volunteers wanted for NW media project
Sam re-iterated the details behind the proposed "Fields Of Fire" media project, again, the object is to raise the profile of the NW Counties 13-15's League, it's Clubs and it's players. Anyone who knows of any individual, ideally between 13-21 of either gender who may like to participate can find full details on the League's website.

4. Margaret Byrne explained that, as the floor was aware following Sam Armstrong's reading of the Community Board's Statement, there are moves to consider moving the Playing Season. At the time of the meeting the League had received no additional information other than that read out, however, there is a further Community Board Meeting on July 16th followed by a Youth & Junior Forum at Brighthouse on the 17th July where we hope to find out some further details and we will feed this back to our Clubs at the August Meeting.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 4th August 2010 commencing at 8.30pm.