



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

*Date of Meeting* 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009

*Committee Members:*

- Margaret Byrne (Chair)
- Sam Armstrong (League Sec. /Discipline Chair)
- Jayne Bissett (Treasurer)
- Jeff Schofield (Referee Appointments Officer)
- Paul Edwards (U13's Fixtures & Reg Sec.)
- Lindsay Bissett (U14's Fixtures)
- Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Sec.)
- Paul Mitchell (Transfers Chair)
- David Lowe (Registrations Secretary)
- Brian Edwards (Child Welfare Officer)

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*Apologies:* Jeff Schofield

*Next Meeting:* Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 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"/>
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"/>	Folly Lane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Halton Farnworth Hornets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Haydock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Higginshaw	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ince Rose Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Langworthy Reds	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>
Rylands Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saddleworth Rangers	<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 October 2009 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Wigan St Patricks and seconded by Widnes Moorfield.

**III. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

**IV. Correspondence**

New contact details were received for Leigh East U13's Coach John Fletcher who can be contacted on either 01942 513201 or 07891 462620

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

There was no Referee Appointments Coordinators report due to the absence of Jeff Schofield.

**VI. Registration Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report

**VII. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report**

The Draw for the Quarter Finals of the U13's Lancashire Cup to be played 22nd November 2009 took place and produced the following fixtures:

**Game 1**

Rochdale Mayfield or Langworthy v Orrell or Bank Quay

**Game 2**

Widnes Moorfield or Rylands v Clock Face or Crosfields

**Game 3**

Blackbrook v Wigan St Patricks or Latchford

**Game 4**

Waterhead or Thatto Heath v Shevington Sharks or Leigh Miners Rangers

The Draw for the Semi Finals of the U13's Lancashire Cup to be played 6th December 2009 also took place:

The winners of **Game 1** v winners of **Game 4**

The winners of **Game 2** v winners of **Game 3**

The Final of the Lancashire Cup will be played at the Stobart Stadium, Widnes on Sunday 14th March 2010. The Cup winners will then go on to represent the North West Counties 13-15's League in the "War of the Roses" competition against a "champion" team representing the Yorkshire Juniors League on Easter Sunday 4th April.

**VIII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report**

The Draw for the Semi Finals of the U14's NW Counties Cup be played 22nd November 2009 took place and produced the following fixtures:

Wigan St Patricks or Ince Rose Bridge v Orrell St James or Bold  
ClockFace or Crosfields v Thatto Heath or Langworthy Reds

**IX. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report**

The Draw for the Quarter Finals of the U15's Lancashire Cup to be played 22nd November 2009 took place and produced the following fixtures::

**Game 1**

Chorley Panthers or West Bank Bears v Ashton Bears or Bold Miners

**Game 2**

Latchford Albion Giants or Crosfield Cobras v Ince RB or Oldham St Annes

**Game 3**

Orrell St James or Rylands Sharks v Woolston Rovers or Higginshaw Eagles

**Game 4**

Wigan St Judes or Saddleworth Rangers v Wigan St Patricks or Folly Lane

The Draw for the Semi Finals of the U15's Lancashire Cup to be played 6th December 2009 also took place and produced the following fixtures::

The winners of **Game 1** v winners of **Game 2**  
The winners of **Game 4** v winners of **Game 3**

As previously highlighted, the Final of the Lancashire Cup will be played at the Stobart Stadium, Widnes on Sunday 14th March 2010. The Cup winners will then go on to represent the North West Counties 13-15's League in the "War of the Roses" competition against a "champion" team representing the Yorkshire Juniors League on Easter Sunday 4th April.

Jackie Clowes re-stated the League's rules that **both** teams have to be in agreement to play more than 17 players. It had become apparent that, as this has been stated time after time that messages don't get passed back to teams from meetings .... this obviously needs to happen.

