

North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting Wednesday 7th May 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 (U13'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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Apologies:

Next Meeting: Wed 4th June 2008 at 8.00pm, 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 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 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 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 £10
(Cheques to be made payable to NW Counties 13-15 ARL)

II. Minutes & Updates from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the April 08 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Crosfields and seconded by New Springs.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

Requests for permission to hold Festivals & tour were read out and approved by the League's Management Committee.

Saddleworth Rangers current U14's are on a short tour of France next Easter (April 9/10th) for 8 days to Perpignan in France.

Orrell St James will be holding their annual tournament over the weekend of 20th and 21st June with all games to be played at Abraham Guest Sports College, Orrell Road, Orrell, Wigan

Under 11's and Under 12's - Saturday 21st June
Under 13's and Under 15's - Sunday 22nd June

9.30 a.m. registration for 10 a.m. start with a £10 entry fee.

Anyone interested should contact either Helen Wilson 01695 627455 or Jean Ball 01942 629478 (daytime) who will send entrance forms and further details.

Leyland Warriors are also running a Tournament at Moss Side Playing Fields, Leyland on Saturday 21st June 2008 to include U14s and 15s teams from the NW Counties league. Anyone interested should contact Peter Kearns, Leyland Warriors Sec. for further details.

V. BARLA Representative/Coaching Coordinator's Report

On Tuesday 22nd April 2008, myself and Jackie attended the Y & J Council meeting at Shaw Cross, Dewsbury.

The Chair, Carole Land asked the floor "how they can take the game forward?", this led to quite a heated discussion on how little it was felt was being done for the Y & J game by the BARLA Board with the seemingly general consensus that there was complete apathy towards youth & junior development. It was pointed out that we had presented proposals to the Board over 12 months ago with promises that they would be looked into and responded to ... this had never happened even though at least one of the Youth & Junior Reps believed the BARLA Chair had contacted us to discuss the issues.

The request for RL Services to vacate the premises was also discussed as was the role they play in supporting clubs & leagues. The excellent service that they have given our League was highlighted and the close working relationship that we have with our Regional Office and its personnel was also mentioned. It was pointed out that nearly all recent ideas originated from the RFL with nothing similar having been proposed by BARLA for several years.

Former BARLA Chair Maurice Oldroyd argued that 26 functions previously provided by BARLA had been taken over by the RFL and several times referred to a photocopied paper cutting (which it was noted was several years old) highlighting these functions. The response was that whilst the RFL had taken over the original BARLA ideas, since BARLA's assimilation, there had been no new developments proposed by BARLA.

Personally, we feel that the current BARLA Board seem too hung up on retaining their "titles" and the associated "perks" which come from accompanying touring parties to far off destinations. These touring parties are pre-dominantly 18+!!

Our complaint about the behaviour of the BARLA Secretary, brought to the attention of the Youth & Junior Chairs' attention in December 2007, had at the time of the meeting also astonishingly still not been brought to the attention of the Board.

Several Leagues commented on the fact that they were unhappy with the current set-up and are, we believe, ready to break away from BARLA as long as there is a "safety net". This may well be in the form of the RFL Community Board. The Youth/Junior game is rightly seen by the RFL as the future of the sport and we doubt they would be prepared to see us sink.

A meeting between several Y&J leagues to discuss the next steps has now been arranged in Brighthouse for Thursday 15th May 08.

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

Paul informed the meeting that new League structures for next year's U14's would be based on the following number of teams in each Division: 8 x Prem Division, 8 x 1st Division, 10 x 2nd Division & 9 x 3rd Division

Premier Division

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

Division 1

Ince Rose Bridge
Blackbrook
Pilkington Cougars
Wigan St Judes
Wigan St Pats
Leigh Miners Rangers
Chorley Panthers
Folly Lane

Division 2

Halton Farnworth Hornets
Shevington Sharks
Thatto Heath
Wigan St Cuthbert's
Aston Bears
Langworthy Reds
Westhoughton Lions
Portico
Leigh East
Crosfield Cardinals

Division 3

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

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

Jackie informed the meeting that new League structures for next year's U15's would be based on the following number of teams in each Division: 8 x Prem Division, 8 x 1st Division, 9 x 2nd Division & 9 x 3rd Division

Prem Division

Halton Farnworth Hornets
Wigan St Patricks
Portico Vine
Blackbrook Royals
Golborne Parkside
Wigan St Cuthberts
Leigh Miners Rangers
Rylands Sharks

