

Minutes

Annual General Meeting, Junior and Schools North Committee

30 March 2009 held at Brooklands Lacrosse Club.

The meeting was called to order by Richard Summers at 7.30 pm

In attendance

D Clark, L Tobin, Heaton Mersey; M Ford, Oldham, E Mooney, HMG/ELA; A Hulmes, Timperley; J Sharples, Stockport; G Edmunds, Poynton; A Parker, Cheadle; J Warrington, Refs Assn North/Stockport; R Howie, Cheadle Hulme; G Cork, Wilmslow; H Hewitt, Mellor; A Cara, R Summers, Brooklands; R Ambler, Ashton; S Somerville

Apologies for absence received from

M Evans, Sheffield; I Ashworth, Refs; A Holdsworth, Timperley; I Fox, Brooklands

Approval of Minutes of AGM dated 22 May 09

The minutes of previous AGM were taken as read and approved.

1. REPORTS

1.1 Chairman's Report:

Four meetings and the AGM were held during the year. The meetings were well attended but some Clubs are not attending regularly. This needs to be addressed

There are seventeen Clubs running junior programmes. Eleven Clubs ran teams at U16, U14 and U12. Two Clubs ran teams at U12 with combined teams at U14 and U16. One Club ran teams at U12 and U16. One Club ran teams at U14 and U16. One Club ran teams at U12 and U14. One Club ran a team at U16.

Cup competitions at U16, U14 and U12 levels were successfully completed along with two U11 tournaments and six a side tournaments for U16, U14 and U12. No leagues were run. This has been discussed and pros and cons discussed. However until the standard at any level is more level serious thought needs to be considered before they are introduced.

There were three disciplinary issues due to expulsion fouls. The mandatory bans were imposed.

The Polices and Good Practice for Boy's Lacrosse was issued to all Clubs. This is currently being updated prior to a print run for copies to be distributed to Clubs.

A registration system was operated for the first time to ensure all junior players are registered. This involved all Clubs having to submit list of registered players for each age level at the start of the season and updated sheets were to be submitted during the season. On the whole this has worked but the policing of this will need to be increased to ensure compliance through out the season.

Issues which have been discussed at committee and need to be addressed are as follows :-

1. The strength of junior clubs in terms of numbers and playing level.
2. Provision of two qualified referees for all games
3. Training of junior players to referee
4. The inclusion of reports, fixtures and results on the ELA website

N J& S will look to promote and support these issues over the next twelve months.

The lowering of the age to fifteen for players to play senior lacrosse was discussed. There are mixed views on this and it is for an individual Club to propose such a change to NELA.

Due to a lack of interest from the South of England an U16 National Tournament was not staged. Following discussions with South of England considerations is to made to stage it on the same day as the U12 Nationals. This will be discussed with the ELA's Tournaments Manager.

1.2 Fixtures Secretary - Season went well with some restructuring post Christmas to create more even games. Alison requires teams and pitch availability by July in order to start formulating fixtures. Reporting of results to be discussed with Tim Holdsworth and also the possibility of publishing match reports on the web site.

1.3 Disciplinary – Mike Ford reported that he would be happy to continue but if there were any volunteers he would be happy to train. RS commented that there had been not be cause to have a disciplinary meeting but it would be useful to have another volunteer to learn the ropes. Any volunteers should contact RS. There have been 3 expulsion fouls this season plus one served this season for a Flags Final expulsion last season. MF did not consider this a problem. MF acknowledged the action of Wilmslow to deal with the issue mentioned above in the spirit we would encourage for Junior Lacrosse. MF believed the standard of refereeing in Junior games continues to improve in general though a small number of clubs need to consider their training of referees. Using recently qualified referees especially young ones to help referee games with more experienced referees is to be commended and MF believed it will do these young players good to know the rules better for their own careers. Some players in the Juniors and Schools Cup Final exhibited behaviour which needs to be corrected by the clubs involved for the benefit of the young players and the game.

1.4 Secretary - communication has been much improved this season due to the prompt return of contact forms. Contact lists to be published on website for easy access.

1.5 Registrations – clubs should note that juniors should be registered with their home address; this is a requirement for the database and is used for information when ELA are applying for funding from Sport England. Updated registrations through the season had only been received from two clubs. All registrations need to be checked prior to cup games.

1.6 Referees Report –

From a referring perspective this year has gone fairly well. The rule that junior teams attending J & S competitions must prove a referee to assist in the refereeing of each tournament has meant that there have been sufficient res to cover games on the day and the development of some young refs will only serve to improve matters further next year.

