

after the meeting and will be proposed and seconded at the following monthly meeting (whilst still fresh in everyone's mind) rather than 12 months later at the AGM itself.

III. Chairperson's Report

"To those of you who have made this your last meeting before moving up to the under 16s then we wish you well and to last year's under 12s who have made the step up, we welcome you. I hope you have a good experience of being in this league and remember we are here to help.

We sit here every year and plan the forthcoming season to the best of our ability, but no-one could have foreseen the bad winter we were to have unleashed on us last year, but nevertheless we survived. The debate of whether we are to go to summer rugby keeps rumbling on, but as yet no decisions have been taken. We will keep you fully informed as the situation develops.

From an administrative point of view we encountered a few problems with teams who decided for one reason or another that they did not wish to comply with the rules of this League, but they soon realised that was not a good position to be in.

The Committee worked well together and I would like to thank them all, especially Sam who lives and breathes this League 24/7.

This year we successfully hosted the War of the Roses competition on Easter Sunday and our first all weekend finals days were thoroughly enjoyable. The three presentations evenings were also great fun. All these end of season spectacles must be incentives in themselves to do well in the League and cup competitions.

And speaking of competition, although we understand the desire to win is part of what we create with a competitive league structure; we also advocate that this is done in a respectful manner and full disciplinary sanctions will be placed on those who do not comply.

Our message to you is please enjoy your season and treat others as you would be treated yourselves and remember if we all work together it will be a very enjoyable few months".

Margaret Byrne (Chair)

IV. Constitutional Amendments

Although an explanation of all the amendments had been posted on the League's website, Jackie Clowes explained the key changes to the League's Constitution and clarified that others, though numerous, were merely grammatical, as we continued to endeavour to provide an easier to understand structure.

With 43 Clubs present it was noted that a majority of 22 was required to pass the changes.

Wigan St Patricks requested that the proposed rule change 5.02 be specifically voted on. This was done and had the result of 37 in favour of the amendment, 2 Abstentions & 4 Against and was subsequently accepted.

The rest of the changes, were subsequently voted in unanimously en masse with no objections or abstentions and will now be implemented and adopted. Details will be added to both the website and to the handbooks.

V. Election of Officers

No positions were actually contested but, with Paul Mitchell's switch to Vice Chair, David Lowe has taken on the transfer aspect of Paul's previous position and will now jointly cover the role of Registrations/Transfers Secretary.

Sam's Armstrong had, due to increasing commitments, decided to step down from the role of Discipline Chair, fortunately, Kevin Davidson of the Disciplinary Panel had stepped forward to take on the role as the new Discipline Secretary. Kevin was welcomed and voted on to the Committee unanimously by the room.

This year's Management Committee therefore is as follows:

- Margaret Byrne (Chair)
- Sam Armstrong (League Sec. & BARLA/RFL Representative)
- Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)
- Lindsay Bissett (U13's Fixtures Secretary)
- Paul Edwards (U14's Fixtures Secretary)
- Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Secretary)
- David Lowe (Registrations/Transfers Secretary)
- Kevin Davidson (Disciplinary Secretary)
- Darren Hayes (Referee Appointments Officer)
- Paul Mitchell (Vice Chair)
- Brian Edwards (Child Welfare Officer)

VI. Treasurers Report

The Chair paid special credit to the Treasurer who had, as ever, done a magnificent job in providing monthly and annual reports for the meetings.

At the time of the meeting, the closing balance for the Season was reported as £15912

VII. Referee Appointments Officers' Report

Darren Hayes forwarded the following report:

"When I was asked to consider the role of Appointments Officer at the end of October 09, I was under no illusions of the considerable work that the previous Appointments Officers had put in to the position. What became apparent from the start was that more disciplines needed to be put in place, to make my life easier.

Referee's confirming their availability before the appointments are posted to the clubs.

I put into place and had with agreement with the Society Development Officers that if any Referee knocked back a game after they had made themselves available after the appointments had been sent out, then they would not be appointed to a game the following week.

This ensured that I was able to cover EVERY game during the season, even at short notice.

Putting the right level of Referee on to each game.

Knowing most Clubs and Coaches of each team helped when it came to appointing Referee's to certain games. I welcomed Coaches phoning prior to the appointments

being made and asking for a "strong" Referee where it was needed. This ensured that some of our up and coming Referee's were not exposed to the delights that can sometimes occur during a Sunday morning.

Feedback from Clubs

Feedback from Clubs good or bad is always helpful and this is fed back to the Development Officers, we can then look at the pathway our officials are taking.

Clubs confirming with the Referee

This is a must and I thank the majority of Clubs that, without fail, do this, looking for a Referee on a Saturday morning to cover a game is no fun sat on the M6 northbound, steering wheel in one hand, handbook in the other.

Next year I plan to continue as I left off ensuring all games are covered each week, with the correct standard of Referee on each game.

Your feedback is essential if this is to happen.

Always be constructive in your approach.

Many thanks for all your support this year and I look forward to working with you all again next year".

VII. Any Other Business

There being no further business the AGM was formally closed by Margaret Byrne.