Division 1

Oldham St Annes
Waterhead
Latchford Albion Giants
Shevington Sharks
Wigan St Judes
Folly Lane
Leigh East
Ashton Bears

Division 2

Thatto Heath Crusaders
Burtonwood Bulldogs
Ince Rose Bridge
West Bank Bears
Leyland Warriors
Chorley Panthers
Latchford Albion Unicorns
Moss Bank Bulldogs
Crosfield Cobras

Division 3

Crosfields Vipers
Saddleworth Rangers
Langworthy Reds
Rochdale Mayfield
Widnes Moorfield
Culcheth Eagles
Shaw Rhinos
Orrell St James
Hindley

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

Paul Mitchell congratulated all the League & Cup Winners and confirmed that, due to other commitments, he is stepping down as Fixture Secretary but intends to continue on as a member of the Management Team as Transfers Chair. League structures for this season's U15's moving to the 16-18's League next year will be determined by that League dependent on the number of teams registered and will be announced at their meeting.

IX. Transfer Committee's Report

Next season there will be, as mentioned, a Transfers Chair and ALL transfers must be sent in to Paul Mitchell. Straight forward transfers i.e. those within the NWC 13-15's rules will be processed straight through, if they are outside the rules e.g. second player from a club, over the quota of 3 transfers etc then they will be rejected and, if requested, there will be a Transfer Appeal Meeting between all parties and a decision made. There will be a £20 Appeals Fee for any rejected Transfers requested to go to appeal.

All clubs were informed by Margaret Byrne that registration cards will need new photographs next season to assist the opposing team in the checking of cards.

X. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

David Lowe discussed with the room the fact that the "feigning" of injuries will be monitored next season by the Referee and League Officials. This to prevent some less scrupulous individuals of encouraging players to "go down" for tactical ploys.

XI. Disciplinary Chairman's Report

Verdict Notifications were issued to several clubs for cases which were heard on Thursday 17 April at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

XII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £11165 at the time of the meeting.

Thanks was given to everyone who had helped and/or participated at the Finals Day and Presentation Evening and congratulations was given to all Winners.

The room was also updated with Feedback from the Management Meeting held on the 30th April.

Roles

As discussed earlier in the Minutes, Paul Mitchell, due to other commitments at his own Club, had found the 15's Fixture Secretary's role difficult this season and felt he had not been able to give it the time the position required, particularly on a Sunday when the results come in, he has therefore decided to step down from the "weekly" role but has, we are pleased to say, agreed to Chair the Transfers Committee.

Jackie Clowes will move up with this years U14's to next years' U15's which will mean that there is uniformity and continuity when they in turn move on to the 16-18's League as Jackie provides fixtures for both Leagues.

Likewise, Paul Edwards will now move up with this years U13's to next years' U14's with a new member offering to join us as U13's Fixture

Secretary, Lindsay Bissett who will, if voted in, take over the U13's next season.

Season Start & End Dates

The first fixture weekend for the 2008/2009 season will be Sunday 7th September 2008 and all fixtures will have to be completed by Friday 24th April 2009.

Clubs not having completed their fixtures by the seasons' end date will be awarded a single point for each outstanding fixture.

At the start of the 2008/2009 season, all clubs will be given at least two midweek fixtures to take advantage of the lighter nights. Wherever possible, every effort will be made by the Fixture Secretaries to keep these games local to reduce travelling at rush hour etc.

Division Sizes

On top of the Division sizes detailed earlier in the minutes, it was also agreed that there will be a straight "2 up/2 down" promotion & relegation system next season and this is being notified to all clubs now to prevent future confusion.

Squad Sizes

These will remain at a minimum of 15 registered players being required to register with the League with an upper limit of a maximum of 25 registered players/team.

To assist in the delay in processing Registrations/Transfers, particularly those due to incomplete or incorrectly completed paperwork, there will be "example" completed documents available for comparison on the website to act as guides over the next few weeks. It is hoped that these will reduce the number of instances where paperwork has to be returned to the Clubs.

Discussions took place as to how transfers would be dealt with and this has been covered earlier in these minutes.

Competitions

The NW Counties Cup Finals will take place on Sunday 26th April 2009 with the Semi-Finals hopefully completed by the end of March 2009.

It was agreed that the initial rounds of the competition would be "seeded" and full details will be notified when the draws are made.

