

NORTH WEST COUNTIES JUNIORS
Minutes of the meeting held 12th November 2013 at Leigh Miners

Roll call:

Absent: Accrington, Burtonwood, Fitton Hill, Higginshaw, Ince Rose Bridge, Leigh East, Rochdale Cobras, Rylands, Thatto Heath, Widnes Moorfield, St Maries Vikings, Wigan St Judes.

All will be fined £10 as per association rules.

Condolences

Before the meeting a minutes silence was held for the loss of two of the game's stalwarts.

Steve Prescott MBE lost his fight against cancer yesterday. Only given months to live in 2006, Steve met the illness head on and through a series of events and challenges raised funds for The Christie Hospital and The RFL Benevolent Fund Try Assist. The Steve Prescott Foundation will continue to raise funds in his name. He will be sadly missed by all who met him and our condolences go to his family at this sad time.

Colin Anderton was a long-standing member and past chairman of Blackbrook RLFC. He died following a long period of illness and his funeral was held on 5th November. Colin's family have asked for donations to the British Heart Foundation in his memory. Our thoughts are with his friends and family.

It was suggested that the first game of the new season should be a charity day with all funds raised going to the two charities.

Rhino

Tony Benson from Rhino attended and gave out some information on equipment that they can provide.

Matters Arising

Proposals to be brought up at the AGM should have been in by tonight. None were received. We will be looking for more volunteers on the admin side next season.

Correspondence

None to Note.

Barla:

No matters arising.

RFL:

For 2014 **ALL** coaches **MUST** be qualified. There haven't been any courses but we will be looking into this. We will be writing to clubs and letting them know who is not qualified. This is seen as a safeguarding issue and is now **MANDATORY**.

The list of courses in the NW has now been released. If you have booked and paid for a course you will be allowed to carry on coaching. If you don't take the steps to get qualified you will not be allowed to run a team.

The RFL have agreed that all coaches have to be L2 to be in charge of a team. We argued that it would make L1 useless and that to coach a team of 6/7 year olds a L2 wasn't needed. We are pushing for L1 to be accepted at mini/ mod.

They will be looking to embed the coaching pathway. When the pro clubs come into your club they will not be wasting their time on unqualified coaches. It is up to the clubs to make sure that they meet the criteria.

We have an expectation of our coaches – we coach to develop players not to win games. We have had a case passed back to us from Safeguarding whereby a child has been told that he is not good enough for the team – he has to be outstanding to play. We will be looking into this matter and action will be taken. If we don't deal with this it will kill the game. It forces us to wonder if Martin Rothwell and his Primary Game format might be right? This is nothing more than bullying – and adult bullying a child by applying pressure when he should be having fun.

For the new season, we will be expecting coaches to change and develop. The win-at-all-cost mentality has to be taken out of the system. If you are struggling ask for help – from within the club or from the league. The most important thing is that the children are having FUN.

Discipline:

We had a lengthy discipline meeting. Two teams had a fall-out which was settled at the disciplinary with all coaches shaking hands on leaving. How many of you talk to each other before the game? Have a chat and clarify the rules, make sure you know who can/can't referee. If the kids see you chatting and enjoying the morning the chances are that they will enjoy it too.

Registrations:

The deadline for registrations this year will be the February meeting. If you haven't registered your team by then you will not be getting fixtures. Too often teams state that they are playing and then when the fixtures come out say that they are not ready. This year, if the team isn't registered they won't be allocated fixtures at all.

Re-registration sheets were emailed out to all club secretaries. If they haven't been received send Eileen and email and she will email them out again. The sheets need to be signed by the player, the parent/ guardian and a club official. Send it to the relevant secretary with two stamped envelopes – one addressed back to you for the return of the cards.

All the information regarding registrations and transfers is on the website. Next year we will not be chasing people up. If things aren't done correctly it will be returned. If you are unsure ask – either someone in the club or someone from the league. Don't just guess!

The RFL will be contacting all players who don't re-register to find out why as they are worried about the drop off rates.

Lancashire Cup:

Blackbrook put on an awesome, faultless display to beat Leigh Miners Rangers. After the game everyone from the RFL and the hosts Widnes commented on the game and complimented both teams on their behaviour.

Lottery Draw:

Raging Bull – Simon has left. We still have a deal with Raging Bull and will continue to do the lottery. We haven't met the new rep yet but the outstanding kits will be ready next month.

34 – Shevington Sharks

AOB

The World Cup has been fantastic; the only disappointment has been the lack of interaction with the leagues. That said we had good feedback from the clubs that attended the event in Salford.

There has been a major fall-out between the leagues. There will be a meeting on 16th to clear the air and get everyone back to working together as a region.

APPLICATION FORMS can be brought in at the AGM with the deadline being the January meeting. The form should be sent electronically to either Mick or Eileen for the new details to be entered onto the website. The Coaches ID number **MUST** be included. The fees are staying the same.

Next meeting: AGM - Tuesday 3rd December at 8.30
£30 fine for non-attendance