



**North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby**  
Meeting Minutes

*Date of Meeting* 4<sup>th</sup> March 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 at 8.30pm, Golborne Parkside ARLFC

**I. Attendance**

Ashton Bears	<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"/>
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 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"/>
Liverpool Lions	<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"/>
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"/>

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

**III. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

**IV. Correspondence**

The League had received several requests for authorisations to tour and Sam Armstrong assured those Club's waiting for letters that they would be issued, hopefully, the following day (5<sup>th</sup> March).

**V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report**

There was nothing to report

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

Jackie Clowes announced that the League have been in discussions with the Yorkshire Juniors League to play a War Of The Roses Challenge. The U13's & U15's winners of the NW Counties' Lancashire Cups will face the corresponding age groups Division Winners from the Yorkshire Juniors League.

No venue has, as yet, been decided but, unfortunately, Jackie lost toss for home advantage and so the 1<sup>st</sup> event will be held in Yorkshire.

Everyone was informed that all Clubs/Teams who won trophies last season must ensure that they are returned in good, clean condition with no damage at the next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Trophies **MUST NOT** simply be "dropped off" unless it is by hand to a NW Counties Management member as any damage subsequently found will be charged to the Club/Team.

The room was reminded that the NW Counties Cup Finals for all ages will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at Golborne Parkside.

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

Paul Edwards announced that, if the weather holds up, the U14's are on track to have all games completed by the end of April which considering this season's bad weather is a great achievement.

There is a possibility that Paul may organise a small mini competition for Division 2 teams but this is dependent on time and other factors such as the weather and team availabilities.

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

The draw for the Quarter Finals of the NW Counties Cup took place. Games are to be played on Sunday 22nd March and NOT the 15th since two ties would have to be put back anyway as they clash with the Lancashire Cup Finals

Latchford Albion Giants v Leigh Miners Rangers  
Portico Vine v Halton Farnworth Hornets  
Rylands Sharks v Blackbrook Royals  
Wigan St Patricks v Oldham St Annes

Semi Finals SUNDAY 29TH MARCH  
Portico/Halton v Latchford/Leigh Miners  
St Pats/St Annes v Rylands/Blackbrook

**IX. Transfer Committee's Report**

Paul Mitchell explained that the League had now reached the Transfer deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February meaning that no further transfer requests will be processed until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009.

Six transfers, received in time, were being dealt with, some of which had issues that Paul would be contacting the relevant parties about.

**X. BARLA Representative's Report**

Sam explained that, following the recent meeting with BARLA officials, they had now come back with an offer for us to start attending meetings once more although we still, as Associate Members, will have no voting rights. This was seen as a positive move to re-build some bridges.

The proposed Summer Rugby trial was explained by Sam. The trial, aimed at this season's U13's will consist of 4 mini-leagues of 4, ideally localised to prevent unnecessary travel and will run between June/July. Further details will be posted once numbers are finalised but we are looking for 16 participating teams - Please e-mail Sam if your club is interested in participating.

The whole idea of the trial, which is being run also by other Leagues, other age-groups and at other times during the Summer is to gather data to ascertain such things as are there increased numbers playing, are players and coaches enjoying it more. do parents stay longer to support the coaching, is there increased revenue at the club if parents are staying longer etc so that, when gathered it can be collated into a report advising the various leagues of the findings.

**XI. Disciplinary Chairman's Report**

Hearing Notifications were to be issued to several clubs for cases which were to be heard on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

Verdict Notifications were issued to several clubs for cases which were heard on Thursday 19 February at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

**XII. Any Other Business**

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £12593 at the time of the meeting.

Formal Notice was given of the League's AGM which will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009. Clubs/Individuals were asked to notify the Management Committee of any suggested constitutional changes.

The League were pleased to welcome two guest speakers and apologised for the Big Screen/OHP failure which meant that their carefully constructed presentations were unable to be shown on the evening.

Craig Richards, one of the RFL's Club & Coaching Development Officers explained to the floor the Bridging process and, most importantly reminded all clubs that the Bridging deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> June will not be extended!!!

