

## **Junior Schools North Committee Meeting**

### **25<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Brooklands LC**

#### **Apologies for absence:**

I Ashworth, B Costello, S Somerville, A Collingwood, P Holland, M Ford, P Coups

#### **Attendees:**

J Sharples, R Howie, H Hewitt, A Cara, E Mooney, R Ambler, N Wainer, I Fox, B Leonard, D Hallows, D Clark, L Tobin, L Harvey, R Hawksley, G Cork, R Summers

#### **1 Matters Arising**

None.

#### **2 Correspondence**

Only dispensations received.

#### **3 Dispensations**

Guidelines included in the Good Practice Guide. Clarification that dispensations granted in the first half of the season must be reapplied for in January if still required. Dispensations can be granted between JSN meetings and applications must be submitted to the Chair and Secretary in writing or email. These will then be endorsed at the next JSN meeting.

Clubs playing dispensated players must notify their opposition prior to the game and their guidelines for play must be agreed with by the opposition. If it is felt that if they dominate the game this must be addressed and action taken by the coaches. If there are reports of issues with oversized dispensated players, this will be monitored and dispensation will be revoked by the committee if necessary.

Stockport Mersey Guild will not play any clubs playing over age players at any level as this is their club policy.

Dispensations as submitted were granted to Mellor, Norbury, Oldham, Rochdale, Timperley, WACS and Wilmslow (dispensation not required for Jordan Williams as he has left the club).

#### **Registrations**

Emma Mooney (JSN Registration Secretary) has created forms for all clubs to use.

A **registration form** must be completed for each team by October 31<sup>st</sup> and returned to Emma.

There is also a **cup competition form** which must be completed and exchanged before all cup games. A copy must also be sent to Emma.

Both forms require the unique ELA registration number to be entered for each player. Each club's sole ELA administrator has access to this information. Please contact the ELA if you require help with this.

All players must be registered on the ELA website, and these forms do not replace the registration of players on the ELA website.

### **Contact Details**

These are almost complete for all clubs and are being distributed as received.

Suggested there should be 2 contacts per club to receive and pass on JSN correspondence. However, if more required that would not be an issue.

All clubs requested to confirm to Sue who they want on the distribution list.

## **4 Reports**

### Fixtures

Fixtures complete for U14 and U16 until Christmas. U12's will be reissued once strengths have been assessed following round robin games.

Request that all results are forwarded to the Fixtures Secretary by Sunday evening. Please can all clubs agree the score before it is submitted as there are many discrepancies. Results are being published on the ELA website.

Clarification that if teams are short of numbers the game should be played, but the opposition should be contacted prior to the game.

Clarification on lowest age allowed to play. There is not a lower limit and decision to allow them to play is at the discretion of the club and parents.

Invitations for the U16 6 Aside competition on October 5<sup>th</sup> have been sent out.

Each club can submit 2 teams, squads of 8. Each club must supply a referee to be allowed to enter.

Emma may need a referee. Stockport and HMG will enter separate teams.

### Lacrosse Mark

There are still a number of clubs not accredited -  
Cheadle Hulme – Emma has done the paperwork.

Cheadle – Waiting for paperwork to be returned.

Wilmslow – paperwork being done and meeting set up.

Heaton Mersey – Gary Wilson and Dave Hallows have taken over the lacrosse mark.

It is vital for English Lacrosse for future funding that all clubs are accredited. Funding bodies will not look at the clubs unless they are at least Level 1 working towards Level 2.

ELA subscriptions next year will be discounted if the club is accredited.

## MPC

World Sport - England U19's finished 4<sup>th</sup> behind the American teams. They beat Australia.

There is an initiative by the National Squads, with plans to identify talented 15 year olds upwards. Invitations will be issued and clubs will nominate players to attend a north training academy on the 19<sup>th</sup> October at Timperley on the astro.

Greg Caplin and a number of England coaches will run the academy and players will be assessed on their skills and fitness. Cost £30 per player and they get a T shirt.

John Sharples asked all clubs to discuss: future development and strategies, the identification of talent, the national and county set up. The MPC are looking at ways to move forward and would appreciate input from the clubs at grass roots.

## Disciplinary

Dave Hallows raised the issue of the fine imposed by the MPC, after referral to them by the JSN committee, regarding the problems with the Heaton Mersey U16s not being registered prior to the Flags cup final. It was clarified that it was a unanimous vote by the JSN committee for a fine to be imposed, but it was the MPC that decided the size of the fine.

Heaton Mersey had their boys registered on the Friday prior to the cup final and they believed the issue was resolved. They received notification of the fine in June and DH stated that a retrospective fine was unacceptable. They had been given no notice that a fine was to be imposed and if they had known that was the case they would have withdrawn the team from the final and would not have invested in new equipment.

Heaton Mersey appealed for the £250 fine to be suspended. John Sharples informed the committee that it was in fact a £500 fine initially and that had been halved. However the appeal had not been upheld as there had been a breach of the rules with seniors, U14s and U16s also not having been registered. Therefore the £250 fine stood.

