



North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting 2nd December 2009

<i>Committee Members:</i>	Margaret Byrne (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sam Armstrong (League Sec. /Discipline Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Darren Hayes (Referee Appointments Officer)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Paul Edwards (U13's Fixtures & Reg Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Lindsay Bissett (U14's Fixtures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Paul Mitchell (Transfers Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	David Lowe (Registrations Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Brian Edwards (Child Welfare Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Apologies: Darren Hayes

Next Meeting: Wed 6th January 2010 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"/>	Clockface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Crosfields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Culcheth Eagles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eccles & Salford Juniors	<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 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"/>	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"/>	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 checked="" 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 Rovers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

As this meeting follows the League's AGM, Clubs not present at that meeting have been fined £50 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 November 2009 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Folly Lane and seconded by Leyland Warriors.

III. Matters Arising

There were 2 matters arising from the previous minutes.

It was brought to our attention following the meeting that there were two very serious errors in the Minutes of the Nov 2009 Meeting.

In these Minutes it was incorrectly stated under "Discipline" that there was an issue relating to racist comments in the game between Latchford

Albion Unicorns and Folly Lane U15's and that the Police were investigating an incident following the Langworthy Reds v Portico U14's game.

The League would like to place on record that this was NOT in fact the case and the errors were both caused by typing errors at the RFL when we were initially notified by the Safeguarding Unit. Unfortunately this was not checked out but instead just copied and pasted - the issues referred to actually relate in the case of Latchford & Folly Lane to a younger age-group outside this League and in the case of Langworthy & Portico to the U15's and none of the 4 particular teams originally stated.

The League would like to apologise un-reservedly for these errors and any offence they may have caused - anyone checking the "Seasons' Results" will see that the games between the two teams at their respective age-groups stated originally have not yet even been played!!

We would like to thank John Wilkinson & Steve Kemp for highlighting these mistakes and can confirm that we have now amended the Minutes and removed the offending paragraph,

Once again please accept our apologies for this error.

Margaret Byrne movingly notified the meeting of the recent tragic death of one of the League's players. Haydock U15's John Michael Marsh sadly passed away on Nov 22nd 2009 following an incident near his St Helens home which resulted in him being stabbed.

John, who had also played for Leigh Miners Rangers was, as evidenced from his Facebook pages, a particularly popular young man who will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Margaret, on behalf of the entire League expressed our sincere condolences to John's parents and family and to honour his memory the room held a minute's silence.

Following the silence it was proposed by the floor that the League sends a wreath/flowers on behalf of all it's players and Clubs.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence other than that discussed under Fixtures.

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

David Lowe informed the room of an update regarding the Referee Appointment Officer's position.

After David relinquished the role at the end of last season, Jeff Schofield kindly offered to take on the responsibilities, sadly, due to Jeff's role as a Prison Officer. and the limitations he had due to controlled communications whilst he was working, found himself struggling to combine the two roles and has subsequently had to resign the role. The League fully understood Jeff's situation and would like to place on record it's appreciation for the work he did on it's behalf.

Fortunately, the position has been voluntarily filled by Darren Hayes who will already be known to many of the League's Clubs due to his 15 year involvement with local game via the Widnes Referees Society. Darren's commitment to the game in our region had recently included travelling from his workplace in Wiltshire to officiate at games at the weekend and we would like to extend a warm welcome and thank him for taking up the role at short notice.

Darren has asked that Team's contact their Match Officials as early as possible so that, should changes be required, he has sufficient time to make the necessary amendments.

Darren's contact details are as follows:
E-Mail: darrenhayes46@btinternet.com
Tel: 01793 848198 (H)
Tel: 07710 624364 (M)

VI. Registration Secretary's Report

David Lowe explained that he will be conducting a trial with the U15's teamsheets in 2010.

David has requested that, until further notice, from the 1st weekend in January that U15's teamsheets be scanned and e-mailed to him and he will, instead of receiving them by post, collect the originals at the Monthly Meeting.

VII. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report

Paul Edwards asked that, if a game is cancelled, Teams ensure that they ring him and **not** any other member of the Committee. He further reminded clubs that scores need to be in to him by 2pm Sunday otherwise Teams risk incurring a fine of £20.

VIII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report

Jackie Clowes announced that, following a proposal from one of the League's Coaches (Paul Arnison of Crosfield Cobras U15's), the League has decided to instigate a new additional "Development" competition for teams from the lowest two Divisions at each age-group to give them the potential opportunity to compete in their own Finals Day.

The Finals which will be given exactly the same high profile as, and be run parallel to, the NW Counties Cups will now form part of a weekend of Finals over the 24/25th April 2010.

Three "new" trophies & a set of unique medals will be sourced to enhance the profile of the Competition

The draws for these competitions will take place at the January 2010 Meeting

This season's competitions will therefore be split into

- Existing NW Counties Cup (Premier & Division 1 teams)
- New Competition (Division 2 & 3 teams)

Teams at U14's from Divisions 2 & 3, although having already competed in the NW Counties Cup, will be reinstated into the new competition.

