

North West Counties Juniors  
Minutes of meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call – Absent: Accrington, Bank Quay, Chester, Halton Farnworth, Haresfinch, Haydock, Littleborough, Oldham St Annes, Salford City Roosters and Thatto Heath.

In line with association rules all to be fined £10.

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

**2 Minutes Applause** – members joined in a minute's applause in memory of Harrison Ledsham, a 12 year old member of Blackbrook, who tragically lost his battle with cancer last month.

**3 Matters arising from minutes of May meeting.**

(Item 5) It was noted that Portico had won the competition and that work on the premises would commence in July. Thanks were expressed for the help given by encouraging people to vote for the project. It will be necessary to rearrange games whilst the work is carried out.

(Item 2b) Collection in memory of Danny Jones. It was noted that over £1000 has been collected to date (Wigan St Cuthbert's £ 716, Folly Lane £200 and Bury £100 and £800 sent direct to the fund by Rochdale Mayfield. Members were asked to bring any other monies raised to the next meeting. If monies already sent direct to the fund members were asked to advise Mick or Graham accordingly, in order that details of the monies raised by NWCounties can be provided when presentation made to family by Tony Fretwell.

**4 Correspondences**

4a Permission sought to hold festivals:

13<sup>th</sup> June - St Cuthbert's wish to hold u9s festival with all proceeds going to Wigan/Leigh hospice. For further information contact Ruth on 07707723126.

14/15/16 August, - Aspul New springs wish to hold u10s festival

23 August – Leigh Miners wish to hold festival for u7s to u12's

Permission granted for the above festivals. All information will be provided on website.

4b Chorley u8s – safeguarding issue. All members were advised that no videoing or taking of pictures is allowed for any game that includes Chorley U8s this season and that this restriction will probably apply to u9s next year.

4c anonymous letter. Graham pointed out that an anonymous letter had been received which inferred that 2 teams were not complying with the rules by organising games for u7s that are not registered and that coaches have not had DBS checks carried out. Whilst nothing can be done officially in light of the letter being unsigned, the 2 clubs named will be contacted. Members were also reminded that players (even those awaiting transfer) cannot train for clubs that they are not registered with.

All were reminded of the need to abide with the rules and the possibility of litigation in the event of rules not being observed fully.

4d Liverpool Lions It was noted that efforts are being made to rebuild the club and that it is anticipated that teams in the u7, 9s and 11s will be seeking help with games in the near future. Any club wishing to assist by taking part in games is asked to contact the club.

Inappropriate social media comments Members were reminded of the need to take care when making comments on social media.

## **5 Primary Rules**

5a it was pointed out that both Graham and Mick had attended a meeting with representatives of other leagues but that no item appeared on the agenda which was specific to the views of the North West in relation to Primary Rules.

Clarification had been sought regarding children u6 playing and Miss Barratt of the RFL had advised all league representatives that:

- In accordance with existing rules children under 6 years of age are not to participate in contact sports.
- all cubs activities must be 'in house'

Mick explained that an email had been received yesterday from Dave Butler (RFL) which referred to Item 4 of the minutes of last month's meeting. Whilst making no reference to the first sentence of that item (i.e. RFL not providing feedback as requested at meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> March) the email quoted the minutes and questioned whether a vote had been taken in respect of the decision to reject the proposed changes.

Subsequently the chair requested considering all the recent meetings held between the association clubs and management with the RFL representatives, that the position of the members clubs remained in favour of the association's preference to the playing format of 7v7 opposed to the RFLs 4v4.

A vote was taken with all 40 clubs present voting in favour of the 7v7 playing format.

Mick pointed out that he has requested permission to attend the meeting of the Community Board and that again requested feedback. It is possible that sanctions will be imposed.

**6 Disciplinary committee** – Karen has asked Mick to emphasise the need to work within the rules. Clubs are not to make agreement between them to play with more than the maximum number of players for the age group concerned. Clubs found to be flouting these rules will be disciplined.

## **7 Registrations/Transfers**

All were:

- reminded of the need to ensure that registrations are dealt with by registration secretaries
- asked not to by-pass the system
- Only u8s and 9s to be sent direct to David Lowe

It was noted that there are now 600 u7s registered to play and that numbers are good overall with 800 children being registered at u12 age group. All were reminded of the need to ensure that all children receive equal game time and that all children are treated the same.

## **8 Finals Day**

Finals day is 28<sup>th</sup> June. Games are to be played at Preston with first game kicking off at 11am and last game at 3pm. Anyone able to assist with organisation on the day was asked to speak to Mick or Graham.

Langworthy Reds v Westhoughton Lions

Golborne Parkside v Latchford Albion

Halton Farnworth Hornets v Newton Storm

Blackbrook Royals v Wigan St Patricks

## **9 Amendments to fixtures**

In light of new teams at U7 and changes at U8s all were asked to check fixtures lists.

### **10) Team sheet fines**

Details of fines were provided to members and emails will be forwarded to individual clubs outlining fines to be paid. Payment of fines must be made next month to avoid fines being doubled.

### **11) Lancs. Cup U12s**

A draw was made to arrange preliminary games which are to be played on the 14<sup>th</sup> June

Chorley v Portico

Go borne Parkside v Leigh East

The dates for the next rounds will be;

5<sup>th</sup> July

6<sup>th</sup> September

20<sup>th</sup> September

4<sup>th</sup> October

Finals 24<sup>th</sup> October Widnes Select Stadium.

### **12) Wrexham**

Wrexham were welcomed back and it was pointed out that in light of personal changes at the club it is anticipated that Wrexham will now be able to pick up fixtures.

### **13) Application to join.**

Representatives of Wigan Bulldogs explained that they have children to form u8 team and that they are looking to establish an u10s team. All children are new to the sport and arrangements have been made for changing rooms and for refreshments to be provided after games. They will play in blue or black and gold. Coaches are in place.

The representatives left the room whilst discussion took place.

Whilst happy to welcome a new team concerns were raised around child welfare issues in respect of one of the proposed coaches. In light of the comments made it was accepted by members that the issue would be discussed separately when both Mick and Graham meet with the club and that steps will be taken to address the issues raised.

All present agreed to the club joining the association.

North Wales Crusaders will be seeking election to the association at the next meeting.

### **14 Winner of monthly draw** Widnes St Marie's Vikings

Chair thanked the members and closed the meeting.

Next meeting Tues 7<sup>th</sup> July @20.30 Leigh Miners Welfare