

North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting 3rd June 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"/>
	Jeff Schofield (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: Jeff Schofield

Next Meeting: Wed 1st July 2009 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"/>
Blackpool Stanley	<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"/>
Fitton Hill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Folly Lane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Halton Farnworth Hornets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Haydock	<input 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"/>
Liverpool Lions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manchester Storm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Milnrow Cobras	<input checked="" 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"/>
Runcorn	<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 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 May 2009 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Wigan St Patricks and seconded by Shevington.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence Friendlies/Festivals/Tournaments

The League had received three requests for authorisations for several friendlies/festivals, namely:

Orrell St James

Orrell St James are hoping to hold a summer tournament during the weekend of Saturday 22/23 August 2009.

Under 8s, 11s 13s and 16s will be playing on the Saturday and the Under 10s, 12s and 14s on the Sunday.

Age groups per this 2008/9 season

The venue is Abram Guest High School, Orrell Wigan and the entry fee is £10.00 per team. 10 a.m. start on both days.

Further details can be obtained from Suzanne Simm on 07892720270 or from the existing team coaches at Orrell.

Chorley Panthers

Chorley Panthers U14's would like to ask the League for permission to tour with their current U14's squad. They hope to be travel on Saturday 21st June and play Barrow Island U14's the following day.

Saddleworth Rangers

Saddleworth Rangers have requested permission to hold their annual Rugby Festival on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June (odds on Sunday and evens on Saturday).

This years event will be staged at Churchill playing Fields Greenfield, with the usual BBQ and stalls etc. and of course fantastic sunny weather (as they allegedly always have in Saddleworth, Gods own country and all that....)

Any interested clubs, please contact your usual Saddleworth Coach/Team Manager or Alan Bolton on 0161 624 2858

Latchford

Latchford are looking to hold their Summer Gala on the 18th July at Victoria Park. The gala will be based on mod rules with 2 x 9 1/2 min halves. Each Latchford team will look to invite 3 or 4 other teams to take part (cost of £10 per team) and the event should run from @10am to about 2-3pm (depending on numbers).

The team coaches will contact teams they wish to invite, however teams can contact myself if they are interested in taking part. All players will receive a medal for taking part, and there is planned to be a BBQ and drinks available along with some eqpt stalls.

All our younger teams (8-12s) are taking part, however some of our youth teams have expressed an interest; so I would be grateful if you could raise this at the meeting tonight to obtain permission from the meeting and committee.

The above events have all been approved by the League.

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

In the absence of Jeff Schofield there was nothing to report.

VI. Registration Secretary's Report

David Lowe explained that there had been some problems with the initial Registration Forms which had caused some confusion.

David has proposed that this League develops its own database within the system to make the system simpler and give us quicker access.

He asked that, when completing Registration Forms, that everyone should please make sure everything is legible and that any changes are readable.

Postcodes are very important on these Forms and **MUST** be included. Failure to put this on may lead to delays in processing or the Form being returned unprocessed.

The Registration Sheets recently issued can be posted directly to David Lowe at the address on the Website who assures everyone he will work towards a quick turnaround.

VII. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report

Paul informed the room that, even though he had received the recommendations from Mick Doyle & Graham Aitken at the NW Counties 8-12's, he had not yet formalised the Leagues as this obviously depends on those teams applying for League Membership.

As soon as the League has had all the applications for membership in then he will set to work and let everyone know the divisional structures as soon as possible.

VIII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report

Jayne Bisset told the room that the proposed U14's Leagues are already available for viewing on the website.

IX. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report

Jackie Clowes announced that, due to her impending holiday, and other commitments, the proposed U15's League would not be available until early July.

X. Transfer Committee's Report

Window now open and Paul will be strictly adhering to the new rules voted in at the AGM.

Clubs were reminded that clubs attending/playing in festivals **MUST** show cards.

CWO - need to see Coaches' cards and CRB checks at the next meeting so please remember to bring them.