Unfortunately for a number of reasons very few senior referees have been available to support these competitions this year, but the Referees Association strongly supports the initiative by the Chair to introduce the role of a designated Referee in Chief for each competition to have overall responsibility for refereeing decisions on the day. Clearly, however, this will need competition dates and venues to be set and entered onto the events calendar sufficiently in advance to enable an appointment to be made. The referee training officers continue to make themselves available to run training courses and are endeavouring to ensure that the ELA, who have assumed control of training courses, communicate clearly to all interested parties what is required of those who attend courses to enable participants the best chance of success.

The referees are also pleased to note that Junior and Schools is again leading the way in promoting their policy that all teams both home and away endeavour to each provide a Qualified referee for all games if possible and that in the absence of any qualified referees then the game does not go ahead.

Finally, for next season both Graham Lester and Chris Parker are keen to visit games on a Saturday morning to assist in the development of people refereeing junior games. In the first instance contact can be made via email at i.ashworth@blackburn.ac.uk

Appointment of head referee at U11 tournament worked well and there were sufficient referees to run games. Some clubs did not bring a referee. Juniors recently qualified as referees ran as second referees. Due to the on costs of using a Head Ref there is a charge of £2.50 from each club participating – please remit to R Summers.

The on-cost of a head referee, £25 ½ day or £50 full day, needs to be factored in. R Howie asked if the appointment of Head Referee must be a panel ref, RS replied in his opinion that would be the case but any appointment would be through the referees committee.

2. DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations are not granted for full season and must be re-applied after Christmas. No issues have been experienced but contact should be made prior to games to allow option to reject or to decide on a format for the game.

3. SIX A SIDE COMPETITIONS

Rule change: squad strictly limited to 8 named players

Each team must bring a referee – option to hire a referee

A head referee will be appointed

Venues for six a side competitions requested – dates to follow fixtures meeting:

U12 Timperley

U14

U16 Mellor – subject to it being in early part of season

U11 Summer tournament: Cheadle Hulme

U11 March/April : Brooklands

4. GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

Being updated - 6 a side rules to be included and clarification of use of Astros during cup competitions. Available May – will be on Website for printing. South have a copy for information.

5. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

		Proposed	Seconded
Chair	R Summers	J Sharples	N Wainer
Secretary	S Somerville	R Summers	R Ambler
Registrations Sec	E Mooney	R Summers	R Howie
Fixtures	A Cara	R Summers	J Sharples
Disciplinary	M Ford	R Summers	R Howie

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 World Cup

Proposed to include clubs at club level – festival committee has decided to run club competition on 10/11 July 2010 – U19, U16, U14, U12 limited to 16 teams per competition places allocated on first come first served basis.

Entry fee will be £50 per team for which it will include a 2010 tee shirt for each player. International teams may be training and it is hoped there may be some interaction.

Mandatory each team provides a referee as the referees will be heavily resourced during the festival period.

Head referee to be appointed for each age group.

Games will be 10 a side – 20 minute games on grass at The Firs with each team playing 4/5 games.

Seeding of teams to be reviewed.

J Sharples believes there may be grants available to teams to cover entry costs,

2 teams per club will be allowed only if there is not a full take of places.

6.2 Club Mark – Teams without Club Mark will receive a levy on registration fees for coming season. It should be noted that this year Level 1 will be acceptable but in 2010 Level 2 will be the minimum required.

6.3 Cup Winners

U12 Plate:	Mellor
U12 Onondaga	Rochdale
U14 Centurion	Sheffield Steelers
U16 J & S	Brooklands Hulmeians
U11	Brooklands Hulmeians
U12 National	Rochdale

Six a Side Competitions:

U12	Cheadle
U14	Sheffield
U16	Mersey

Please note clubs should take responsibility for engraving.

6.4 Teams for 2009-2010 season

Clubs struggling for numbers should contact RS who will co-ordinate possible combined teams

U14 - Stockport and HMG will be fielding separate teams

U12 – Cheadle Hulme should have a team may be post Christmas

6.5 Refs Courses

Junior referees refresher course as opposed to senior referees course requested – I Ashworth to investigate. J Warrington thought this appropriate in view of junior referees initiative. Suggestion from Brooklands is for Juniors to be appointed to teams as coach/referee. MPC pushing for 2 referees per game.

6.6 Academy

RS to follow up enquiries to G Caplin regarding dates or entry into festival

6.7 Coaching Courses – clubs to notify RS of requirements for Level 1 and 2 courses in order to gauge demand to arrange dates and venues.

6.8 Dates of Next Meeting

24 September 2009

26 November 2009

28 January 2010

25 March 2010

AGM : 22 April 2010

Brooklands Lacrosse Club – commencing at 7.30 pm