

Roll Call not present

Bank Quay, Clock Face, Halton Farnworth Hornets, Haresfinch, Higginshaw, Hindley. Littleborough, Aspull New Springs, Pilkington Recs , Saddleworth, Salford City Roosters, Widnes Moorfield, Wigan St Cuthberts,

In line with association rules all to be fined £10

Due to lack of attendance at meetings (missed last 5) and failure to respond to communications, games involving *Bank Quay Bulls* are suspended until further notice.

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 Correspondence

Letter received today from Chair of Chorley who is again raising concerns regarding;

- the position in relation to insurance and the new format
- tone of correspondence from the RFL
- policies that appear to be against volunteers/community clubs

Chorley have formally requested SGM and as they are duty bound to comply with the request the Chair (MD) will be liaising in order to arrange such a meeting. All clubs will be advised as appropriate.

4 Operational Rules

The consultation document and the need to consider the implications was highlighted at the last meeting (item 8.1). General feelings expressed by various members are that:

- The changes will remove democratic processes thus turning the RFL into an autocratic body
- Amendments suggested take away freedom to discuss things locally (i.e. ideas/decisions at NWCounties meetings would require agreement of RFL who could overrule any decisions)
- Non-compliance would lead to sanctions
- In event of any conflict the RFL have overriding authority to make decisions
- RFL would be able to remove and appoint management committees within leagues/areas
- Value of volunteers (who give their time freely and often pay to play/coach etc.) not recognised by RFL

Responding to a request for clarification as to consultation and process for considering any recommendations a brief outline of the process was given (based on Chairs understanding of process)

1. Consultation within regions who pass recommendations to
2. RFL Regulatory group (involves people involved in Community game) who refer to
3. Community Board who pass on their agreement to
4. RFL Board of Directors who will consider and make final decision.

Concerns that talented players being told by professional clubs when they can train/play will adversely impact on teams/players within the community game (i.e. if 5 talented players in one community club team not allowed to play then others in team might not get game due to having insufficient players).

5 Primary Rules –

After meeting last week a 50 page document has been made available by Ralph Rimmer. NWCounties Chair (MD) has requested time to consider the document which does not appear to have been presented to the community Board as at least 2 members of the Board have denied seeing it. For many, (including Charlie, Yorkshire representative and member of the Community

Board and Hull representative) this is the first sight of this document and in light of this its validity has been questioned. Clare Morrow (Chair of Community Board) has inferred that the document need not be discussed again as it was now outdated. It is understood that a 20 minute presentation was made regarding the report to the Board and that the summary included in the orange booklet that was made available. However those who have looked at it over the last few days are concerned that the summary does not fully reflect the report which contains many contradictory comments/references.

General discussion regarding the findings highlighted several issues including:

- orange booklet does not fully reflect the findings in the report
- When initial pilots undertaken initial comments by young players influenced by having professional players helping to deliver, -views changed when professionals not about.
- preference/feelings of being more involved in traditional rugby expressed by young players and parents from 3 areas/regions seems to have been ignored (although the report circulated quotes majority preferring traditional)
- Australia withdrew from 4 year programme after only 2 years and now has 8 v 8 for u7s
- Issues around touchline behaviour was major concern initially but not addressed and there is no reference to coach education.

It is accepted that there is a need to resolve the issues raised and that it is hoped that agreement by consensus will be reached. In the meantime to ensure insurance in place it has been agreed that for the remainder of the 2015 season

- existing u7s to play up to a maximum of 7 v 7
- newbies to adopt the new system

With regard to the insurance there are questions to the legality of the RFLs unprecedented threats to withdraw insurance.

6 Fixtures

The Chair apologised for the delays and provided fixture lists for Newbies, Under 7s. Changes within the u8s blues with reference to Rylands second team were highlighted. Within the u9s Thatto Heath and Oldham St Annes have changed fixtures and in the u10s Burtonwood should read Widnes M. All fixtures will be on the website in the near future.

7 Fines

As mentioned previously there are a considerable number of fines outstanding.

8 Winner of monthly draw Higginshaw drawn but not in attendance so in accordance with rules draw done again with Newton Storm winning. All lottery kits will be distributed shortly.

9 Future Stars Academy (item 4 Aug meeting)

The contents of the Future Stars website has led to concerns regarding the purpose of the organisation and its ethos. Comments such as 'you will get better training than at your community club' and reference to 'elite academies' were highlighted. NWCounties members felt that they could not endorse the Future Stars Academy and as it is felt that the organisation is not working within the RFL ethos. The Chair is to refer the issues to Terry Fretwell at the RFL.

10 A.O.B.

10.1 Team Sheets –

All were reminded of the need to use the correct sheet and provide full information. No fines have been imposed to date but will be considered for persistent offenders.

10.2 Touchline behaviour

The need to ensure a friendly fun learning environment was emphasised.

Chair thanked the members for their attendance .

Next Meeting Tuesday 6th October 2015