



North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting 3rd September 2008
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: David Lowe

Next Meeting: Wed 1st October 2008 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"/>	Haresfinch	<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"/>
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 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 August 2008 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Wigan St Pats and seconded by Wigan St Judes.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

The League has received a formal letter from the Chair of Pilkington Recs expressing his disappointment following receipt of notification of the Management decision on an issue affecting their U13's team.

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

There was no Referee Appointments Coordinators report in the absence of David Lowe.

The password for accessing the Referee's contact details on the website was read out - if you need access to this information please contact whoever was your Club Representative at the meeting.

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

Lindsay Bissett, who due to work commitments, was unable to attend the full meeting but had attended the Management Committee meeting prior left word that he wished all his teams a "great season".

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

Paul Edwards informed the meeting that Crosfield Cobras had replaced Crosfield Cardinals in Division 2 with the Cardinals moving down to Div 3 at their own request.

The Preliminary rounds of the NW Counties Cup will be played on Sunday 28th September - keep an eye on the website for draw & fixture information.

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

Jackie Clowes announced that Shevington Sharks (Div 2) & Ince Rose Bridge (Div 1) have swapped Divisions.

All Clubs in the 13's & 15's age-groups were reminded that the latest date for them to notify their Fixture Secretary that they DO NOT wish to enter the Lancashire Cup competition is Saturday 6th September ... if no notification is received your club WILL be entered and expected to abide by the Competition Rules.

(Further information relating to these competitions is covered in the BARLA Representative's report).

Brian Edwards explained that, due to less experienced staff covering for holidays at RL Services there had been problems with some of the cards received back e.g. cards with no pictures, pictures not showing the face, wrong pictures etc ... Brian and RL Services are currently working to address these issues.

Neil Wood explained that RL Services are currently working to an approximate 2 day processing time for registration cards which, considering the volume of card requests, has to be admired (don't forget we are not the only League about to start our season!).

IX. Transfer Committee's Report

Card issues again were causing problems as already mentioned - this seemed to have manifested itself (particularly with transfers) in duplicated cards being sent. Neil Wood said he would look into this and apologise.

X. BARLA Representative's Report

A Youth & Junior Council Meeting was held on Thursday 28th August at Shaw Cross, Dewsbury and details of the Lancashire Cup dates were read out.

The BARLA Chair confirmed that NW Counties 13-15's club's could play in the Lancashire Cup but would not, as Associate Members of BARLA, be permitted to enter the National Cup if the vote at the SGM is carried. This SGM, which we as a League have been categorically told we cannot attend, goes against the current BARLA Constitution which says that all Members may send two representatives to General Assembly Meetings.

The floors' views were sought regarding this vote and it's potential impact on the League's U14s teams. The consensus was that it was unfair to discriminate against one age group by effectively "banning" them from the National Cup whilst expecting the same clubs to support the other BARLA competition (County Cup) where this region's teams form the almost entire competition.

Obviously a lot depends on the BARLA SGM decision but it was proposed that, should commonsense not prevail and the vote be carried at the BARLA SGM subsequently meaning the U14's not be permitted to enter, the League would not submit any entries for the BARLA Lancashire Cup but would instead seek sponsors and stage it's own "County Cup" possibly in conjunction with our sister Leagues the 8-12's & the 16-18's and also possibly a "National Invitation" competition with other Leagues affected by the decision at suitable venues.

With just two abstentions (Golborne Parkside & Thatto Heath), and no votes against, the motion was carried.

Concern was again expressed over the ongoing issues with BARLA with some questioning why".. the fee just isn't paid?". It was explained that this League, a long time supporter of BARLA had received a curt letter stating that our full membership had ceased with "immediate effect" due to non payment of fees. The League had received no prior correspondence and at the earliest opportunity, contacted the BARLA Secretary to explain this and that we'd send payment almost immediately, this we did but the cheque was refused and our membership status remained downgraded.

Since that time the League has not suffered detrimentally by being "Associate Members" other than the loss of our vote which was never proportional to the size of the League and was regularly outvoted by open age oriented District Leagues. It was highlighted that since May 10th 2008, when RL Services vacated West Yorkshire House, the League have not once had any need to contact BARLA as it is the RFL and RL Services who provide us with cards, documentation, support, posters, training etc.

It was also highlighted that the Yorkshire Youth regional playing league had a few seasons ago stepped out of BARLA following issues and they had not suffered from their decision either .. it is reported that one of the main reasons they agreed to come back to BARLA was for National competition but they too may well be affected by the SGM vote and we'll be watching with interest developments there.

Neil Wood explained that at the recent Community Board Meeting attended and supported by senior BARLA personnel it was agreed that the

current "Other Leagues" section of the Community Board be basically split into youth and adult thereby giving Leagues who currently do not have a vote anywhere a platform on which to be heard at their relevant age groups.

For the record, at no point did Mr Wood advocate or recommend any course of action to this League but merely set out to explain the structure of the Community Board as he had been requested to do by the Management Board.

Sam Armstrong explained that this "Other Leagues" section is something that gives this League an alternative option to BARLA and one we may consider allying ourselves to in the future once all the options have been fully investigated and the views of our clubs sought. The Management Committee will of course keep everyone informed of developments.

XI. Disciplinary Chairman's Report

A Hearing Notification was issued to one club for a case which is to be heard on Thursday 15th September at Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club.

XII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £14286 at the time of the meeting.

Sam Armstrong announced to the floor that as of the 1st September 2008 the League are proud to announce that they are to be formally sponsored for the next 3 seasons by Kukri Sports who have already been very supportive of our competitions for the past two seasons.

Full details will be given at next months' meeting when Jamie Williams of Kukri Sports has been invited to speak.

The League are delighted to have found a sponsor who are already actively involved in the promotion of Rugby League with well established links to many of our own and the local professional teams too and we feel that, with their support. this League will continue to flourish.

A further 5 sets of RESPECT barriers jointly funded by ourselves and the 16-18's League were issued out. Clubs are reminded that each club will be issued with 1 set of barriers by either ourselves OR the 16-18's - NOT both! All clubs will eventually receive a set but it is an ongoing process and patience is requested.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 1st October 2008 commencing at 8.30pm.