

Minutes of the NW Colts league AGM held at Bowdon RUFC on Wednesday  
20th August 2025

**Present:**

Leeann Aspinall (League committee), Nick Hayes (League treasurer), Andy Thompson (League committee), Chris Whitfield (League committee), Phil Mason (League committee), Billy Borrett (League Vice President), Steve Blackburn (League committee), Tom O'Neill (League committee), Chris Barrett (League Honorary Secretary), John Jeskins (Manchester & District Rugby Union Referees Society)

**Apologies received from:** Jon Kitchen (League chairman),

**Representatives from:** Junior Colts Teams from Widnes, Wigan, Aldwinians, Bury, Littleborough, Lonsdale, Aspull, Bolton, Fleetwood,

Senior Colts Teams from Burnley, Davenport, Eccles, Flyde, Helsby, Leigh, Liverpool Collegiate, Liverpool LSH, Macclesfield, Moorgate, Newcastle, Newport, Oswestry, Preston Fireflies, Preston Grasshoppers, Southport, Tarleton, Vale of Lune, Warrington, Whitchurch, Wilmslow, Winnington Park,

Junior & Senior Colts teams from Caldy, Chester, Firwood Waterloo, Furness, Heaton Moor, Lymm, Rochdale, Sandbach, Sedgely Park, Stockport, Wirral.

**Absence without apologies:** Blackburn Senior Colts, Kendall Senior Colts, Trafford MV Junior and Senior Colts, Tyldesley senior Colts, Anselmians Junior Colts, Ormskirk Junior Colts,

The AGM was opened by Andy Thompson at 7:30 pm welcoming all present.

He set out how good organisation in the leagues can lead to successful participation for teams in the league.

He informed the meeting that our longtime sponsor Halbro Sports have withdrawn sponsorship, and we were currently looking for new sponsors and if anyone had any ideas of sponsors to please speak to Chris Barrett before leaving the meeting tonight.

**Funding** – membership fees have remained at £95 with no increase.

Vote was passed to confirm this.

AT explained the RFU merit table and funding is based on the number of games played v number of games scheduled so encouraged all teams to get games played even if it's 10 aside.

Under the A O B section there had been no issues received to be discussed but AT invited Chris Barrett (League Hon Secretary) to outline a change to the regulations re CB Sundays.

Chris Barrett explained the issues we had had with the CB Sundays & CBs requesting that no Colts Rugby at all to be played on CB Sundays.

Colts Committee have pushed back on this as in the committee's view it's not fair or reasonable to the players who are not chosen for County sides and therefore would be prohibited from playing rugby that day.

With CBs input we have amended the regulation, and it now reads that if a team has one player chosen to play for County they can ask for postponement of that Sunday's game.

CB added that if one or two players were selected, it should not necessarily mean that the game should be postponed, and he asked teams to work with the Colts league to ensure that all players get maximum game time and to endeavour to play Fixtures even if a couple of players were missing on County duty.

CB added it gives teams a chance to flex their squads and give the less able/inexperienced players game time if the more developed lads are away on the County duty.

AT added that the Colts committee has been discussing this for nine months with the CBs and unfortunately there were no CB representatives at the meeting tonight.

Chris Barrett added that the change in the rule and players being able to play on CB Sundays is something that the league believe can be workable. RFU have become involved and spoken to the CBs to try and assist in agreeing a resolution between CBs & Colts committee.

AT put the revised regulation to the vote if we were happy to pass this regulation and to work with each other to get as many games as possible on in the future.

The vote was passed unanimously.

### **Election of officers**

AT introduced the committee so that attendees could put names to faces.

Phil Mason - Disciplinary Sec & League Sec

Chris Whitfield & Billy Borrett – League Committee with special responsibility to visit & observe teams who may have high levels of yellow & red cards.

Tom O'Neill – League Sec

Leeann Aspinall League Sec

John Jenkins from Madrefs and explained John has an opposite number in Liverpool.

Steve Blackburn – League committee and has many years' experiences in Rugby at all levels and is a useful source of information and support.

AT also told the meeting that there are members of the Colts committee who are Lancashire and Cheshire representatives, but neither were at the meeting.

AT propose that all these officers were block voted in to office for the coming year.

Vote was proposed by Martyn Haggar from Heaton Moor and seconded by Alexa Duckworth from Fleetwood.

The vote was passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm.