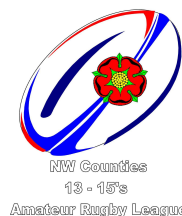


North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting 5th May 2010

<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 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 type="checkbox"/>
	Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Paul Mitchell (Transfers Chair)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	David Lowe (Registrations Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Brian Edwards (Child Welfare Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Apologies: Paul Mitchell, Darren Hayes, Lindsay Bissett

Next Meeting: Wed 2nd June 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 type="checkbox"/>
Crosfields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Culcheth Eagles	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Langworthy Reds	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
Orrell St James	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
Rylands Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saddleworth Rangers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shevington Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thatto Heath Crusaders	<input 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 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 April 2010 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Wigan St Pats and seconded by Folly Lane.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

Friendlies/Festivals/Tournaments/Tours

The League have received the following requests for authorisation of friendlies/festivals/tournaments/tours, namely:

Wigan St Cuthberts

Wish to hold a tournament on 3rd July 2010 for the current season's U13s, U12s and U10s. The tournament will consist of 4 invited teams from each age group playing on a round robin basis.

Saddleworth Rangers

Request permission to hold their Annual Rugby Festival on 19th/20th June 2010 at Churchill Playing Fields, Greenfield.

8s, 10s, 12s and 14s will play on the Saturday and 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s on the Sunday. Apparently they have, they state, pre-booked the good weather!!!

Any interested teams should contact the relevant Saddleworth Coach/Team Manager for full details.

Orrell St James

Are hoping to hold their annual tournament over the weekend of 19th and 20th June 2010.

The Tournament will be for teams from U8's to U13's. For Further details contact Jean Ball at jball@JJBSports.com

Newton Storm

Are planning a rugby festival for current U7-U12s on Sat 7th/Sun 8th August 2010.

The club have submitted a request to NWC 8-12 for approval but wondered if they had to do the same to yourselves considering the U12's teams competing will effectively be U13's from 1st June.

Wigan St Patrick's U14's

As they prepare for their National Cup final on the 30th of May they would like to seek the League's approval for two matches to be played in the month of May.

First they would like to play Thatto Heath on Tuesday the 4th of May K.O 6.30 at Thatto Heath and second to play Clock Face on Saturday the 16th may at Blackpool/Fylde rugby club. This is a curtain raiser to the Blackpool RLFC club match.

Leigh Miners

Plan to take their U11's and U13's teams on a tour of Cumbria between Friday 28th and Monday 31st May 2010, and the Wath Brow and Kells Amateur Rugby League clubs have kindly agreed to be our hosts.

To accommodate this, they would like to ask for the League's permission for them to proceed with the tour.

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

Due to Darren Hayes working away during the week there was no report, however, David Lowe informed the floor that Darren had done an excellent job since taking over mid-season, had thoroughly enjoyed his role and was looking forward to next season.

VI. Registration Secretary's Report

David Lowe explained that, though early, he had printed off the team registration forms which were issued out at the end of the meeting. David asked that all teams review them carefully by checking that the re-registration list is accurate and notifying David if there are any errors so

that the records can be corrected.

Once happy that the details are correct, get the player to sign. If there is a need for new photos teams will be informed.

U12's teams joining our League this Summer will DEFINITELY need 2 x new photos with the Player's name clearly written on the reverse of BOTH photos.

VII. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report

Paul Edwards informed the floor that there was nothing to report as all the games had now been played with the final one being completed on the night of the meeting. Paul assured everyone that the final League Tables will be updated as soon as possible.

VIII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report

The League would appear to be missing a Division Winners trophy it is believed that this may be last season's U14's Div 2 Cup; this is obviously needed for the Presentation Nights. Can all Clubs who won trophies last season please check to make sure that they have not still got one in their trophy cabinet.

IX. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

X. Transfer Committee's Report

Due to the absence of Paul Mitchell due to work commitments abroad there was no Transfer Secretary's report, however, as the transfer window is closed until 1st June there were no transfers currently believed to be in the system.

Margaret Byrne informed the meeting that, next season, David Lowe had volunteered to combine the two roles of Registrations and Transfers to hopefully help with processing transfers.

XI. Child Welfare Officer's Report

Brian Edwards had no issues to report

XII. Disciplinary Chair's Report

The next Disciplinary Meeting will take place on Thursday 20th May 2010 at Golborne Parkside. Team's with pending cases were verbally notified but informed that the the very basic details would be posted on the website over the weekend.

Assurances were given that no individuals' details would be divulged but instead, each case would be given a unique reference number, state whether it is a Player or Team involved, have a very brief summary of the offence and the Team/Age-Group involved.

If clubs wish further details of their individual case e.g. Referees Report or wished to book a "Personal Appearance" then they were asked to please e-mail Sam at SamArmstrong99@aol.com stating the Case Number and who they were and what their role in the Club/Team is; Sam in turn would verify the information and then send further details/book a time for the appeal.

A table of available appointments is to be maintained on the website so that Clubs can see the remaining available slots.

XIII. BARLA Representative's Report

Sam Armstrong Explained that the League had recently attended two meetings organised by the RFL:

Four Seasons Meeting at the George Hotel, Huddersfield

Following the recent two meetings with Club's & Leagues at Leigh East a follow up meeting was arranged at the George Hotel, Huddersfield on 14th April 2010 to discuss the findings of those meetings and the equivalent meetings which had been held in Yorkshire.

There appears to be still some differences of opinion with basically East/West and Youth/Open-Age splits.

The subject is to be discussed at the Community Board Meeting, however, BARLA have issued the following statement

The Board's view is that; at this present moment in time, The British Amateur Rugby League Association are committed to providing winter competition for teams at all age groups who wish to remain playing the game, in the present September to May playing season. They would however offer support to any members who wish to make changes to their playing season.