XI. Child Welfare Officer's Report

Brian Edwards informed the Meeting that the League will need to see Coaches' cards and CRB checks at the next meeting.

XII. Disciplinary Chair's Report

Verdict Notifications were issued to several clubs for cases which were heard on Monday 1st June 2009 at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

XIII. BARLA Representative's Report

The next RFL Youth & Junior Forum takes place on Sunday 21st June 2009 at Bradford Bulls RLFC

A meeting of the RFL's Player Performance Steering Group is being held at Hopwood Hall, Middleton on Monday 22nd June 2009.

BARLA AGM takes place on Sunday 28th June 2009 at the George Hotel, Huddersfield.

Charlie Brae of the Yorkshire Juniors League was recently voted in as the "Other Leagues" Youth & Junior representative to sit on the RFL's Community Board.

In this role, Charlie represents this League & other amateur Youth & Junior Leagues in a similar situation as ourselves i.e. those with no voting rights via BARLA. He has recently attended his first Community Board meeting on our behalf and reported the following:

YOUTH & JUNIOR FORUM

The Community Board was informed that we had agreed to pilot an U13's Competition for two months over the summer.

REGISTRATIONS

All Open Age registration forms are currently being held by BARLA and not being passed on to Rugby League Services for the central database. (As stated in a letter written from BARLA to Kelly Barrett).

It was also mentioned that BARLA wanted to revisit the Registration Form, even though it had been unanimously agreed at a previous Community Board meeting.

The BARLA Representative, who was in attendance, could not answer any of the questions asked.

BARLA are to be sent a letter from Richard Lewis to request that they cooperate and send the registrations in. If BARLA are still unwilling the RFL will write direct to the Leagues to make them aware of the situation.

CLUB & LEAGUE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

These agreements were unanimously supported by the whole Board, but BARLA see different and have informed all their members, via the website, not to sign the agreements, as they were "not in BARLA's interest".

It was raised as to why BARLA were sending Representatives to the meetings who had no authorisation to make decisions on behalf of the Board of Management.

BARLA also felt that the RFL were in breach of their own Constitution, and are currently seeking legal advice with regard to this.

Richard Lewis is to write a separate letter to BARLA seeking an urgent change in their stance on this issue.

BARLA RECRUITMENT

BARLA want two full time dedicated members of Staff.

BARLA have been asked on numerous occasions to outline the jobs that these two members of staff would undertake – still awaiting a response.

WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

Some teams in WRLA want to play in a Conference and form a National Competition.

COMMUNITY GAME DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Rugby League Services now producing a document to be circulated.

FOUR NATIONS FINAL

To enable the Final to be a celebration for the whole game, each constituent was asked to consider rearranging all fixtures, or to have earlier kick off's on the 14th November 2009.

Nigel Wood is looking into the possibility of raising money for the Help the Heroes charity at the Final.

Ray Tennant has taken up the new role of Business Development Manager at the RFL, where he will work alongside Community Clubs to promote attractive ticket offers and encourage more people to attend the games.

To try and build more momentum around major events, the RFL were happy to consider pricing to make these events more accessible. It was agreed that everyone in attendance should seek the views from their constituents and provide feedback within a month – Can you please send me your thoughts by return.

COMMUNITY BOARD STRATEGY

Julia Lee made a presentation on the Whole Sport Plan.

In summary the game has to deliver the following:

Grow - 51,478 participants 16+

Sustain - 5% increase in satisfaction in our sport/5% decrease in drop off at 16–19 year olds

Excel - 10,000 players in talent pool/Improve the number and quality of coaches/9 regions with clear Talent Pathways

A draft Community Board three year plan has been circulated. All stakeholders are to be consulted on this draft and need to go back to the Community Board for final sign off in September.

The Congress in October will include a summary of achievements.

TEEN BOYS RESEARCH

The teen boys research has been carried out by Carnegie and will be presented at the next Youth & Junior Forum.

Further research is to be carried out into the impact of the Champion Schools Programme with particular reference to the number of young players that move from schools to clubs and the reasons for players dropping out.