Clubs were also reminded that when checking cards they must be done against the player AND the team sheet. This is already listed in bold text on the teamsheet but again is clearly not happening.

Both coaches should sign **both** teamsheets ... one to say that they have correctly documented the information i.e. shirt numbers against the corresponding player and the other that they have checked the cards and teamsheet details.

**X. Transfer Committee's Report**

Paul Mitchell stated that it was relatively quiet on the transfer front but he did have one or two outstanding cards which had been delayed due to the postal strike.

**XI. Child Welfare Officer's Report**

Brian Edwards had nothing to report from a Child Welfare perspective however this was due partly to his computer having broken down meaning he had been unable to receive e-mails. He apologised to anyone who may have contacted him but had not yet received a reply.

**XII. Disciplinary Chair's Report**

Sam Armstrong explained to the meeting that October had been one of the worst months he had ever experienced regarding discipline.

No less than 4 cases received were considered serious enough for the RFL to have to become involved and two were now currently under investigation by the Police and may subsequently lead to criminal prosecutions if proven.

**Orrell St James U15's v Chorley U15's**

Investigation into complaints of racist language used toward Orrell St James players remains subject of investigation.

**Langworthy Reds U15s v Portico Vine U15s**

Matter subject of Police investigation. The RFL have been informed by the Police not to commence an investigation until they have concluded theirs.

**Rylands U14s v Wigan St Judes U14s**

Matter subject of Police investigation. The RFL have been informed by the Police not to commence an investigation until they have concluded theirs. The League cannot deal with any of the other issues surrounding other incidents which occurred in these games until the Police/RFL have concluded theirs and subsequently the League's own disciplinary review of these cases have all been deferred until authorisation to proceed is given.

Sam also highlighted that outside of the above case,s the number of incidents relating to Foul & Abusive Language to Match Officials & Touchline Managers had increased to the point of the League being ashamed of the behaviour of many of it's Coaches, Players & Spectators.

It was explained that the League will not tolerate the current decline in moral standards and the corresponding general lack of respect and will subsequently be dealing with cases of this nature with a very firm hand .... clubs have been warned!! The League had recently been informed of spectators as young as 7/8 years of age using foul language to the opposition's Touchline Manager and something needs to be done.

This League had always prided itself on the behaviour of it's teams and has always fully supported the RFL's RESPECT campaign but it is felt that too many of it's teams are now simply ignoring it .... again, this will not be permitted to continue.

Hearing Notifications for the cases to be heard on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November were issued.

Clubs were reminded that if they have received a hearing notification and your team/Club or Player wishes to make a "personal appearance" at the meeting then you will need to contact Sam Armstrong in writing stating the case numbers you wish to make an appearance for (preferably by e-mail for traceability) by midnight Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009. *NB. No money need be brought on the night as the League will notify clubs of their outstanding monies owed at the next Monthly Meeting.*

Once the League are aware of how many cases it has "personal appeal" requests for then it will notify, by return e-mail, the allotted time of your appearance. Please note - **no** cases will be heard where a letter/e-mail has not been sent in advance. Do not just turn up and expect to have your appeal heard as you will be sent away.

Finally, Verdict Notifications for those cases heard on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 were issued .

### **XIII. BARLA Representative's Report**

Sam Armstrong explained that Members of the Management Committee had recently attended the RFL Congress at Old Trafford where clubs & Leagues from across the country meet to participate in workshops and be updated on the latest news from the RFL and it's future direction. One of the Workshops related to Volunteer Support & subsequently two of the regions' Volunteer Coordinators were present to provide a follow up Workshop.

Sam Armstrong & Jackie Clowes had been very actively involved in meetings with an RFL Steering Group relating to the Player Performance Pathway and this had now been launched .... sadly following one of these meetings, Sam had his car broken into and property stolen .... this included Jackies' bag containing all the notes from the meetings and so they were unable to do their planned presentation, however, they will be requesting the presence of BJ Mather, the RFL's new Player Performance Manager to speak about it at a future League meeting.

