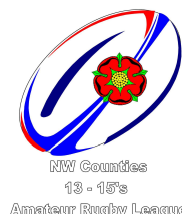


North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting Wednesday 4th June 2008

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Byrne (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sam Armstrong (League Sec. /Discipline Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Edwards (U14's Fixtures & Reg Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brian Edwards (U14's/U15'S Reg Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jackie Clowes (U14's Fixtures Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Mitchell (U15's Fixtures Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David Lowe (Vice Chair/Ref. Appointments)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Apologies: David Lowe

Next Meeting: Wed 2nd July 2008 at 8.30pm, Golborne Parkside ARLFC

I. Attendance

Ashton Bears	<input 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Springs Lions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oldham St Anne's	<input 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 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 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 £30 as this meeting was in conjunction with the AGM.

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

II. Minutes & Updates from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the May08 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Crosfields and seconded by Halton Farnworth.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence other than that pertaining to the proposed divisional structures for next year's U14's. This is covered later in these minutes.

V. BARLA Representative/Coaching Coordinator's Report

Sam Armstrong explained that a meeting had taken place at Brighthouse with several other like minded Leagues to determine how to take the Youth/Junior game forward. This had been positive and will now push forward to check out the options available.

It was explained that at no point was the demise of BARLA encouraged by any delegate, but that it was unanimously felt that there was a seemingly clear bias towards the Open Age game, which was felt to be at the expense of our own age groups. This is unacceptable as our clubs, coaches and players are the future of the sport and deserve decent representation.

A further meeting has been arranged for Saturday 7th June 2008 and we will keep clubs updated as we progress. It is of paramount importance that we establish what is best for our members and that a "knee jerk" reaction is not taken without assurances that our members are not going to be detrimentally affected. As a League this is the paramount requirement.

VI. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report

It was explained that, as requested, the Committee, had reviewed the initially proposed divisional set-ups and an alternative option, which wasn't initially spotted, had subsequently been proposed and accepted for the forthcoming season's U14's divisional structures. This will mean that whilst the initial plan of implementing the change to 8 teams in the top two divisions remains, instead of this occurring in just one season it will now, instead, be phased in over two.

As a League we have demonstrated again that we are prepared to listen and seek/discuss alternatives with our Clubs.

Formal correspondence was received from only two clubs but the League can assure everyone that **ALL** affected clubs were considered when making the decision. Sadly, as explained, we were not able to accommodate every request to change divisions. Some teams would, as previously reported, remain placed in a lower but, hopefully, more competitive division.

The League are pleased that overall this alternative structure also allows the League to reward Ashton Bears & Blackpool Scorpions, Runners Up in their respective divisions with their due promotion in the same way as Higginshaw who were promoted to the Premier Division.

The extended change will however mean that unlike other age-groups where promotion/relegation is planned as 2 up and 2 down. Next season we will, instead, have for the U14's at the end of the forthcoming season:
2 down 1 up (Premier)
3 down 1 up (Div 1)
3 down 2 up (Div 2)

This will enable us to arrive at a Premier & Division 1 of 8 teams with Division 2 & 3 with 10 teams at the start of next season and gives all clubs due notice.

It needs to be reiterated that it is hoped that the new structure will allow the League flexibility within the season to accommodate extended spells of bad weather, cup runs, and requests for free weeks etc. and therefore that overall the whole standard of rugby throughout ALL divisions, will continue to improve due to the increased competition.

The Divisions for the U14's for the 2008/2009 season will therefore be as follows:

Premier Division

Rylands Sharks
Saddleworth Rangers
Orrell St James
Pilkington Pumas
West Bank Bears
Latchford Unicorns
Ince Rose Bridge
Oldham St Anne's
Higginshaw

Division 1

Blackbrook
Pilkington Cougars
Wigan St Judes
Wigan St Pats
Leigh Miners Rangers
Chorley Panthers
Halton Farnworth Hornets
Folly Lane
Aston Bears

Division 2

Shevington Sharks
Thatto Heath
Wigan St Cuthbert's
Langworthy Reds
Westhoughton Lions
Portico
Leigh East
Crosfield Cardinals
Blackpool Scorpions

Division 3

Crosfield Cobras
Haydock
Latchford Giants
Culcheth Eagles
Widnes Moorfield
Rochdale Mayfield
Woolston
Eccles & Salford.
Fitton Hill

VII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report

Jackie explained to the room that she was going on holiday and therefore would be, to all intents and purposes, not contactable other than by e-mail (internet access permitting) for the next 3 weeks.

She will try to access her e-mail but everyone is asked to be patient if they do not receive an immediate reply.

VIII. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report

Paul Mitchell thanked everyone for the support that they had given him over the past few years but, due to other commitments, found he was unable to find sufficient time to continue in the Fixture Secretary's role and so he was stepping down.

The League are however pleased to report that he will be staying with the Committee to offer his experience on transfers in a new role as Transfers Secretary

IX. Registration Secretary's Report

Clubs were reminded that 2 x new passport sized photographs were required for all players and that an A4 sheet of images was acceptable as long as the players details were clearly attached underneath the individual pics.

If not printed as an A4 sheet then individual pics must have the players details **separately** written on the rear of both images, both the name of the player, the club and if possible the registration number.

Clubs were informed to attach an SAE but that the League would absorb the postage costs for the registrations but NOT transfers

X. Transfer Committee's Report

Margaret Byrne explained that the few transfers which were rejected at the end of last season can now be re-submitted for the new season - please let her know if you still want to process these.

She went on to explain that all future "Transfer Requests" should, in the first instance, be sent for the attention of Paul Mitchell.

All Transfers Requests need to be accompanied by new photographs if they are transferring before the new season starts.

XI. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

There was no report due to David Lowe's absence.

XII. Disciplinary Chairman's Report

There were no disciplinary issues as no NW Counties 13-15's games had taken place since the last meeting.

XIII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £12332 at the time of the meeting.

Outstanding Presentation Night draw prizes were handed out to those who had been unable to collect them on the evening.

A list of "Outstanding Fines" were read out and those clubs who had not yet paid them were informed that they will not be issued fixtures if they are not resolved before the September Meeting.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 2nd July 2008 commencing at 8.30pm.