It was also agreed that the Trophies, Cup Winners & Cup Finalist's medals would be handed out on the day as many teams wish to go back to their own clubs to celebrate.

The Presentation Night for the League Division Winners will probably revert back to three separate evenings for the three age groups as finding a suitable venue with sufficient staff has been difficult. It will also allow the League to spend more time focussing on the achievements of the individual team's and its players making it a more "personal" experience for all concerned.

Following a request for some form of Summer Competition for non-Service Area players, Jackie has proposed a framework for those wishing to participate which she explained. Full details can be found on the NW

Counties 13-15's website (on the "stationery" link for now whilst we get a specific link set up).

Basically:

Games between teams can be with as many players (up to 13!), for as long as you wish (up to max for the age).

Points accrued depending on who you play/beat and where and if you lend players to the opposition.

This is going to be administered purely by email to a new address specific to the competition which will be meritleague@yahoo.co.uk

Any questions please use this address. Jackie will endeavour to answer all queries within a couple of days but will not be checking it as regularly as her personal emails..

Discipline

A request that ALL games be recorded was declined, however, it was recognised that this would make Discipline Appeals easier and so it is REQUESTED rather than made mandatory.

Monthly Meetings

There has been a huge increase in the number of clubs not attending the monthly meetings. This is the only opportunity that the League get to talk to, discuss issues with and hand out documentation to all teams it was therefore agreed that attendance should be compulsory and that the current £10 fine for non-attendance be increased to £30 for Monthly meeting and from £30 to £50 for the AGM. These new fine rates will come into operation following the June AGM.

This was objected to by some members in the meeting believing that it should be voted on at the AGM. It was pointed out that this was not a procedural change and that, same as in previous years the fines had been set in accordance with section 21.01 of the Constitution which states - *"The management committee shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules"*.

A request for one representative to attend from every team rather than one representative per Club was decided against. This request was made on the basis that many teams state that they are "unaware of what occurred at the meeting as their Club representative has not shared the information". It was agreed that, with the minutes usually being online within a few days of the meeting that there was no excuse for anyone to claim "ignorance" and therefore that a single Club representative was adequate for the time being.

Paperwork

Several documents are to be reviewed and re-vamped where required. One of the first will be the team sheets which will in future require the signature and details of the person who has checked the registration cards from the opposing side to ensure that only registered players are participating. Remember "no card - no play".

The Application for Membership is also to be amended to bring the details in line with those on the website e.g. Match Day Contacts ill be included.

All updated documents will be available for downloading under the Stationery section of the website as soon as possible and before the start of the new season.

Storage

Due to the bulky nature of the League's equipment e.g. Post Protectors, wedges, balls, pop-up display stand etc the storage of it had become an issue to the Caretaker at Golborne Parkside. It was agreed that alternative storage would be sought with the equipment, in the interim, being stored at Wigan St Cuthberts following their kind offer. It is probable that the League will invest in a large secure storage container as this will, in a single year, be a cheaper option than a small storage unit in a monitored premises which works out at £25+ per week.

Annual General Meeting

All clubs are reminded that the next meeting is the AGM which will take place on Wednesday 4th June and which starts at the earlier time of 8pm.

Any Management Committee position can be contested by anyone wishing to volunteer their services and their details should be forwarded to the League Secretary at the earliest opportunity.

The following have put their names forward for nomination for the roles listed below next season:-

Margaret Byrne (Chair)

Sam Armstrong (League Sec./Discipline Chair/BARLA Representative)

Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)

Lindsay Bissett (U13's Fixtures Sec.)

Paul Edwards (U14's Fixtures Sec.)

Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Sec.)

Brian Edwards/Paul Edwards (Registrations Sec.)

Paul Mitchell (Transfer Committee Chair)

David Lowe (Ref. Appointments Officer)

Anyone wishing to raise a matter are reminded of section 4.06 of the Constitution which states "*Amendments or additions to the rules must be given in writing, be proposed and seconded by clubs who have been league members for at least one season and be received by the League Secretary on or before 1st May each year. The management committee may also place proposals before the Annual General Meeting. A two thirds majority of the clubs present and holding voting rights is required to carry proposals and/or amendments to the Constitution*".

At the time of the meeting the League had received no external correspondence from any teams, clubs or individuals for the AGM.

The date of the AGM at Golborne Parkside will be the 4th June 2008 commencing at the earlier time of 8.00pm.