

NORTH OF ENGLAND MEN'S LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Stockport Lacrosse Club on Thursday 4 December 2008 at 7 pm.

Present: Roger Ambler (Chairman) and Matthew Nugent, Clive Perrin, Neil Crosby, John Farmer, Ken Haves, Dave Hallows and John Partt. John Leach also attended the meeting as an observer from the Referees' Association.

Apologies for absence were received from Anton Bryant.

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

1. Norbury had paid their fine on time.
2. Brooklands Hulmeians had written admitting that they had played 4 under-age players in 3 matches this season, thereby contravening Rule F 1 of the Senior League Championship Rules. They gave several reasons for their actions, none of which the Committee considered valid. After a long discussion it was agreed to fine Brooklands Hulmeians £200, and to request further information which would be considered at the next Committee meeting. The Committee felt the deliberate playing of under-age players to be a very serious matter, and it was agreed to write to all clubs (and to the Referees' Association) pointing out that that no club, no parent, no opposition and no referee (whether a panel referee, volunteer referee or anyone else) had the authority to allow anyone under age 16 to play in a match. If under-age players played in a match, it would place the player's own club in jeopardy by invalidating their ELA insurance (and otherwise), and would also place their oppositions and referee(s) at risk.

Fixtures' Secretary's Report

Matthew Nugent reported that the league programme was progressing well, with few postponed games. The error in the points totals in division 5 had been corrected. Heaton Mersey Guild had had 1 point deducted for conceding games.

Under 19's Organiser's Report

Clive Perrin reported that the league programme had been disastrous recently, with two weeks' worth of Conference A matches cancelled due to the lights not having worked one week, and an icy pitch the next week. In addition, there had been a major fracas in Conference A, which had resulted in 2 teams being expelled from the competition, and also from the post-Christmas Cup competition, leaving only 8 teams in the latter. The Conference B matches though had been completed.

General Secretary's Report

Correspondence.

1. A letter had been received from the ELA Secretary, Ron Balls, mainly commenting on the claims made at the October Open Forum meeting about lack of communication from the MPC to the clubs. Ron stated that all minutes of all meetings (except those of the NEMLA Management Committee and the NEMLA Open Forum meetings, due the NEMLA Secretary being a dinosaur and not having a computer) were on the ELA website, and could be accessed by anyone with a computer. Ron further said that all NEMLA minutes could be scanned into the system by the ELA office staff John Partt will now send copies of minutes to the office. Ron's letter also contained comments on the fine imposed by the MPC on Heaton Mersey, and additional information on the 2010 World Championships.

Claims for Points/Complaints.

None

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Transfers.

1. Alex Mitchell from Norbury to Sheffield University.
2. Sam Beattie from Ashton to Sheffield Steelers.
3. Adam McGuigan from Poynton to Stockport.
4. Mark Bamford from Nottingham to Rochdale.
5. Nathan Smith from Oldham to Rochdale.
6. Will Stelfox from Manchester Waconians to Poynton.

Treasurer's Report

Ken Haves reported that he had received the cheques being payment of fines. The entry fees for the Flags & Cup Competitions were due to be paid by 6 December, and the following clubs had not yet paid: Birmingham, Cheadle, Cheadle Hulme, Heaton Mersey Guild, Hull, Oldham, Newcastle, Poynton, Sheffield University and York University.

Disciplinary sub-committee Report

The sub-committee had met recently to consider the debacle which had occurred at an Under 19's match, and had issued its judgement. However, it was believed that both clubs involved were likely to appeal, and in that case an appeal's panel would be arranged.

A further case had also been considered, resulting in Glyn Morris of Rochdale being suspended from all lacrosse until 1st January 2010.

Open Forum Meeting Report

The next Open Forum meeting would take place at Heaton Mersey on 11 December.

Men's Playing Committee Report

Neil Crosby reported that the MPC had expressed its wish for the NEMLA Management Committee (through its Disciplinary sub-committee) to deal with all disciplinary matters in the North of England, and that a letter to this effect would be sent by the MPC. John Partt, however, already had on file a rather imprecise, vaguely worded letter dated 13 January 2005 from the ELA Secretary, Ron Balls on the authority of the disciplinary sub-committee, and felt that clarity was needed. The MPC had considered the question of which team in the Premier division should represent NEMLA in European Championships, if the reigning champions declined to do this would be raised at the next Open Forum meeting.

The MPC were recommending that each club should have a minimum of one qualified referee within its ranks.

There was much discussion about the up-front charge of £600 which the ELA were imposing for the running of refereeing courses, and which many people felt was discouraging potential referees from attending the courses; this would be raised at the next Open Forum meeting. Roger Ambler in particular had strong feelings about the high level of the fee, stating it was causing great damage to the game.

Special Events Report

There was nothing to report.

County Association Reports

CCLA - There was nothing to report.

LCLA - There was nothing to report.

YCLA - Neil Crosby reported that a successful Fresherfest had been held at York University, with 8 teams taking part, and sponsorship obtained. Seven people who had recently taken a refereeing course had officiated at the Fresherfest. There was a possibility that Yorkshire would be able to raise an Under 21 team this season. The Yorkshire clubs had suggested that referees might be helped by feedback to them by clubs.

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Referees' Association Report

John Leach reported that there was a desperate shortage of referees, injuries having compounded the problem.

Juniors & Schools Committee Report

Roger Ambler reported that it was intended to arrange a junior tournament and the annual Cheshire 6's as a joint event in August 2009. Roger also reported on the disquiet expressed at the recent meeting about the ELA's £600 up-front charge for refereeing courses.

Any Other Business

1. It was alleged that Heaton Mersey had deliberately played an under-age player in a Senior League match recently, thereby contravening the Rule preventing players under age 16 from playing Senior Lacrosse. The Secretary would write to Heaton Mersey asking if this was indeed the case, and if so, why.
2. Neil Crosby reported that Geoff Paulson, a former Cheshire and North of England President, had died.
3. Date of next meeting - Thursday 8 January 2009.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.49 pm. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....