

# North West Counties Juniors

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 at Leigh Miners Welfare

### Roll Call –

Bank Quay Bulls ,Littleborough ,Newton Storm, Oldham St Annes , Orrell St James ,Saddleworth, Thatto Heath Crusaders , Widnes Moorfield, Wigan St Cuthberts, Wigan St Judes , Woolston and Wrexham Raiders .

In line with association rules all to be fined £30.

**1 Minutes of previous AGM meeting** –accepted as a true record.

**2 Matters arising** – Apologies given by Chair regarding non collection of fines outstanding at 2013 year end. It was agreed that raffles would be held at future meetings to try and recoup these monies.

### **3 Chairs Report**

An overview of 2014 was given by the chair Mick Doyle who outlined some of the highs and lows with special mention being given to the:

- The sad loss of Hillary Steel and Tommy Greenall who had given their time to assist the association and worked tirelessly to promote and develop Rugby League within the north west . Mick praised the individual qualities of Hilary and Tommy and pointed out that they will be missed by all clubs and everyone involved in RL in the region.
- Hard work of coaches and clubs which has led to an increase in the number of children registered to play from 3725 in 2013 to 4251 in 2014, with the greatest increase being in the under 7s where a 60% increase in the number playing has been seen resulting in 851 under 7s participating in the sport in the north west.
- Chair asked all clubs to attempt to raise a U7s Newbies team in the September return after the summer break.
- Need to retain and increase the number of young people in the sport by ensuring that there is a ‘Coach to develop , not to win’ approach with the ethos of ‘Sunday is Funday’ being observed by all
- Preston Finals which had proved popular with thanks and congratulations being given to all who had participated , Congratulations to Halton Farnworth Hornets , Blackbrook Royals ,Rochdale Mayfield and Woolston Greens this years winning clubs and not forgetting Crosfields , Langworthy Reds , Blackbrook Blues and Westhoughton the finalists all playing their part in showcasing all that is good in the North West .
- The Lancashire Cup Final which had provided an opportunity to observe the many skills developed by the young people. Hopefully all will be able to watch the DVD of the game over the next few months.
- Halton Farnworth Hornets completed a NWC Lancashire Cup double edging out Folly Lane in what was a cracking advert for the association and junior rugby league dispelling the view that mini and mod is not fit for purpose, quality coaching produces quality results.

The year ahead is likely to be a pivotal year with special emphasis being given to the Respect campaign which the RFL is again revisiting. As outlined at the November meeting the association is keen to support any work which will enhance the experience of all engaged in the sport (e.g. players, parents) The Chair was pleased to note that over the last year several coaches had contacted him to praise other clubs for creating a pleasant atmosphere on match days. All clubs are asked to assist in promoting a happy and respectful atmosphere and challenging anyone who does not comply with the principles of the Respect agenda. Hopefully the work proposed by Louise Ramsden at the November meeting will prove beneficial and allow the North West to demonstrate their positive approach and commitment to the Respect campaign.

Thanks were expressed to the volunteers:

- Ann and Brian as registration officers

- Karen and her team (Jeff, Stuart and John Davenport , Ian Morrey and Eileen Bright ) on the disciplinary panel
- Jean Palin for general help
- Graham who as secretary attends numerous meetings (many with the RFL) in order to represent the association and put forward the views of members in a calm and composed manner in addition to providing support to the Chair in a variety of ways.
- All coaches who as volunteers do much to develop the game and encourage children to take part.

It was pleasing to note that there had been fewer disciplinary issues for the panel to consider in 2015. Special thanks was given to Eileen Bright who after several years of giving many hours to undertake a range of duties (e.g. registration officer, disciplinary panel member, website administration) has decided to step down in order to focus on her family and work commitments. A suitable gift will be obtained and presented to Eileen who has been a major asset to the association and whose commitment and dedication will be greatly missed.

Graham highlighted the work undertaken by the Chair and the passion he shows for the game. All present joined in thanking Mick for his efforts.