BARLA would support a more detailed study into moving the Youth & Junior from its current window, but believe that there is clear evidence emanating from the open age ranks that there is no desire to move their playing season. There is a groundswell of support to continue playing from September to May.

BARLA does not dismiss the idea of summer rugby, but the Association has to act in the best interests of and on the instructions of its members

Referee's Meeting

At a meeting between the NW Counties Leagues and the local Referee Societies Development Officers, the following issues were discussed:

RESPECT Campaign

1. Current feelings on the campaign
2. Major issues and solutions to issues raised
 - Clarify Touch Line managers roles
3. Moving Forward
 - Referees points scoring system? Club rewards? Selected officials or all officials involved?
 - Club training with referees' societies?
 - Potential pilots in the region?
4. Other ideas

Review of Season 2009/ 2010

Thoughts on the season

- Appointments
- Match Officials Juniors/ Senior Referees
- Success highlights during season
- Disappointments during season

Season 2010/ 2011

1. Match Officials Fee's
 - Review for all ages
2. Referee's who are also players, playing under suspension
3. Referee Assessment Forms
4. Moving forward/ Actions

Dismissals & Reports

1. Key problems/ concerns from 2009/10
2. 2010/11 Reports time lines
3. Use of DVD's
4. 2010/11 Support

Appointments

1. Development Officer/ League Input
2. Role of Development Officers

XIII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £17118 at the time of the meeting.

1. Some concern was expressed at the way the balance appeared to be growing, however, Sam Armstrong explained that the balance was somewhat misleading as there were several thousand pounds still to come out of the figure for invoices received this season.

The balance had been swelled over the past few seasons, he went on to further explain, due to the hard work of the Committee in organising and holding the various Cup competitions, the Wars of the Roses Challenge and having taken over the running of the Lancashire Cup from BARLA.

This season's very successful Finals Weekend had added over £4000 to the balance sheet but, as previously explained, there was still the costs of medals, programmes, food and promotional items to pay for.

It is envisaged that the League will take the role of a resource centre for the League's Club's procuring, where appropriate, items that individual Clubs cannot justify or afford to hire due to prohibitive rental charges. The League also has to be prudent enough to recognise that there needs to be sufficient funds for unanticipated contingencies and the figure declared is, compared with some other Leagues, relatively small.

2. It was asked of the Committee that they consider hosting Finals and similar events at other venues to help contribute to other Club's incomes. It was explained that the reason that the League currently utilise Golborne Parkside is that the Club had been the "home" of the League for many years and that the facilities, particularly now in the new clubhouse, it could offer were felt to put it in a relative league of it's own when it came to hosting events such as the Finals Weekend.

With 6 Changing Rooms for teams, a "Match Officials" Changing Room, First Aid Room, Private Upstairs Room with Balcony to entertain Guests, VIPs and Sponsors, Large Main Room, Private Room for Players and Officials to eat after the match, ample parking and a pitch right in front of the Clubhouse it was believed that whilst some Clubs could tick some of the boxes very few, if any, could tick them all. Any Club who believes that they can offer similar was advised to notify the League for consideration.

It was pointed out that, whilst the Matches are hosted at Golborne, the League has, for the past two seasons, used Hindley's new facilities for hosting the very successful Presentation Nights.

It was asked why Players were asked to pay £2 to attend the Presentation Nights? Sam replied by stating that the Player's are not, as was

suggested, having to pay for their own Medals but that the £2 was merely a contribution towards the food.

Although the League has held Presentation Nights now for 4 seasons, prior to these, two or three members of the team would simply attend the Monthly Meeting and be given their trophy and a box of medals or similar to a round of applause. This was felt by the current Committee to be a poor reflection after their season's achievements and so the idea of the Presentation Nights was introduced so that each child had the opportunity to be recognised for their achievement.

It was highlighted that a team with perhaps 20+ players who wins their Division alone (after paying just £55 subscriptions) would be taking out more than they had actually paid in without having in fact contributed anything towards the administration, promotion or representation of the League.

Under those circumstances it was felt that £2 was not unreasonable as no-one is obliged to attend and the fact that the Nights are always an absolute sell-out with many more wishing for additional tickets which we are unable to accommodate due to being unable to find a venue both suitable and available without costing the earth.

3. The floor was informed that the "Permission To Play Forms which were initiated last season for newly registered players awaiting cards during the closed season are once again available upon application until, but not including, the start of the 2010/11 programme.

The system which seemed to have been well received, allowed new players (not transfers or returnees to the game) to participate in the Summer programme of friendlies & tournaments whilst awaiting their registration card and, as last season no-one appeared to have abused or over-used it, will be run again during this closed season.

Annual General Meeting

All clubs are reminded that the next meeting is the AGM which will take place on Wednesday 2nd June and which starts at the normal time of 8.30pm.

Any Club not attending this important meeting will be fined £50.

Clubs were reminded that 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, so far, put their names forward for nomination for the roles listed below next season:-

- Margaret Byrne (Chair)
- Sam Armstrong (League Sec./BARLA Representative)
- Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)
- Lindsay Bissett (U13's Fixtures Secretary)
- Paul Edwards (U14's Fixtures Sec.)
- Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Sec.)
- David Lowe (Registrations & Transfers Secretary)
- Darren Hayes (Referee Appointments Officer)
- Kevin Davidson (Disciplinary Chair)
- Paul Mitchell (Vice Chair)

Anyone wishing to raise a matter were 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 however, it was announced, this had been extended to Wednesday 19th May as the 1st May has already passed.

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 next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 2nd June 2010 commencing at 8.30pm.