The JSN committee emphasised that all registrations should be done at the beginning of the year not just prior to a final. Emails

had been sent to members of Heaton Mersey regarding the registration issues. It was decided that it was unfair to penalise the boys as it is the club's responsibility to ensure they are registered. It was not the first instance that registration issues had been raised with Heaton Mersey. The previous chair had been notified of the problems.

It was reiterated that the fine was not aimed at the junior section, but at the club and if they have further issues regarding the fine they should take it back to the MPC for discussion.

It was stated that some of the problems were due to Heaton Mersey not having been represented at meetings, and if one representative was unavailable another should have attended.

It was noted that it was good to see that Heaton Mersey were moving forward and that they were well represented at the meeting.

## **5 Good Practice Guide**

Rick Summers to send a copy to Helen to review and finalise after some minor amendments.

Amendment to be made, in light of problems, that all players must be registered before they play, NOT 2 weeks after they start playing. This will resolve any insurance issues.

Questions were raised about how best to distribute to the players and coaches. Rick to explore the possibility of funding from the MPC to cover production costs. Suggested it is put on the ELA website, but in a series of pages not as a whole document.

## **6 Junior Development**

There is concern over the position of the clubs regarding their strengths and numbers. Overview of the teams the clubs present at the meeting have:

Brooklands – U16 1 team (20), U14 2 teams (33), U12 2 teams (20)  
Cheadle Hulme – U16 1 team (10), U14 3 with Norbury, no U12  
Heaton Mersey – U16 1 team (20), U14 1 team (9), U12 1 team (10)  
Timperley – U16 1 team (17), U14 2 teams (26), U12 2 teams  
Poynton – U16 1 team, U14 1 team, U12 1 team  
Wilmslow – U16 1 team (18), U14 1 team (13), U12 1 team (9)  
B & E – U16 1 team (15), U14 1 team (9), U12 1 team (12)  
Mellor – U16 1 team (8), U14 1 team (13), U12 1 team (16)  
WACS – U16 1 team (15), U14 1 team (9), U12 1 team (12)  
Ashton – U16 1 team (9), U14 1 team (15), U12 1 team (9)  
Stockport – U16 1 team (8), U14 1 team (11), U12 1 team (13)  
HMG - U 16 (9) combined with Stockport, U14 (7) combined with Stockport, U12 1 team (8)

Emma stated that there should be help available from local authorities. Stockport and Oldham are proactive, but there are problems with Salford. The sports development has the monopoly there on schools, there is no curricular time available and the extended activities budget has been spent.

John Sharples highlighted problems in the Stockport area with Sale Sharks and Stockport County putting up funding for numerous junior teams and that lacrosse was losing kids to those programs. It was suggested that maybe they should approach Sale Sharks and suggest to them that the kids should be encouraged to do both sports.

John is dealing with the problem but is an issue for lacrosse.

There may be a possibility of more teams having to combine as Stockport and HMG have already done at U14 and U16s. Norbury and Mellor may be looking for players to combine.

Dave Hallows recommended some websites that may be useful for coaches and players:

[www.kudda.com](http://www.kudda.com)

[www.insidelacrosse.com](http://www.insidelacrosse.com)

[www.usalacrosse.org](http://www.usalacrosse.org)

Request for a club to host the U14 6 a side competition.

Heaton Mersey expressed an interest in hosting this event and a provisional date of 9<sup>th</sup> November set. (Post meeting Note – date confirmed as 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Heaton Mersey.

## **7 Any Other Business**

Graham Lester and Chris Parker (referees) are not now refereeing at senior level and have offered to shadow trainee referees on a Saturday morning.

B & E and Heaton Mersey have requested a referee's course and one is scheduled to be run at Heaton Mersey. Please email Emma with any referee requirements and courses will be set up as required.

Also email Emma with any Level 1 coaching requirements.

John Sharples raised at the MPC that the FA run a junior referee scheme where U14 children can referee at their own age. Our current rules state that you have to be 16 to referee. He suggested that lacrosse should identify those children that maybe won't progress as players and train them to be referees. Courses could be set up to get them qualified to referee at 14, but they must then be mentored by another referee. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

John Sharples sought the clubs thoughts on moving the Cheshire 6's to August, and making it a weekend event that would encompass the U12/U14/U16s on the Saturday, and the senior's events on the Sunday.

A possible venue would be Cheadle Hulme. There was a question as to whether this should be made an 8 aside competition. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

HMG have merged with Stockport at U14. The players are still registered as their own club, but on the forms will be shown as the combined team (SMG).

Dave Hallows sought clarification of the use of astro turf for cup competitions following problems with Heaton Mersey's cup game against Timperley. Game was played on astro, but it would appear that insufficient notice was given to Heaton Mersey regarding the change of surface so some of the boys had unsuitable footwear. The time lapse has made this difficult to address but the rules have been amended in the Good Practice Guide and will be referred to in the cup rules issued.

Dave Hallows requested a copy of the JSN committee's constitution and mission statement.

Poynton sought clarification of age limits for U19 players. They must be 15 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## **8 Date of Next Meeting**

27<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm @ Brooklands