Congratulations were expressed to several clubs/people who have recently received awards:

Community Club of the Year	Crossfields
Engage Club of the Year	Rylands
RL Merit Award	Alfreda Kindon Eccles RLFC
RL Merit Award	Pete Bridge Chorley Panthers
RL Merit Award	Margaret Byrne Golborne Parkside and NWC13-15s
Runner up RL Community Coach	Mandy Ibbonson Wigan St Pats

Highlighting that we have quality volunteers in our region .

#### **4 Accounts 2014**

The accounts were presented to members. It was noted that:

- those clubs owing fines have been made aware of the amounts involved
- whilst fines for non-submission of team sheets were not made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year due to time constraints steps have been taken to implement fines in 2015
- A cheque is to be sent to Tommy's wife in the next few weeks in respect of monies owed

All members happy with the accounts submitted.

#### **5 Fees/fines**

All agreed that the fees and fines should remain unchanged for 2015  
£15 Club Affiliation and £ 10 per Team

#### **6 Monthly lottery**

All agreed that the arrangements with Raging Bull should be maintained for 2015. The problems experienced with the kit prize at the 2013 AGM are to be resolved.

#### **7) Election of Officers**

No objections to:

1) the re-election of officers:

Chair	Mick Doyle
Secretary	Graham Aitkin
Disciplinary Panel	Karen Jackson (chair) Jeff Stuart, Ian Morrey and John Davenport
Registration officer u7s	John Davenport
Registration officer 8/9s	David Lowe
Registration officer u10s	Brian Lawton

Registrations officer u11s    Ann Hunt  
Registration officer u12s    Ann Hunt and Mick Doyle

- 2) and the proposals put forward to co-opt:
- David Lowe to oversee registrations and be responsible for the u8s and 9s registrations
  - Jean Palin as assistant secretary and general helper

All details will be put on website.

### **8) Constitution**

Slight amendments have been suggested which should help clarify several issues which have arisen since the constitution was first put together. Copies of both the original and updated constitution will be made available via the website so that clubs can consider and bring back their views at the January meeting.

All present agreed to accept the proposal put forward by the chair and secretary to accept the revised operational rules subject to the inclusion of a clause which will provide for any disputes between organisations and the governing body to be considered by an independent arbitration panel.

### **9) Primary Rules**

Members were advised that following a successful meeting attended by coaches and parents of children who had participated in the pilot scheme, a report based on the views expressed was presented to the RFL on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. The RFL and other areas were asked to consider the issues raised in the report and the suggestion put forward to have newbies playing 7 v 7 with play of the ball in preference to the 5 v 5 with play of the ball suggested by the RFL. In view of the lack of response to date Mick and Graham were asked to pursue the matter.

1.8 million of Sky funding was being invested into the Professional Clubs to support Foundations to promote RL in schools and hopefully direct new children towards Community Clubs .

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the:

- Report would be made available on the website thus allowing all clubs to consider the issues raised and bring back their views to the January meeting, If we do not agree with the RFL preferred option we may have to withdraw from the Primary Rugby League Group.
- Minutes of the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> November with the RFL be made available on the website as soon as they are made available.

### **10) Fixtures 2015**

All agreed to retain the March to October format with no fixtures on bank holidays and summer break (dates to be agreed at next meeting)

Festivals can be held at any time but all were reminded of the need to liaise with Mick/Graham at least six weeks prior to the proposed festival date.

Discussion took place regarding the difficulties in putting together fixtures and the problems experienced by some clubs in accommodating all fixtures across the various leagues. Whilst appreciating the difficulties experienced by some it was felt that:

- individual clubs are best able to plan ahead and adopt a flexible approach in order to liaise with other clubs to re-arrange games (i.e. kick off times)
- for all clubs to adopt a flexible approach in order to work together for the benefit of the players

### **11) A.O.B. – None**

**Monthly draw winners – New Springs**

With the meeting brought to a close the Chair wished all delegates a Merry Christmas and a happy new year and reminded all that the next meeting would be on **Tuesday 6th January 2015**.

## **Appendix**

[Draft Primary RL Meeting Minutes](#)

[Primary League ppt](#)

[PRL Pilot Feedback](#)

[Proposal for a Respect Award](#)