

NORTH WEST COUNTIES JUNIORS  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016  
Meeting held at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call Absent –Aspull New Springs, Halton Farnworth, Latchford, Liverpool, Saddleworth, Salford City Reds, S Trafford, Wigan Bulldogs and Wigan St Jude's

£10 fine imposed as per association rules.

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as a true record subject to clarification of (item 5c) where it was emphasised that markers are not to spoil play and that coaches are to ensure that all comply and that only u11s move to playing 13 v 13 after the summer break.
2. Matters arising - to be dealt with within framework of meeting
3. **Presentation:** Embed the Pathway Spring 2016 update.

Tony Fretwell provided an update on the work undertaken and progress made since delivery commenced 12 months ago, explaining that;

- the data collected shows that there is enthusiasm to develop the game, with over 363 coaches engaged and organisations with accredited coaches who can deliver programme in 38 accredited community clubs and 74 accredited schools across the country.
- there is a need for further work especially engaging with parents which is a crucial element for 2016.
- There are 26 professional clubs with staff to develop/enhance partnership working with community clubs and the promotion of the game (e.g. Wigan and St Helens working in Devon and Cornwall and Salford across Manchester) These clubs can deliver bespoke training etc. (i.e. engaging with parents planned for end of season) as well as working to identify and encourage new participants (i.e. targeting new players from engaged schools).
- Technology is being utilised to help make the programme interactive
- ETP14plus aims to continue work with u15/16s and hopes to engage and retain players via specific activities in order to address the issue of young people dropping off at this age (all sports have same problem).

Responding to questions Tony pointed out that the programme will be evaluated and acknowledged that there is a focus on identify those who might have been missed as potential talented players. Long term it is hoped that there will be a beneficial impact for community clubs with professional club's academies not engaging in 'lazy' recruitment (taking on mass only from winning teams) but targeting talented players thus encouraging young people to remain and develop within the community game.

#### 4. Correspondence

4a) Letter from Limehurst Lions outlining the impact of two life changing events on 2 young people and the efforts to be made to provide financial support they will be holding a club fundraising day on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and donations would be gratefully received, For further information, Contact Wayne Hubbard 0775855635 .

4b) Flintshire Falcons wish to be affiliate, similar to Belle Vue Bees. As Mark Parry (Chair) in attendance he explained that club based at Queensferry hopes to be able to play the occasional game (willing to travel) in order to help develop juniors. All happy with this and it was suggested that Mark consider attending Festivals once arranged U9 and U12 age groups.

#### 5 Primary rules meeting Rules update

Graham explained that at the recent meeting Dave Butler had suggested holding a large festival to promote PRL as always we will co-operate once we have more information.

Rule 14B Please note the change in this rule;

**b. Any player tackled and forced into the in goal area will result in the game to re start five meters infield from the try line opposite to where the player was tackled and it is counted as one of the six tackles.**

#### 6 RL Foundation meeting update

Graham provided feedback, explaining that guidance had been provided on working within the classroom with the NW exemptions (outlined at previous meetings) acknowledged. Questions were raised by several Yorkshire clubs regarding low number of children on pitch with Primary Rugby League accepting that the NW are doing well. All agree that the most important issue is ensuring that the ethos of the game is adhered to in order to ensure that all young people are actively encouraged to develop skills in a positive environment. All present were reminded to the importance of ensuring kids enjoy themselves whilst learning new skills and ensuring that poor touchline behaviour is eradicated.

## 6 Fixtures

Changes were highlighted and members advised to check the website.

### *Under 7*

*Leigh Miners Golds replace Newton Storm  
Crosfields Vipers replace Bury Broncos.*

*Wigan St Cuthberts not ready for fixtures yet.*

### *Under 8*

*Limehurst Lions Blues have replaced Rochdale Cobras*

*Langworthy Reds not ready for fixtures yet.*

### *Under 9*

*Rylands and Latchford have swapped groups*

*Portico Greens not ready for fixtures yet.*

### *Under 10*

*Bury Broncos withdrawn from fixtures now becomes a free date*

### *U12*

*Leigh Miners Rangers Golds take free date in group D and cup group H*

*Could all clubs please check contact details and advise asap any errors.*

**6a U12s** – home team responsible for texting in result on day of game (£5 fine for noncompliance).

Details of **appointed referees** will be provided each week and club then responsible for contacting referee by 6pm on the Thursday prior to the game. If not contacted referee will be free to take other games. Email Mick for referee contact details.

**6b Rule Change for U12s** – as per u11s when kicking a player is to kick in line with where try scored unless try scored more than 15 metres away from the sticks in which case the ball should be kicked 15 metres from side of sticks.

**6c Game cancellation - all** were requested to advise as soon as possible if game to be cancelled e.g., pitch not fit for playing, lack of players available etc,

**6d Team sheets** - Must be completed prior to game commencing in order that players' cards can be checked. **All** were reminded that this is an important document for insurance purposes and that there could be serious consequences if not completed properly.

**6e** If referee required for u11 and younger age groups approaches should be made to the referee development group. All should encourage the new referees and ensure that respect is shown.

## **7 RFL community board – proposed data presentation by Jason**

The minutes from the Community Board meeting held October 2015 had been received today FIVE months after the meeting which is not acceptable by any ones' standards.

Referring to the statistical information provided by the research report outlining the findings of the pilot schemes held in Hull and Yorkshire and the NW there was a overwhelming preference for the 'traditional mini and mod format seemingly ignored by the community board and there is a reluctance to extend the debate from the Community Board Chair .

As part of the response from the NW and as a tool when in discussions it is proposed to provide statistical information based on data garnered from the RFL. The data highlights/identifies:

- how the NW has shown consistent growth over the last 3 years (in 2013 48% juniors from NW)
- the good retention of players (via tracking)
- clubs/ages with greatest impact -identifies good practice and thus who others need to learn from
- Area differences within the NW.
- clubs receiving assistance of SL clubs in receipt of SKY TRY funding (useful for quantifying/auditing of impact of funding and how it has been used)
- Identifies clubs (19) not within areas of SL clubs and SKY TRY assistance and thus can be used as comparison against those receiving assistance from SL clubs

Responding to questions raised regarding the groupings and links to SL clubs(one club highlighting that they do receive assistance from a SL club but that this not acknowledged in presentation) it was pointed out that the old principle of service delivery areas had been used when preparing the information.

All were pleased to note the growth of the game within the area and thanked those who had given their time to collate and present the information.

The chair pointed out that it does not matter who brings players into the game, the challenge is to keep them.

## **8 Rhinos Challenge.**

**Could all clubs attending please let Mick know.**

**9. Fundraising to assist Serbia trip.** Members were pleased to note that Mick has been asked to take part in the trip to Serbia and agreed that any monies raised via raffles at the next 3 meetings should be given to assist the young representatives who are responsible for finding their own monies for the trip.

**10 RFL Booklets – rules and skills and drills** - All present were allowed 2 books. Graham will try and obtain more.

All were reminded that sharing best practice is to be encouraged and that all must play to agreed rules as outlined previously for the North West.

**10 Monthly draw** - Burtonwood