



North West Counties 13 – 15 Junior Amateur Rugby
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting 2nd September 2009

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Jeff Schofield (Referee Appointments Officer)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Paul Edwards (U13's Fixtures & Reg Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Lindsay Bissett (U14's Fixtures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Jackie Clowes (U15's Fixtures Sec.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Paul Mitchell (Transfers Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	David Lowe (Registrations Secretary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Brian Edwards (Child Welfare Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Apologies: Jeff Schofield

Next Meeting: Wed 7th October 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 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	<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 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 checked="" 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 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 August 2009 meeting which were posted on the NWC 13 – 15's website were proposed by Folly Lane and seconded by Crosfields.

III. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

IV. Correspondence

Manchester Storm asked that, where possible, they be given permission from the League, with agreement of their opponents, to play their home games on Saturdays rather than Sundays as they have difficulty accessing facilities on Sundays. They understand that this may not always be possible and fixtures may subsequently have to be reversed on occasion but ask for support and understanding from both the other teams in their Division and also Match Officials.

Barry Taylor, the Junior Section Coordinator at Hindley ARLFC, wrote to the League to inform us that they were unable to run an U13's team this year (2009/2010 Season) as they have found themselves with only 7 or 8 players available and sadly considered that it was just not viable.

They asked that the League please make the necessary arrangements for these players to become free agents allowing them to move clubs as easy as possible.

Friendlies/Festivals/Tournaments/Tours

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

Crosfield U13's

Would like permission to run a tour to Cumbria, leaving on B/Hol Mon 31 May and returning Fri 4 June 2010 and would be grateful if the League could sanction and give approval. They plan to base themselves at Stannix Park, Silloth and are hoping to play a couple of games whilst up there. Paul Radley their Coach stated that he "trusts this wont clash with any delayed fixtures, even if we have nightmarish weather this winter!!!

V. Referee Appointments Coordinator's Report

No report

VI. Registration Secretary's Report

If registrations not already handed in they need to be with David in the next 24 hours if needed for the start of the Season as David will be at the Zone at Huddersfield on Friday 4th September.

Team sheets are to be sent to David Lowe. Each team to complete their own team sheet and return them within 5 days of the game otherwise there will be a £20 fine. **Do not** let the Match Official take the teamsheets even if there has been a sending off.

It is the responsibility of the opposing Coach to ensure that Registration Cards are thoroughly checked against the player and signed as

Before the Fixture Secretaries Reports it was highlighted that the League had received several requests from Clubs asking if they could defer the start of their season as they had insufficient numbers to form a team. Unfortunately the League cannot cede to this request and Clubs were subsequently reminded that if a team cannot fulfil a fixture due to "insufficient players" then ...

a) they will be considered to have conceded the game and the points will be awarded to their opponents. The result will show as 18-0 in the records even though points difference is not used in this League to determine positions.

b) they must notify both their opposition **and** any allocated Match Officials at the very **EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY** - failure to do so may result in the cost of any food/drink or Match Officials' fees incurred being reimbursed by that team.

c) a game may still be played against the Team's opponents, if both parties agree, by playing with reduced numbers. This will be considered to be a "friendly" and will not contribute towards League standings.

VII. U13's Fixture Secretary's Report

Fixtures were issued. Scores need to be in for 2.30pm

VIII. U14's Fixture Secretary's Report

Nothing really to report but good luck was wished to all teams.

IX. U15's Fixture Secretary's Report

Bad few days which has meant another rejigging of the Divisions due to the demise of three further teams in the last few days. This first weekend's fixtures will remain as notified but others

Results to Jackie by text only

X. Transfer Committee's Report

Cards were issued for those transfer requests which were successful - a lot have been sent out and others already submitted will hopefully be collect whilst at the Zone

XI. Child Welfare Officer's Report

Still need to see CRB and Coaching badges
Please get your Club's CWO to e-mail Brian then he has the details.

XII. Disciplinary Chair's Report

Due to no formally fixtured games having been played, and subsequently no receipt of any Dismissal Reports, Sam Armstrong informed the room that there was, again, no report.

XIII. BARLA Representative's Report

Sam Armstrong made the room aware that the meeting held at the Zone, Huddersfield on Thursday 6th August to discuss Referees/Match Officials was quite productive and verified that, compared with other regions, Clubs in the NW are paying considerably higher Match Officials fees.

Factors such as distance travelled by Officials have to be taken into account but, even removing this aspect, it was recognised by a large majority of those present that there was a need for a national ceiling on fees covering our age groups to enable an element of standardisation to be applied. It was accepted that certain societies in specific areas may not wish to apply this ceiling rate but may decide to charge a lower fee and donate the difference back to the Clubs ... this would clearly be a local agreement between the two parties.

The BARLA Youth & Junior forum meeting was held at Shaw Cross, Dewsbury on Thursday 20th August 2009 starting at 7.30 pm where several issues affecting this League were discussed, namely

- Lancashire County Cup competition
- National Cup
- Community Game Disciplinary Sanctions

This League, along with the 8-12's & 16-18's Leagues have reiterated our position to BARLA regarding the Lancashire Cup Competition and confirmed that, following the huge success of last season's competition at the Stobart Stadium that we will, once again, be organising and hosting our own event.

The BARLA Youth/Junior National Cup Finals will, this forthcoming season, form part of a two-day double header at Fylde Rugby Union Club along with the Open-Age Finals.

There was some apparent concern from BARLA, and one representative in particular, with regards to the newly introduced Disciplinary Guidelines particularly it would appear at the loss of the requirement for BARLA to hear appeals. Sam Armstrong explained to him that the Appeal Fee when combined with the distance anyone appealing was expected to travel i.e. to Shaw Cross, Dewsbury was prohibitive and had, in some cases, led to some cases where appeals may have been lodged not being appealed against.

