

**North West Counties Juniors**  
**Minutes of meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at Leigh Miners Welfare**

Roll Call – Bank Quay, Chester, Haresfinch, Higginshaw, Ince Rose Bridge, Littleborough, Oldham St Ann Saddleworth, Widnes Moorfield, Wigan St Judes, Wigan St Pats,

In line with association rules all to be fined £10 with the exception of Ince Rose Bridge and Wigan St Pats in light of charity game (see below) taking place and Higginshaw.

**Minutes silence.**

Members were saddened to hear that:

- Further to the report at the meeting last month Jim Marshall of Higginshaw sadly passed away.
- Darren Taylor of Ince Rose Bridge had died suddenly during the night of 21/22 July.

The prayers and best wishes of all involved with North West Counties go out to the family and friends of these 2 well liked gentlemen of the game who will be sadly missed by all who knew them.

All participated in a minutes silence held in memory of two people who had given so much to the junior game.

A memorial/charity game is underway this evening in memory of Darren and in light of this all agreed that the participating teams (Ince Rose Bridge and Wigan St Patricks) should be exempt from a fine.

**1 Minutes of previous meeting** – (available on website) accepted as a true record.

**2 Matters Arising from minutes of July meeting** – addressed within the core of the meeting.

**3 Request by New Club to participate in games**

North Wales Crusaders who play at Queensway near Wrexham requested permission to organise games with other clubs for children in the u7s and u9s age groups. Alan Jones explained that junior teams set up 6 weeks ago and now looking to gain some game experience. Permission was given for Alan to contact clubs in order to arrange games. Anyone with an under 7s team willing to play at Queensway on 15 August should contact Alan on 07738767272

**4 Correspondence**

Dave Wild (general manager) of the 'Future Stars Academy' has requested that members be advised of the free training sessions to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September (venue to be arranged). Details of the organisation set up by professional players, are available on the leaflets made available to all members and will be provided on the website.

**5 Primary Rules –**

5.1 Members were advised that following last month's meeting Dave Butler (RFL) and Mick had held lengthy telephone conversation and that it had been emphasised by DB that the RFL position remained the same and that the issue needs to be resolved by September to ensure that insurance in place for U7s as sanctions will be imposed if the NW Counties do not comply.

5.2 A meeting with Clare Morrow (Chair of the Community Board) has since been arranged for tomorrow. This is the opportunity to express doubts as to whether the Community Committee has been made fully aware of the reports/findings/proposals made by NW Counties and to make

available such information, together with proposals made members, including using the NW as a base to test the 7 v 7 game and thus allow a comparison of participation in the sport to be made against other leagues in 2016.

5.3 A member club (Chorley Panthers) has written putting forward a proposal and several other local clubs have been in touch giving their support. The chair read out the proposal to the members present and the proposal was included on the website for all to digest.

5.4 Members were advised that meetings with sister leagues are to be held in the near future to discuss the outcome of the meeting with the RFL Community Board.

5.5 All were reminded that they are free to

- adapt the rules when it comes to numbers playing in order to meet the needs of the children and the club (i.e. play 5 v 5) as long as they do not exceed playing 7 v 7
- raise concerns/objections to the stance being taken and put forward by the elected representatives of the organisation
- ensure that Sunday is Fun-day for the youngsters involved

It was pointed out that originally concerns had been expressed by the RFL about the need to improve touchline behaviour and this is something that all involved in the game should endorse. All clubs should do their utmost to ensure that players and officials are given encouragement and that all clubs should adopt zero tolerance of abusive behaviour.

## **6 Fines**

It was pointed out that despite reminders there are a large number of outstanding fines some going back to April. It was agreed that any fines not paid by 7<sup>th</sup> August will be doubled. Reminders will be issued.

## **7 Winner of monthly draw** Portico

### **8.1 RFL Operational Rules Consultation Document**

All were reminded of the importance of the proposed changes to the operational rules and the need for all clubs to consider and report back their views to the RFL no later than the 14 September 2015. In light of comments put forward by members it was agreed that it would be appropriate for clubs to share feedback at the September meeting, the chair stressed the importance that member clubs took time out to read the OR and proposed changes and that in his opinion the OR and its proposed changes were not in the best interest of the community game in some parts.

To assist the consultation document will be made available on the website.

8.2 RFL Care. Members were pleased to hear that RFL Cares had given support to the family of Jim Marshall. Graham praised the efforts of RFL Cares.

### **9. Fixtures and Groupings**

U11 and U12s groups will be looked at and changes made where the Chair thinks it will benefit the age group. It is not the intention to put anyone nose out of joint but a genuine attempt to balance the groups.

**In the second half of season at U11s the option to play to Mod Transition is available where numbers allow, please reach a mutual agreement prior to game day .**

### **10 .Under 7s extra teams and Newbies .**

Please liaise with the chair so that he can arrange fixtures to suit each section, please complete team application forms for the new teams.

Chair thanked the members for their attendance.

Next Monthly meeting: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at Leigh Miners Welfare.