COMMUNITY LIONS UPDATE

The Under-18's Manager and Coach positions to be re-advertised after their tour to Australia in August 2009. This is following a successful four year term.

The Community Board agreed that from September the Under-18's will play as England. This was following requests made by Scotland and

Wales. Ireland is currently being developed.

Scotland will play in the Amateur Four Nations in June, July and August alongside Wales, Ireland and England Lionhearts, (RLC).

The Squad will operate as GB Community Lions for major overseas tours for the foreseeable future.

U18's Programme 2009/2010

*August 2009 Complete Tour to Australia
September 2009 France v Wales – Tri Series*

*November 2009 GB Community Lions v AIS
England v Aussie Schoolboys – TBC
Wales v Aussie Schoolboys – TBC
France v England Tri Series*

February 2010

*England v France Tri Series
Wales v France Tri Series
Wales v England, (home & away) – Tri Series – To be arranged*

Under-19's

I asked the question given by Hilary Steel NWC Youth regards U19s and were the RFL planning to run any teams at that age group, it was confirmed that the RFL had no plans to form an Under-19's team as they see the U18s competition the pinnacle for players to aim for.

AMATEUR CLUBS

It was agreed that match programmes should include the amateur club players had been signed from.

MINI/MOD RULES

Are to be discussed at the next Youth & Junior Forum meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 19th June 2009.

XIII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £10620 at the time of the meeting.

Jackie informed everyone who had attended the Presentation Night that photos were available now on DVD.

Sam Armstrong regretfully announced that the proposed Summer Trial which was due to start in early July had, unfortunately, due to diminishing numbers been cancelled.

This League has always tried to reflect the wishes of its Players & Clubs and, due to the numerous requests during the wet Winter months for us to consider a move to a Summer programme, we subsequently discussed the issue with the RFL and agreed to trial it and provide feedback regarding it's viability.

Whilst initial take up was good, as the time approached for the details, such as, leagues and fixtures to be finalised, more and more teams unfortunately notified us that they were either unable to field teams or had

issues with lack of playing facilities leaving us with insufficient teams to run with even following several frantic phone calls.

Sam apologised to all those teams who had still wished to participate and assured those wishing to play during the Summer that the League will, in lieu, positively support requests for friendlies.

The League are also discussing with Mick Hogan, CEO of Wigan Warriors, to see whether their Subway Touch Rugby competition can be enlarged to encapsulate our age groups allowing teams to continue to remain together and train during the off-season and we will notify everyone should this come to fruition.

Hilary Steel highlighted details of the RFL's Safeguarding Conference which is to be held at the Village Hotel, Centre Park, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1QA on Sunday 9th August 2009 starting at 10.30am until 3pm

All delegates will be provided with a free ticket to the Carnegie Challenge Cup Semi-Final: 4pm Kick Off – St Helens v Huddersfield Giants @ Halliwell Jones Stadium

The following topics will be covered at this years Safeguarding Conference:

- Welcome - Jon Roberts (RFL Director of Performance & Coaching)
- Key Note Speech - Gill Joyce (NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit)
- Investigations & Case Studies - Gary Haigh (RFL Investigator) & Blake Solly (RFL Compliance Manager)
- Why Equality and Diversity matters in Safeguarding - Sarah Williams (RFL Equality and Diversity Manager)
- Practical advice for dealing with bullying issues in your club - TBC
- Vetting and Barring - Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)
- RFL Safeguarding Update - Colette Eden (RFL Safeguarding Manager)

There will also be a resources table with all the RFL Safeguarding Resources available and a CRB advice table for any questions about CRB applications.

Numbers are limited and the Conference is being made available to Regional & Club Welfare Officers first before being opened to all with an interest in Safeguarding matters at the end of June.

The new Applications For League Membership Forms will be online, and available from the "Stationery" section of the website in the next few days and, to encourage early application an "early bird" offer of £10 off the normal membership fee is being offered to those handing in the forms on or before the July Meeting.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 1st July 2009 commencing at 8.30pm.