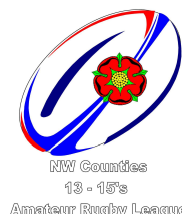


North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting

Wednesday 2nd April 2008

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Byrne (Chair)
 Sam Armstrong (League Sec. /Discipline Chair)
 Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)
 Paul Edwards (U13's Fixtures & Reg Sec.)
 Brian Edwards (U14's/U15'S Reg Sec.)
 Jackie Clowes (U14's Fixtures Sec.)
 Paul Mitchell (U15's Fixtures Sec.)
 David Lowe (Vice Chair/Ref. Appointments)

Apologies:

Next Meeting: Wed 7th May 2008 at 8.30pm, Golborne Parkside ARLFC

I. Attendance

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ashton Bears | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bank Quay Bulls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Blackbrook Royals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Blackpool Scorpions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Bold Miners | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Burtonwood Bulldogs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Chorley Panthers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Crosfields | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Culcheth Eagles | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Eccles & Salford Juniors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fitton Hill | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Folly Lane | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Halton Farnworth Hornets | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Haydock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Higginshaw | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hindley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ince Rose Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> | Langworthy Reds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Latchford Albion Unicorns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Leigh East | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Leigh Miners Rangers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Leyland Warriors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Moss Bank Bulldogs | <input type="checkbox"/> | New Springs Lions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oldham St Anne's | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Orrell St James | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Golborne Parkside | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pilkington Recs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Portico Juniors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rochdale Mayfield | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rylands Sharks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Saddleworth Rangers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Shaw Rhinos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Shevington Sharks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Thatto Heath Crusaders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Waterhead | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Bank Bears | <input type="checkbox"/> | Westhoughton Lions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Widnes Moorfield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Widnes St Marie's | <input 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 Rovers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Clubs not present at the meeting have been fined £10

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

II. Minutes & Updates from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the Mar 08 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Haydock and seconded by Crosfields.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

Requests for permission to hold Festivals were read out and approved by the League's Management Committee.

Portico Vine are holding their annual Festival over the weekend of 12/13th July. U14's will play on Sat 12th & U13's on Sun 13th July. Entry for this

Festival will be £10 and will be run on a 1st come 1st served basis. All matches will be 7.5 minutes each way and will be between sides of equal numbers.

Anyone interested should contact the Festival Organiser Alan Cunliffe on 01744 732487 or 07984 031637 (e-mail CunliffA@aol.com)

Latchford Albion Unicorns are holding their annual Summer Gala on the weekend of 19/20th July 2008 at Victoria Park, Warrington. The event, celebrating their 10th anniversary, is a 9-a-side tournament with all matches 7.5 minutes each way. Odd age groups will play on the Saturday and even age groups on the Sunday with the first games starting at 10.30am.

Entrance is £10 per team and anyone interested should contact Latchford's Youth & Junior Secretary Steve Phillips on 07886 109249 or e-mail stevephillips.2001@ukonline.co.uk (website www.latchfordalbion.ik.com)

Chorley Panthers are holding their annual Festival over the weekend of 12/13th July. U13's & U15'S will play on Sat 12th & U14's on Sun 13th July.

Anyone interested should contact the Chorley Panthers Coach at the relevant age-group. Contact details are on the League's website at www.nwc13-15arl.co.uk or the Chorley Panther website at www.chorleypanthers.com)

Saddleworth Rangers have also informed us of their Festival which will take place on 28th and 29th June. Interested teams should contact Alan Bolton 0161 624 2858 (website www.saddleworthrangers.com)

V. BARLA Representative/Coaching Coordinator's Report

There had been no BARLA Youth & Junior Council meetings since the League's last meeting, however, the League had received notification of the resignation of Mrs Pat Crawshaw one of the four Youth & Junior representatives on the BARLA Board.

In her resignation letter Pat explained that she felt that the Board was stagnating and perceived a lack of willingness amongst some to develop and widen horizons. She also reiterated the fact that a representation to the Board by NW Counties 13-15's & other junior league's expressing our concerns back in April 07 had been promised by the Chair to be "... looked into and the outcome reported back to them". She'd reminded them in a letter sent from France in June 2007 and at a meeting in January 2008 that we were awaiting a reply. In fact, she continued "they are still waiting almost a year later!"

She continued "Along with this we have the problem regarding NWCs 8-12 and 13-15 and the non-payment of fees. This matter has still not been resolved nor does there seem to be a willingness so to do.

Correspondence and enquiries from both leagues have gone unanswered the latest being from Mr S Armstrong, Secretary of the NWC 13-15s league. This has been rumbling for over a year. At best it is bad manners at worst it is deliberate policy."

"To me it seems reprehensible that due to poor communication and ill-judged decision making we have two major leagues forced into becoming Associate Members. That, allied with the fact that Yorkshire Juniors have only this season come back into BARLA as Associate Members means that we have our three largest playing regions as non voting members of the

organisation. Add to this the huge increase in numbers of youngsters playing in the Development Regions then there must be more Youth/Junior teams outside the full BARLA fold than in it. This is a situation with which we should be most concerned and doing our utmost to rectify."

