



North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting 1st April 2009

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

Apologies:

Next Meeting: Wed 6th May 2009 at 8.30pm, Golborne Parkside ARLFC

I. Attendance

Ashton Bears	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackbrook Royals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blackpool Scorpions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackpool Stanley	<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"/>
Clockface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crosfields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Culcheth Eagles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eccles & Salford Juniors	<input checked="" 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 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"/>
Liverpool Lions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moss Bank Bulldogs	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rylands Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saddleworth Rangers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shaw Rhinos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shevington Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thatto Heath Crusaders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Bank Bears	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Westhoughton Lions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Widnes Moorfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Widnes St Maries	<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 £30 as outlined and minuted at the May 2008 meeting.

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

II. Minutes & Updates from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the March 2009 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Folly Lane and seconded by Wigan St Patricks.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

The League had received two requests for authorisations to hold tournaments, namely:

a) Chorley Panthers who are holding their Summer Festival on the weekend of 11/12th July. Odd age-groups will play Saturday and even age-groups on Sunday. Please contact the relevant Chorley Panthers age-group Coach if you would like to participate.

b) Portico Vine will be holding their annual Festival over the weekend of 27/28th June. Under 13's & 15's will play on Saturday and Under 14's will play on Sunday.

The days are open to all BARLA teams with an entry fee of £10/team. All matches will be between equal numbers (eg 12 v 12, 13 v 13 etc) and will be 14 min duration. Please contact the relevant Portico Vine age-group Coach or Lindsey Leyland (lindsey.leyland.dss@knowsley.gov.uk) if you would like to participate.

Both events have been approved by the League.

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

Margaret informed the meeting that it was with sadness that David Lowe had informed her that he would, after many season's, be resigning as Referee Appointments Officer and will be handing over the role to Jeff Schofield who will be working closely with Peter Brooke the RFL's Regional Match Officials Development Officer.

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

Congratulations were offered to Bold Miners on winning the SponsorBank Lancashire Cup Final and they are now going on to represent the League in An Easter Sunday "Wars Of The Roses" clash against Stanley Rangers of the Yorkshire Junior League at Shaw Cross Sharks ARLFC, Leeds Road, Dewsbury, WF12 7HP.

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

Not a lot to report, hoping to have all fixtures completed within the next few weeks but any games outstanding after that point will be classed as 1 point per side.

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

Divisions are still up in the air, no more so than the Prem which is far too close to call.

Jackie went on to explain the War Of The Roses games where, at U15's the SponsorBank Lancashire Cup Winners Portico Vine are going on. like Bold Miners U13's, to face the Yorkshire Junior League's Featherstone Lions in the Easter Sunday "War Of The Roses" clash - details as documented in the U13's Secretary's report section.

Good luck to both teams and we hope that others will travel over to support them as they represent our League.

IX. Transfer Committee's Report

Decisions were issued by Paul Mitchell.

It has been brought to our attention that with S/A pending that some players are already being "poached"/"enticed" elsewhere .. this is not good

for the game in the region and the League are currently looking into some serious allegations of players being approached/training with other Clubs.

The Transfer window closed on 28th February and so clubs should not be encouraging players to train with them ... the League will deal very harshly with any clubs found guilty of not following the rules.

Contrary to rumours, any De-Registrations submitted after February 28th will only start from 1st June when new window opens and NOT from the date submitted.

X. BARLA Representative's Report

Summer Rugby was discussed as was the possibility of the advantages of potentially being able to play Sat mornings/ afternoons, still Sundays or midweek.

The NWC 8-12s appear to have already gone it alone - they are apparently voting at their AGM in July for their season to now be - Sep/Oct/Nov then Mar/Apr/May/June - which, from the consensus around the room, seems to be somewhat at odds with everyone else.

Spencer Allison, BARLA Chair wanted to know if there would be anything in place for any club who did not want to switch, no matter what. No real answers available, obviously this will depend on the eventual take-up.

Ken Tinsdale, BARLA Youth & Junior Rep, was adamant we would not get Referees to cover the expected influx of playing numbers - this, sadly, appeared to be his sole, somewhat negative, agenda for the evening. He appeared unable/unwilling to grasp that Referee numbers are likely to increase or if games were spread over a couple of days that the demand wouldn't be there.

Agreed that a move to summer certainly up to and including 15s is workable, there may be more issues at 16+ due to the fact that players can't play pro & club rugby at the same time.

Age bandings - would they need to change if a season was running over 2 school years? - Probably not as it's only likely to go into one or two months.

Age banding can be done as now with the school year at the start of the season (Feb/Mar/Apr or whatever) being used.