It was claimed that Appeals Panels could be set-up in the Regions but this League along with the 8-12's & 16-18's would rather formulate our own, totally independent of any cases, higher Appeals Panel from the Leagues and respect their decisions without the unnecessary travelling.

Charlie Bray, League Secretary of the Yorkshire Juniors League and this League's representative at the Community Board for Youth/Junior issues has forwarded the following notes for our perusal.

Community Board Meeting Notes Friday 19th June 2009 at Red Hall

Attendees

Richard Lewis	Chairman
Nigel Wood	Chief Executive
John Pattinson	BARLA
Ian Szwandt	English Schools
David Oxley	Student Rugby League
Trevor Hunt	Open Age Representative
Charlie Bray	Youth & Junior Representative
David Gent	Non-Executive Director
Peter Moran	Non-Executive Director
Gary Tasker	Director of Development
Julia Lee	National Community Development Manager
Niel Wood	National Business Development Manager
Kelly Barrett	Rugby League Services Manager

Open Age Forum

T Hunt updated the Community Board on discussions held at the Open Age forum. The forum was supportive of the proposed Leeds Met Carnegie research on the drop off in participation rates at open age level.

It was also agreed to pilot development programmes on a number of clubs which would see the clubs undertaking a proactive recruitment campaign for new players.

Registrations

BARLA still have concerns over the official registration form and the whole registration process however a meeting has taken place with K Barrett, J Pattinson and N Hollingsworth to try and address the problem. K Barrett

to attend the Board of Management meeting to discuss the importance of registering the players correctly.

Club & League Partnership Agreements

BARLA Senior Officers are to meet, when S Allison returns from the South Pacific tour, to discuss the partnership agreements.

There is an exchange of legal letters between BARLA and the RFL that is ongoing.

Community Lions

Advertisements for the Open Age Head Coach and Team Manager positions have been placed.

Facility Development

Carol Doran, Facilities Manager, presented information on the new process for the signing of capital projects. The Community Board is required to sign off projects in excess of £250k.

The facilities trust had approved projects below the £250k threshold at their meeting earlier in the week.

The Community Board approved a project at St Mary's University College totalling £300k. This was to renovate a building and would support Richmond Warriors community club and the London Service Area staff.

The trust has received an urgent application from a community club regarding urgent repairs to its existing facilities which did not fall under the remit of either CCDP or the Facilities Trust. It was hoped that BARLA and the District Leagues would work together with the trust to support such applications. Nigel Wood to write to Spen.

Community Game Insurance

Various possibilities were being explored to ease the insurance burden on the youth and junior game. An annual discount was being considered whereby Clubmark Gold clubs would receive a large discount and other clubs would receive discounts on a tiered system.

It was reinforced that clubs should only be presented with one Insurance deal to consider and that it was confusing and unreasonable to expect the clubs to choose between a BARLA and RFL deal when to all intent and purpose they were identical.

The Board requested that a meeting be convened with the RFL, BARLA and the insurance brokers, to ensure that the best deal was obtained for the game before it is presented to the clubs. It was suggested that the insurance renewal premiums be removed from the BARLA AGM until a discussion has taken place.

Young Volunteers Programme

K Barrett introduced Danny Parkinson and Ryan Bradley (Regional Volunteer Coordinators) who gave an update on the V programme and the work currently being undertaken.

It was suggested that the presentations should be made to other forums and if relevant Leagues.

It was also suggested that the volunteer awards include a media award of some description as there had been some excellent voluntary work done in this area which was perhaps not recognised.

Community Game Strategy

The new Community Game Strategy will be signed off at the September meeting and launched at the Congress in October.

The RFL are now being measured on customer satisfaction and not numbers of participants. Sport England's official statistics indicate that there is an 82% satisfaction rate in the sport.

Congress

The annual Clubs Congress is to take place on the 10th October 2009 at Old Trafford to coincide with the Super League Grand Final.

Date of the next meeting will be 28th September at Red Hall.

XIII. Any Other Business

The Treasurers' Report showed that the League had a balance of £15577 at the time of the meeting.

The floor was informed that the "Permission To Play Forms which were in operation for newly registered players awaiting cards during the closed season are now finished and will not be available to be applied for again until the closed season prior to the start of the 2010/11 programme.

The system seemed to have been well received, allowed new players to participate in the Summer programme of friendlies & tournaments and no-one appeared to have abused or over-used it and therefore it will continue to be run.

It was announced that Sam Armstrong & Jackie Clowes were flying to La Manga on Friday 4th September for a 2 day fact finding visit in preparation for the 2010 La Manga U15's International Festival. They will be sorting out menus, facilities and taking photographs/video footage for anyone who may be interested.

Letters have been sent out to all current U14's explaining that the total cost of the trip is £550/head and that confirmation, with a deposit of £30/head, is required by Wednesday 6 November 2009. A further sum of £170/head will be required by 28 February 2010 with the balance of payment due to be paid no later than 31 July 2010.

The graphics have now been applied to the trailer and, although it took longer than expected, it was felt that the end result more than justified the delay. The League would like to extend it's thanks to the BARLA Utmost Affinity group and it's partners for sponsoring the work and would particularly like to thank Eric Czerwionka & Billy for their contribution and all their running around, Graham Eastwood for the newly fitted carpets to the interior along with Signs Express for the high quality of the finish they have achieved. We hope that once fitted out the trailer will become a regular sight around the region and help increase participation in our great game.

The date of the next meeting at Golborne Parkside will be the 7th October 2009 commencing at 8.30pm.