Jackie and Sam had both been approached about standing for election for one of the positions on the Board but both felt that their time could be better utilised developing our own League rather than pursuing the seemingly lost cause of Youth & Junior rugby with the BARLA Board.

The League acknowledged the work Pat Crawshaw had done on our behalf and will be inviting her as one of our special guests on Finals Day in recognition of her excellent support.

VI. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report/Registration Issues

Paul Edwards explained the difficulties we had had due to bad weather and the effect that this had had on fixtures. Sadly it was apparent that we were not going to be able to complete the full programme and that, in those Divisions where the Winners have not already been decided a Management decision based on previous results will have to be made to determine the Winners. It was recognised that this was not the ideal solution or how we wanted the season to end but the weather had had a major impact.

II. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report/Registration Issues

Jackie Clowes stated that she didn't have a lot to report, midweek games have been scheduled and she thanked the teams in her age group for the support she had received from them all in ensuring that their season had pretty much come in on time. She explained that she had arranged a fixture for 20th April i.e. the same day as the NW Counties Finals but if the teams could arrange a midweek game or an earlier kick off to be able to get down to the finals she had no issue with that.

Clubs who hadn't entered the National Cup were reimbursed their entrance fee.

Annoyance was expressed from both Jackie and Sam that several cups had not been returned as requested ... THESE NEED TO BE ARRANGED TO BE RETURNED (IN THE SAME CONDITION THEY WERE ISSUED) WITHIN THE NEXT 7 DAYS or further action will be taken against the Clubs concerned!!!

Brian Edwards informed the room that due to issues with a minority of clubs who had not sent SAEs with their paperwork he had been left with no alternative but to notify them that in future if no SAE is sent with requests for Registration Cards they will be kept at his house until the next monthly meeting.

VIII. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report/Registration Issues

Paul Mitchell stated that it had been a struggle to get games in this season with the bad weather but he was trying to arrange fixtures to ensure we know the Division Winners before the Presentation Night so they can come along and claim their medals and trophies.

A Management decision has been made on the Folly Lane v Rylands league game after Paul reviewed correspondence from both clubs. The game

must be played and, on the toss of a coin in view of the room, Folly Lane will be the home team.

Paul is due to go on holiday and so results from the fixtures for the weekends of the 6th & 13th April must be texted or e-mailed to Sam Armstrong in his absence.

IX. Transfer Committee's Report

Margaret Byrne told the room that the Transfer Committee had met and those transfers rejected can apply for the transfer again as their 1st transfer of the new season when the Transfer Window re-opens.

X. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

David Lowe expressed his concern about reports that games were kicking off later and later than agreed. Clubs were reportedly warming up, going back to the changing rooms and then checking cards when the game should've kicked off. Many referees have multiple games to officiate at and if the 1st game kicks off late there is obviously a knock on effect on the later games - this must stop!! Games must kick off at the times notified.

XI. Disciplinary Chairman's Report

Hearing Notifications were issued to several clubs for cases which were to be heard on Thursday 17th April at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

Verdict Notifications were issued to several clubs for cases which were heard on Thursday 13th March at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

XII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £12350 at the time of the meeting.

Application forms for the NW Counties 16-18's League had been sent by Hilary Steel for all U15's teams moving up next season. These MUST be returned to her BEFORE the AGM which takes place on the 18th June 2008.

Touchline Respect Barriers were issued out to several Clubs, these were designed and developed in partnership with the RFL and are both eye-catching and resilient. This Touchline Respect Barrier is lightweight, simple and easy to erect - it takes as long to put up as it does to walk round the area to be fenced off. It is easy to dismatle with the unique reeling system and can be operated by just one person.

Between our own and the 16-18's League we hope to ensure that every club receives one free set.

Margaret Byrne informed everyone that the Management Committee would be meeting on the 30th April to discuss ways of improving the League and anyone with any constructive ideas could either e-mail the Committee or add them to the Forum poll.

Jackie Clowes could contain herself no longer as she proudly announced that we had been informed that the Right Honourable Andy Burnham MP (Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport), Nigel Wood (RFL Chief Executive, Mr Maurice Oldroyd (former BARLA Chairman), Mr Tommy Sale

(Hon Life President Leigh Centurions) that they will all be joining us for Finals Day. A "guest" list many professional clubs would relish!!!

Jackie has also sent press releases to about 100 different tv, radio and newspaper/magazine contacts to ensure we get maximum coverage.

Sam explained to everyone that until the League know how many teams are attending the Presentation Night final ticket allocations can't be sorted. He asked that if Clubs could provisionally find out how many adult and how many child tickets they would ideally like and they could forward him/Jackie details then the League would endeavour to try and meet the requirements but no promises could be made. The earliest tickets will be available will be Monday 14th April and the event will be oversubscribed so the sooner Clubs get their requirements in the better.

Please keep an eye on the Website for ticket updates

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 7th May 2008 commencing at 8.30pm.