The League had also received a copy of the minutes from Charles Bray who represents this League on the Community Board. These minutes, for reference, are detailed under Any Other Business.

### **XIII. Any Other Business**

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £15675 at the time of the meeting.

The meeting welcomed Danny Parkinson & Clare Robinson, the regions' Volunteer Coordinators who did a presentation on how the RFL can help support Clubs and Teams via the V-Officer network. The presentation included slides on ..

The aims of the workshop which were explained notably ...

- Clubs to input ideas/suggestions on what support they may require?
- To identify a clear picture of some of the key issues specifically with regard to volunteers

It was explained that the RFL employs 26 North West development staff ...

- League for all Officers,
- Volunteer Officers,
- Regional Development Officers,
- Regional Manager,
- Match Official Officers,
- Service Area Coordinators,
- Talent coaches

They explained what they could help provide ....

- Parent Volunteer Workshop
- Rugby League Leaders Award
- Junior Rugby League Organisers Award
- Touchline Manager's course
- Club placements
- Event support
- Volunteer coordinator specific support

Their future roles were explained as ....

- V Officers to feedback and devise plan of support
- Clubs to contact relevant Coordinator as and when required
- Clubs/RFL to build up strong relationships and support each other

The areas each Officer covered was clarified ....

- Clare Robinson – Lancashire, Wigan & Leigh, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Tameside & Oldham
- Dan Parkinson – Merseyside, Halton, Warrington & Cheshire, Manchester, Salford & Stockport

As stated under the BARLA Representatives' report, the following Minutes from the Community Board Meeting had been received from Charles Bray

#### ***Community Board Meeting Notes***

*Monday 28th September 2009 at Red Hall*

#### ***Attendees***

<i>Richard Lewis</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
<i>Nigel Wood</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>John Pattinson</i>	<i>BARLA</i>
<i>Damian Clayton</i>	<i>Combined Services Rugby League</i>
<i>Ian Szwandt</i>	<i>English Schools</i>
<i>David Oxley</i>	<i>Student Rugby League</i>
<i>Peter Moran</i>	<i>Non-Executive Director</i>
<i>Trevor Hunt</i>	<i>Open Age Representative</i>
<i>Charlie Bray</i>	<i>Youth &amp; Junior Representative</i>
<i>David Gent</i>	<i>Director of Participation and Strategic Partnerships</i>

Kelly Barrett                      Rugby League Services Manager  
Andy Harland                      National Development Manager

*It was noted that Julia Lee and Niel Wood were on annual leave. Kelly Barrett and Andy Harland were therefore in attendance.*

### **Staff Changes**

*David Gent was welcomed to the meeting in his new role as the RFL's Director of Participation and Strategic Partnerships.*

*The new position was introduced to ensure the RFL delivered its Whole Sport Plan obligations. Mr Gent would also be responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategy and building strategic partnerships with all elements of the public sector.*

*Gary Tasker's role going forward would be focused on supporting the strategic objectives of the professional clubs and European Development. The Board thanked Gary Tasker for all the work he had done over the last five years on the board which had been during a period of outstanding growth.*

*Kelly Barrett has been promoted to Rugby League Services Manger.*

### **League and Club Partnership Agreements**

*It was noted that BARLA and the RFL continue to meet to ensure the agreements are developed in the best way to support clubs.*

*Combined Services to work with the newly appointed Development Officer (George Taylor) to address the lack of agreements received from the service teams. It was thought that stations did not recognise themselves as clubs.*

*It was reported that some community clubs had encountered problems with Sky subscription packages. Sky had repackaged their subscriptions which had results in an adverse effect on community clubs. The RFL were in consultation with Sky in an attempt to rectify.*

### **Registration Forms**

*It was noted that BARLA and the RFL continue to meet to ensure the registration process best meets the needs of both organisations.*