He was made aware by the floor that some clubs are still having difficulties getting on courses

Craig went on to explain that the price has gone up to £110 but that there is some funding available through the Greater Manchester Sports Development Fund but this is only available until the end of the month ... up to 66% funding available.

The new National qualification will be the equivalent to NVQ Level 2 ... 3yr life with the option of additional ccdp points.

Mick Hogan, CEO of Wigan Warriors RLFC was the evening's second guest speaker who came to address the floor regarding some of the new Community based initiatives that the Warriors are introducing.

Invitations had been sent out to all Wigan area teams inviting them to participate in the Community Day. The day will involve Junior 9's/Adult Touch Rugby, Girls rugby, Mums & Dads teams touch rugby etc

Teams will participate in 3 games per team with the emphasis on participation.  
All under 16's will be invited to join the half time parade

There is a £36 entry fee per team which includes tickets for admission to the day's Warriors game against Celtic Crusaders for 12 junior + 1 adult (extra tickets will be available at £10 adult/£5 child). Mick emphasised the fact that it was a "fun" and not a "talent spotting" day.

Clubs were reminded that outstanding fixtures would be expected to be honoured but that the League will attempt to incorporate local derbies where possible to allow teams to participate. Any clubs wishing permission to participate MUST contact their Fixture Secretary and not just assume that it is ok.

Mick went on to explain other events coming up included the first two of their 2009 Community Club Development sessions.

The first session - 'Successful Sponsorship for Sports teams' will be delivered by Mick Hogan himself along with Geoff Warburton, Warriors Sales Director. The 1 hr session will be held on Monday 23rd March, 2009 8pm – 9pm at

Leigh East ARLFC,  
Leigh Sports Village  
Ledgard Ave  
Leigh  
WN7 4GY

The second session – 'Athletic and Dynamic warm-ups for Rugby League' will be delivered by Warriors Head Strength and Conditioning Coach Mike Forshaw. The 1 hour session will take place on Monday 20th April, 2009 7pm – 8pm at

Wigan St Judes ARLFC  
Keats Av  
Wigan  
WN3 5UB

Both of the above sessions are free of charge to members of Warriors Community Clubs Partnership program. Places on both sessions are limited to 3 places per club and must be pre-booked with Amanda Wilkinson, Community Development Officer on 01942 770437 or [a.wilkinson@jjbstadium.co.uk](mailto:a.wilkinson@jjbstadium.co.uk)

Summer touch rugby tournaments ... potential of use of club facilities and payment of hire fees

Svend Elkjaer - of the SM Marketing consultant is to hold a "Grow Your Rugby League Club" seminar at Golborne Parkside from 6.30 – 9pm on the 16th March. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This is a workshop packed with practical information on how to make your Rugby League club.....vibrant, visible and viable

Rugby league clubs are facing strong challenges in order to survive and grow in an increasingly competitive and demanding market. How to attract new members and retain the existing ones, become a hub of the community, grow sponsorship revenue, improve the social life of the club, increase media coverage, benefit from new technology, introduce new revenue streams...

This is hands-on three-hour seminar which will provide you with literally dozens and dozens of proven ways your club can become vibrant, visible and viable. No boring theory...just exciting, positive and proven action points drawn from best practice from sports clubs at all levels across the UK.

The presenter will draw from examples of best practice case studies from community-based, volunteer-run sports clubs from across most sports and leisure organisations.

Anyone interested in attending please advise Margaret Byrne.

Finally, all clubs were reminded of the need to ensure that they return any trophies, received last season at any 13-15's age-group, at the April Meeting. These trophies **MUST** be returned in good, clean and undamaged condition and be handed to a Management Team Member - **DO NOT** simply leave them at the Club!!!

These trophies are required for the Cup Finals and Presentation Nights and so their return is a must ... any club not returning them on the night will face a fine and/or be invoiced should any damage be found.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 commencing at 8.30pm.