The "free" dates for the Xmas period were also announced. It has been decided that no fixtures will be planned for the 27th Dec 2009 & 3rd Jan 2010 - clubs were also advised that, if they wished to and had not already used their "free week" they could additionally request that they not be given fixtures on the 20th Dec 2009 (the normal 28 day notification period has been waived but if teams wish this date off then they **MUST** notify their appropriate age-group Fixture Secretary by e-mail by Saturday evening 5th Dec 2009 latest).

IX. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report

The meeting was informed that, following on from last year's successful inaugural competition, the 2010 "Wars of the Roses" challenge had been formally accepted by the Yorkshire Juniors League.

The NW Counties 13-15's Lancashire Cup Champions at U13's & U15's will represent the League in this challenge and will take place on Easter Sunday 4th April 2010 at Golborne Parkside.

X. Transfer Committee's Report

Paul Mitchell announced that he was up-to-date with Transfer Requests but that he was still receiving requests without all the necessary forms/documents.

XI. Child Welfare Officer's Report

Brian Edwards informed the floor that he had been receiving irate calls from some parents complaining that they had not given permission for their child to be videoed during games.

The League's stance is the same as that of the RFL who have a documented policy regarding the recording of images of children and young people and blanket acceptance of videoing by appropriately approved club personnel is accepted unless specifically requested exemption is sought by a Club at the beginning of the season.

Individual parents having an issue with this policy are advised that they should take the matter up with their own Club.

XII. Disciplinary Chair's Report

Margaret Byrne announced that the League's Management Committee had held a meeting with Ince Rose Bridge 14's who the League felt had knowingly played players who they previously knew to be ineligible. The Team were subsequently found guilty by the League and disciplinary sanctions imposed.

The Club subsequently appealed against these sanctions to a higher, independent Appeals Panel on Monday 30th November 2009. The Panel met with both the Club's & League Officials and decided to uphold two of the three initial sanctions imposed by the League whilst reducing the third which the League acknowledges and accepts.

They also made a series of "recommendations" including:

- Re-wording of the transfers/registrations/de-registration procedures to improve clarification.
- A recommendation that discipline sanctions not be posted on websites.
- The Standard Registration Form be changed.
- The RFL Player Database to be amended to include de-registration dates & details
- The RFL Player Database to be amended so that when a Player's name is entered the system automatically searches to check for duplication.

Whilst under no obligation to implement all of these recommendations, the League acknowledges the above and subsequently the RFL are now looking at the changes which they can implement to the Player Database & Documentation and the League, on its part, has called an SGM for the January Meeting to address the League's procedural transfers/registrations/de-registration changes.

These proposed changes will be posted on the League's website in advance of the meeting and a vote to accept or decline the changes will be held at the SGM.

Hearing Notifications for the cases to be heard on Thursday 10th December were issued.

Clubs were reminded that if they have received a hearing notification and your team/Club or Player wishes to make a "personal appearance" at the meeting then you will need to contact Sam Armstrong in writing stating the case numbers you wish to make an appearance for (preferably by e-mail for traceability) by midnight Monday 7th December 2009. *NB. No money need be brought on the night as the League will notify clubs of their outstanding monies owed at the next Monthly Meeting.*

Once the League are aware of how many cases it has "personal appeal" requests for then it will notify, by return e-mail, the allotted time of your appearance. Please note - **no** cases will be heard where a letter/e-mail has not been sent in advance. Do not just turn up and expect to have your appeal heard as you will be sent away.

Apologies were offered by Sam Armstrong who had, unfortunately, not brought the Verdict Notifications for those cases heard on Thursday 19th November 2009 to the meeting. These verdicts will now, instead, be sent out to the relevant Clubs by post.

XIII. BARLA Representative's Report

There had been no BARLA meetings affecting this League, however, the League had attended the Youth & Junior Forum at Leeds. The minutes for this meeting are covered in Any Other Business.

XIII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £16933 at the time of the meeting.

BJ Mather was welcomed to the meeting in his new capacity as the RFL's Head Of Player Development. It was intended to show the floor a presentation on the proposed changes to the Community Game, particularly those affecting Service Area, Regional & National Player Development.

Unfortunately, due the unavailability of the necessary video lead, the accompanying slideshow was not able to be shown and apologies were subsequently offered to BJ for the inconvenience, who despite this went on to eloquently explain in detail the changes whilst answering several questions or concerns that the regions' Clubs had.

The PowerPoint presentation will be made available for all to see on the League's website in the next few days.