*Yorkshire Juniors confirmed that they have no areas of concern with Rugby League Services having their data.*

*Combined Services and Student Rugby League are submitting their registrations for the first time. It was pointed out that if the service men are happy for their personal data to be registered then there should be no concerns over data protection.*

### **Eastmoor Dragons**

*BARLA had been contacted by the RFL asking if they would be prepared to contribute to the costs associated with Eastmoor Dragons roof repairs. BARLA had replied that there was no budget provision made available for 2009. The RFL and BARLA would continue to look at how clubs such as Eastmoor Dragons can best be supported in these cases.*

### **International Calendar**

*Concern was expressed with regard to the coordination of international tours and who actually signed off the tours.*

*It was agreed that the calendar for representative rugby for the constituent members would be signed off by the Community Board at their next meeting.*

### **Community Game Insurance**

*The Community Board agreed to subsidise a tiered discount for youth and junior insurance based on the following;*

<i>Clubmark Gold Clubs</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>Clubmark Clubs</i>	<i>70%</i>
<i>Club Partnership</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>All other clubs</i>	<i>30%</i>

*Noted that there would be no impact on the open age premiums.*

### **Genesis Report – Five Years On**

*Further to the Genesis review that took place in 2004 the RFL had requested that Genesis reflect upon the observations in the report and what had been achieved. Genesis had submitted a paper which was taken as read.*

*Any unresolved issues would be picked up in the 2010-12 Community Strategy to continue to develop an integrated game.*

*Noted that BARLA's strategic plan was still outstanding. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged to discuss this further and to be delivered at the next Community Board meeting.*

### **Community Lions Staff**

*The Community Board approved the appointment of Jimmy Taylor as the open age Head Coach and Jimmy Aspinall as the open age Team Manager.*

### **Community Game Strategy – Year Three Report**

*The Board signed off the report which was to be distributed at the annual club congress.*

### **Community Strategy 2010-2012**

*The Board were given a final copy of the content of the Community Strategy 2010-2012.*

*BJ Mather to present the Player Pathway at the next open age and youth and junior forum.*

*It was further suggested that J Roberts should attend the next Community Board meeting to provide further information and advise any implications there may be at scholarship level.*

*Sport England's Active People's Survey had shown a decrease in participants for Rugby League. It was agreed that the data would be presented in a more suitable form for discussion at the next meeting. There should also be a presentation on how the statistics are put together.*

### **Major Match Ticket Allocation**

*Further thought would be given to the rationale on how tickets were allocated to the various organisations. This would be presented at the next meeting.*

### **Suspensions**

*Clarification was sought on whether suspensions received in one organisation could be carried forward to another. It was confirmed that this was the case and would also apply to other sports.*

*Further clarification was required to confirm which games count under the ruling.*

*It was agreed that there must be communication between the constitutions to ensure that the rule is adhered to. Rugby League Services are responsible for registering all disciplinary suspensions on the Community Game database. All constituents to ensure any disciplinary rulings are forwarded to Rugby League Services.*

***Independent Safeguarding Authority Rules***

*The RFL would be communicating their position in the next few weeks.*

***Non Executive Director***

*Suggestions were invited for candidates for the Non Executive Director vacancy on the Board. There is the option that there would be no replacement until the end of next year when both Non Executive Director positions were due for renewal.*

*Date of next Community Board meeting  
27th November 2009 at Red Hall*

In the final item of AOB, Margaret Byrne highlighted that one of the Coaches from Leigh Miners had requested that a proposal to introduce a new ruling regarding transfers be discussed. As the person who had raised the issue was not present, in his absence, Margaret detailed his suggestion which was, in essence, that "a player once registering/starting a season with a team cannot then transfer to another team that same season". This matter was not discussed at this meeting but it was asked that Representatives take the proposal back to their Clubs to get their views on the suggestion prior to further discussion.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 commencing at 8.30pm.