

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

Roll Call ; Ashton, Belle Vue, Chester, Golborne,, Haydock, Heysham ,Higginshaw , Langworthy Reds, , Oldham St Annes, Pilks Rec., Rochdale Cobras Salford City Roosters , South Trafford, Westhoughton, and Widnes Moorfield,.

Fine for non attendance of AGM £30 and must be settled before application for 2017 season is submitted.

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as a true record.

2. Matters arising - none

3. Chairs report.

A brief overview of the past year was provided by Mick Doyle as Chair who explained that in light of the progress made in relation to primary rules he is willing to remain as Chair for a further 12 months. Hopefully the changes envisaged in respect of management of the league, will reduce the workload of the Chair and thus encourage someone to step forward next year allowing Mick to step back and concentrate on the 3 year primary rules study.

Referring to the issues regarding Primary Rules and the 3 year study within the NW agreed with the RFL it was pointed out that there is a need to

- accept the challenge to increase and retain players by at least 10% per team
- continue to improve game day experience and ensure that Sunday is 'fun day'
- work towards all clubs having Newbies by September 2017

Mick pointed out that the depth of feeling within the NW and the support given by all, especially the 27 clubs who had made known their support for the stance taken had proved beneficial when discussing primary rules with the RFL and thanks were therefore expressed to all in helping to help resolve the issues surrounding the delivery of the game within the NW and the agreement made regarding the 3 year study.

Thanks for the support given by the registration clerks, the minutes' secretary and members of the disciplinary committee and Jason for his help with IT/presentations and coaching over the last year were expressed.

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

Members noted that Peter Kearns from Leyland was stepping down after over 20 years as a volunteer for Leyland. Mick praised Peter for his efforts and in recognition of his hard work offered 'life long membership of the league' which Peter was pleased to accept.

4 Proposals to rule changes—As mentioned at previous meetings it was agreed that on league application form details should be given of:

- The designated club official responsible for dealing with registrations and transfers
- Name of Child Welfare Officer

Responding to members Graham suggested that Safeguarding courses could be arranged and requested clubs to provide him with details of those wishing to attend safeguarding courses. All welfare officers need to have attended a course.

Referring to rule 1.2 lengthy discussion took place regarding mixed teams and the need to consider the welfare of the individual, whilst doing the utmost to retain players within the game. Girls can finish the u11 season, however the lack of opportunities for girls is a problem that many wish to see resolved and thus all were asked to consider working towards increasing the number of girl only teams. In the meantime, all were asked to seek the views of their clubs and report back at the January meeting when a vote on whether to retain the rule in its present format will be taken.

5 AccountsCopies of the annual accounts were distributed. It was noted that many fines remain unpaid and no disciplinary fines applied. All were happy with the financial report provided.

6 Projects for the future.

AGM 2016

6a *Coaching* – Jason referred to the survey available on the website and explained the:

- importance of completing the survey,
- the need to complete by the end of December
- proposals to set up focus groups to consider the results of survey and how to take forward
- aim is to improve coaching education

6b *Quartile project*

After brief discussion regarding the difficulties experienced by some young players especially those in the fourth quartile group (born June, July August) members were advised of the proposals to seek permission from the RFL to adopt a flexible approach with children in quartile 4 being able to apply for permission to play down a year. A process and paperwork will be developed once agreement obtained however it is envisaged that there will be strict guidelines to ensure that child welfare is at the centre of the process. Responding to questions it was agreed that the application process will need to ensure that the physicality of the child is taken into consideration together with the child's development and confidence and thus the input of the club and parents/guardians will be necessary when the issue is considered by the League. The needs of girls, (no-matter when born) might also be considered in the future.

6c *Revised website*

Proposals to link with others and have a one stop website for all 3 leagues (7 – 18) that will allow team sheets etc. to be completed and submitted on line were outlined. Further details will be provided early 2017.

7 **Lottery** – Mini kit winner – Halton Farnworth Hornets

8 **A.O.B** Fines and fees are to remain unchanged (£15 affiliation and £10 per team) and the monthly lottery to continue in its present format.

All were reminded that application forms need to be submitted via email, with all application forms being typed, by the 3rd January 2017. Clubs not submitting forms will not be included in fixtures.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year were expressed as the meeting closed.

Prior to the meeting a brief update on the Embed the Pathway was provided by Tony Fretwell and Anthony Atherton.

The programme is overachieving in many areas however the feedback of stakeholders is important and thus members were asked to participate in a small workshop to provide feedback which it is hoped will prove beneficial when considering the way forward for the programme.

Tony pointed out that the courses provided whilst aimed at u12s upwards are open to those who intend to coach u12s in the future. Courses are free and the next is to be held at Golbourne Park on the 6th February.

Help with courses etc is available and enquiries should be made direct to Tony. Tony.Fretwell@rfl.uk.com

The management team would like to wish all our valued volunteers compliments of the festive season and welcome the new year 2017 in at the January monthly meeting on the 3rd January with a 8.30 start .