

NORTH WEST COUNTIES JUNIORS
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 6th JANUARY 2016
Meeting held at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call: Haresfinch, Oldham St Annes, Shevington, Wrexham Bradley Rangers.

Clubs fined £30 as per association rules.

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as a true record.
2. Matters arising - none
3. Proposals to rule changes - none, fines and fees to remain unchanged and the monthly lottery to continue in its existing format.
4. Chairs report. A brief overview of the past year was provided by Mick Doyle as Chair who highlighted the:
 - growth of the association over the past 40 years to become the largest key specific league with 4300 registered juniors of which 1000 are aged under 7
 - difficulties encountered over the year, especially with the RFL as outlined at meetings
 - Professional clubs acknowledging the skills of the young players within the NW, a testament to the training provided by volunteers
 - Fine display of skills by those taking part in the Lancashire cup and our Finals Day at Preston with praise being given to all participants, especially the winners.

Appreciating the support given thanks was given to the registration clerks, the minutes' secretary and members of the disciplinary committee and Eileen Bright who still manages the website. Special thanks was given to Graham for his continued support and hard work over the last 12 months.

Special thanks were given to Alan Bowers from Chorley for his help and support with the RFL during a difficult year and to Trevor Barton for the personal encouragement advice and help given to the Chair.

Speaking of his own challenges over the last 12 months Mick explained that this will be his last year as Chair but emphasized that he will continue to assist the association at all times and that he wishes to remain until issues with the RFL resolved.

Graham thanked Mick for all his efforts and perseverance representing the views of members at meetings with the RFL. Volunteers have come forward to assist with the day to day administration reducing the workload.

All present thanked Mick, Graham and those people mentioned by Mick during his report.

It was noted that Karen Jackson has tendered her resignation as Chair of the Disciplinary Panel and it is hoped she will attend the February meeting so that thanks can be given.

Mick highlighted the work of all volunteers and thanked them for their efforts.

5 Accounts: The annual accounts were not ready due to the outstanding number of fines still to be collected, assurances given that every effort will be made to collect the outstanding monies and accounts to be ready for the February meeting.

6 Election of Officers

All agreed that with the exception of Chair of the disciplinary committee officers will remain unchanged (see minutes of meeting held Dec 2014 for details). John will take over as Chair of the Disciplinary Committee.

7 A.O.B. Members were asked to support new members to the league Belle Vue Bees who were accepted as associate members with a view to working to establish a RL base in Manchester.

AGM closed and general meeting commenced.

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Roll Call: Haresfinch, Oldham St Annes, Shevington, Wrexham,

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as a true record.
2. Matters arising - to be dealt with within framework of meeting
3. Primary Rules All were reminded that a letter from the RFL is available on the website and that this letter outlines the exemption given for the 2016 season with regard to the playing format for the u7s. Unfortunately sections of the letter were not discussed with Mick or Graham and when challenged it has been found that the letter was written by Dave Butler and only signed by Ralph Rimmer on behalf of the RFL without full reference to the meeting held with the leagues. Several of the ideas put forward are to accommodate Hull (with only 7 teams at u7) and Yorkshire. Without reference to the NW who have the largest number of teams at U7. All present agreed that they wished to continue with the u7s playing up to a maximum of 7 v 7 on a pitch to a maximum 50 x 30 and that unlimited scoring within a set of 6 is detrimental to the game and thus not to be adopted.

The importance of being adaptable and pooling players to encourage not only full participation but also the development of the young players by sharing skill sets was again emphasised.

Monitoring of the U7s, collecting and collating stats (i.e. number of touches of ball) and the collection of video information will assist in the evaluation of the game for the youngsters playing under the NW format. The findings can then be presented to the RFL.

With regard to children under six years of age registering to play all agreed that in line with the recently published RFL Operational Rules Children under 6 should not participate in contact games.

4 New Members

Belle Vue Bees who are the junior community arm of Manchester Rangers expressed their wish to join the league. All agreed to accepting them into the league.

With regard to new and developing teams all were asked to co-operate in the development of these teams by sharing players and abilities/talents. Suggesting to long term young players that they are helping to coach new players if they play for the opposition etc. might help break down barriers that might arise when sharing players. Remember it is having fun that matters - not winning.

In order to help introduce new teams to the league it was accepted that Taster games - round robins etc will be arranged.

South Trafford to attend next meeting.

5 Registration To date only 36 teams registered. In line with suggestion from members all agreed that registration forms not received by Friday will incur fine of £20.

6 A.O.B.

6A) Sam Scott of Raging Bull introduced himself and said he would be happy to speak to any club about equipment etc.

6B) Name change of Latchford Albion to Latchford Giants for the junior section was explained and accepted by members.

6C) Raffle held during meeting for Rugby League Cares raised £130 - thanks to all who participated - Jean to send monies.

6D) £130 to be donated to the K Letherbarrow fund.

7 Monthly draw - this month for 1 junior team kit - won by Blackbrook

NEXT MEETING - Playing rules to be outlined - hopefully this will clarify issues that arose in 2015