There was a discussion about the legalities of the RFL's Partnership Agreements - Hull & District have had a solicitor looking into the agreement. The biggest issue appears to lie with the RFL Articles of Association and what clubs/leagues would be tying themselves into.

It was mentioned, with some concern, that this now appeared to be a "Clubmark" requirement - we queried this as the agreement seems to state the other way round i.e. if you sign the Partnership Agreement you have to work towards it but not that getting it was reliant on signing.

This may have something to do with the new Clubmark standard wording in a letter from the RFL's Andy Harland which was evidently not clear enough for some.

We have written to the RFL to express our own Club's concerns and have received the following reply from Niel Wood, the RFL's National Business Development Manager - Community Development

"As it states in the letter sent to Clubmark clubs the Club Partnership is the best way of showing evidence that your club is affiliated to the RFL – the Governing Body. As you will be aware there are now over 100 clubs playing in the RLC and the various Merit Leagues who would not be able to show evidence of affiliation and therefore Club Membership is ideal for them.

Clubs who are members of affiliated organizations such as BARLA, Combined Services, Student Rugby League or English Schools may choose to evidence their membership via those routes. They may also, however choose to simply put their Club Membership agreement in their file as evidence of affiliation to the Governing Body.

As it clearly is a concern I will make sure that this explanation is added to the FAQ's

As you point out, Club Membership is voluntary and clubs are taking up the agreements in decent numbers. It can also be ended by the club when they want.

Hope that this clears up the confusion – can I just re-iterate there is absolutely no need to be suspicious of these agreements they are a genuine attempt to work better with our clubs and if clubs do not want to join in they do not have to – if they wish to join we should make it worth their while with added benefits over and above our standard service which we are still committed to improving all the time".

This years' BARLA National Youth & Junior Cup Final will be held at The Willows, Salford on Bank Holiday Monday (4th May). First match, featuring Rylands Sharks U14's will probably kick off about 12 noon ... no further details received as yet.

There seems to be a considerable difference between the various Leagues on what Referees are paid.

NW Counties/West Riding both pay the flat rate of £25 per game.

Hull appear to pay on a sliding scale of

£6 up to 12s, £12 for 13-15's and £25 for age-groups 16+

Yorkshire Youth/Juniors both pay

£10 up to 12s, £18 for 13-15's and again £25 for age-groups 16+

Looking around it sounds like we are getting a poor deal compared with some other Regions and, in this difficult economic times this maybe should be reviewed by the Refereeing bodies.

There may however be impending tax implications - HMRC are starting to get tough on clubs and some will be getting visits re their 'payments' to people and this, in turn, could have implications with Referees possibly having to pay tax on their fees above justifiable expenses!!.

XI. Disciplinary Chairman's Report

Hearing Notifications were to issued to several clubs for cases which were to be heard on either Thursday 16th April or Monday 20th April (dependent on Panel availability) at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

Verdict Notifications were issued to several clubs for cases which were heard on Monday 30th March at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

XII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £12620 at the time of the meeting.

Presentation Nights - 3 nights booked at Hindley

9th May U13's

16th May U15's

30TH May U14's

The NW Counties 13-15's League wished to minute their appreciation of SponsorBank for their kind sponsorship of the Lancashire Youth/Junior Cup Finals held at the Stobart Stadium, Wdnes on the 15th March and to everyone else who helped the day go so well. In near perfect conditions, a fantastic day was had by all with Bold Miners and Portico Vine running out as deserving victors against very worthy opponents in Ince Rose Bridge & Wigan St Patricks in their respective finals.

SponsorBanks support of the Finals has enabled the League to be in a position, along with the 8-12's to donate a substantial four-figure sum as our share of the day's takings to Claire House Children's Hospice. Thank you all.

The meeting was also notified of the upcoming NW Counties 13-15's Cup Finals which take place on Sunday 26th April. Gates open at 10.30 with the kick off times as listed below

NW Counties Under 13's Cup Final 2009

Bold Miners v Ince Rose Bridge

12.00pm Kick Off

NW Counties Under 14's Cup Final 2009

Orrell St James v Rylands Sharks

2.00pm Kick Off

NW Counties Under 15's Cup Final 2009

Halton Farnworth Hornets v Wigan St Patricks

4.00pm Kick Off

Admission is £3/Adult & £1/Child

If the day is anywhere near as good as last season's then another set of nail-biting contests are promised.

Good Luck To All Teams!!!

Disappointed with the poor return of trophies from last season with only 5 returned on the night - those not returning them, as warned, will be fined £25. These trophies are needed for the end of the month and everyone was made fully aware of the need to return them.

Thank you to all those who did return them on the night in pristine condition.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 6th May 2009 commencing at 8.30pm.