Having listened to the exciting plans anyone who has any queries that they perhaps didn't get the opportunity to air on the night can contact BJ at:

BJ Mather
Head Of Player Development
Performance & Coaching Department
RFL
Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds, LS17 8NB
Phone - 0113 237 5017
Mobile - 07540 636515
bj.mather@rfl.uk.com

**Minutes of Youth & Junior Forum meeting, The Hilton Hotel, Leeds
2.30pm – 5.00pm 14th November 2009**

Present:

<i>Colin Foster</i>	<i>Hull & District Youth</i>
<i>Pat Crawshaw</i>	<i>Female Steering Group</i>
<i>Ralph Marchant</i>	<i>National Youth League</i>
<i>Rob Laverick</i>	<i>North East</i>
<i>Graham Aitken</i>	<i>North West Counties 8-12</i>
<i>Sam Armstrong</i>	<i>North West Counties 13-15</i>
<i>David Parkinson</i>	<i>North West Counties 13-15</i>
<i>Hilary Steel</i>	<i>North West Counties Youth</i>
<i>Rita Turner</i>	<i>West Riding Youth</i>
<i>Carroll Wills</i>	<i>West Riding Youth</i>
<i>Peter Benson</i>	<i>Yorkshire Juniors</i>
<i>Charlie Bray</i>	<i>Yorkshire Juniors</i>
<i>Alan Boot</i>	<i>Yorkshire Youth/BARLA</i>

Apologies

<i>Andy Gilvary</i>	<i>London and the South</i>
<i>Susan Senter</i>	<i>Scotland Rugby League</i>

In Attendance:

<i>David Gent</i>	<i>RFL</i>
<i>Kelly Barrett</i>	<i>RFL</i>
<i>Andy Harland</i>	<i>RFL</i>
<i>BJ Mather</i>	<i>RFL</i>
<i>Linda Lowe</i>	<i>RFL</i>
<i>Vinny Webb</i>	<i>RFL</i>

1 INTRODUCTION OF DAVID GENT

1.1 Andy Harland introduced David Gent the RFL's Director of Participation and Strategic Partnerships. David would now Chair the meetings.

David gave an update on his role and explained that he is responsible for delivering the Community Strategy and building strategic partnerships with all elements of the public sector.

Gary Tasker's role is focussed on the vital strategic objectives of supporting the professional clubs and European development, particularly the Celtic Nations

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING – 21 JUNE 2009

There were no matters arising, therefore the minutes were passed as a true and accurate record.

3 COMMUNITY GAME INSURANCE

Kelly Barrett updated the meeting on the RFL Community Board's decision to subsidise, depending on the status of the club, the personal accident insurance for youth and junior teams.

Charlie Bray stated that this had assisted the League immensely as they were paying all the insurance for the Yorkshire Junior teams.

4 COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Charlie Bray updated the meeting on the matters discussed at the last Community Board meeting.

4.1 Suspensions

A paper is being prepared on how as a game we can monitor player suspensions. The paper would also include suggestions on how a suspension received in one organisation could be carried forward to another and which games would count under the ruling.

Hilary Steel confirmed that in North West Counties suspensions given at youth level had to be fulfilled at youth level. It is irrelevant if a player also plays open age rugby.

A suggestion was put forward that ID cards should be rolled out to the Open Age leagues. If players received a suspension their cards should be returned to the League until suspension is served.

ID cards should also include which age group they play for i.e. Under 18 and Open Age. There is no need for duplicate cards.

Further noted that North West Counties do recognise suspensions given through the RFL Champion Schools Programme however normal school rugby is not.

5. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

BJ Mather gave a presentation on the Player Development Pathway.

It was felt that clubs need to know what changes have been made to enable them to accept these. Road shows are a possible method of delivery.

BJ is happy to receive any suggestions on the best way to deliver this. He would also be prepared to attend League meetings if appropriate.

6. COACH DEVELOPMENT

Linda Lowe presented on Coach Development and what makes a good coach.

It was agreed that this was a major agenda item that required a separate meeting for discussion.

7 RETENTION 16-19 YEAR OLDS

Agreed that at the next meeting we would discuss the Drop Off / Retention of 16-19 year olds. This would also be discussed at the Open Age Forum.

What is it that we can do within the League structures to get the numbers up?

It was suggested that we look at what the other sports are doing to address the drop off.

8. COMMUNITY GAME STRATEGY

Copies of the Community Game Strategy document were presented

It was felt that we needed to communicate better with clubs on exactly what we are doing. The strategy will not make a lot of sense to clubs. David Gent agreed to look at how we communicate all the work involved in delivering the strategy.

9. SAFEGUARDING

David Gent confirmed that as soon as we receive information regarding the Independent Safeguarding Authority we will circulate the information.

10. LEAGUE SUPPORT

The Leagues were asked how we could best support them i.e. financial support, equipment etc.

Sam Armstrong said it would be beneficial for them if they had somewhere to store equipment.

Helping out with the booking and organization of final days would also be beneficial.

The Leagues were asked to think about how the RFL can support them better and feed back to Kelly Barrett.

11. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed that there would be a meeting in January to discuss Coaching.

The next forum will take place in February an exact date will be confirmed.

Finally, as this was the last meeting of the year, Margaret Byrne took the opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Xmas and a happy New Year.

The date of the next League meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 6th January 2010 commencing at 8.30pm.