

Minutes of the Halbro NW Colts League AGM held at Bowdon RUFC on Wed 2nd August 2023

Previous year's AGM minutes were accepted – Proposed Hayley Young of Heaton Moor & seconded by Mike Feeley of Widnes

Apologies for non-attendance at the AGM had been received from Tyldesley Junior Colts – All other teams entered for the 2023/24 season were represented except for Aldwinians Junior Colts and Rossendale Senior Colts.

The Chairman's report was given by Jon Kitchen, who confirmed that the sponsorship we receive from Halbro Sportswear would continue. The monies received went towards trophies and costs of holding various meetings throughout the season.

The Hon Secretary's report was given by Chris Barrett, who confirmed that the entrance fees for entering the league were to remain as for last season. He said that despite nominations being requested for new posts on the league committee for 1 person each representing the Junior and Senior Colts teams, no one had been nominated. Interest had been shown by Ormskirk and Stockport club representatives but had not been followed up by firm nominations. Chris requested that nominations be forthcoming so that people currently involved in the running of Colts teams be involved on the committee.

Election of league officers : All current committee members had been nominated and elected unopposed. The passing of the league's Life President, Frank Morgan, had left a position to be filled. The committee had decided that Frank Morgan's unique contribution to the formation and continuing support for the Colts League had merited him being a Life President. The committee had decided that the position of President would in future be for a fixed 2-year term and that Henry Henderson was to be nominated as the president for the next 2 years. An additional position of Disciplinary Officer was being created and that Chris Whitfield had been nominated for this office. Both nominations were approved unopposed.

Any other business : A motion had been proposed by Martin Henderson of Lymm and seconded by Paul Gibbon of Sale that the 'Man off' rule be removed in Colts games as per the lower leagues in the NOWRUL competitions. In Marton Henderson's absence, his proposal was made by John Millachip (?) of Lymm. He said that experience last season showed that if a front row (FR) player went off due to injury and no replacement was available, that side had to lose a player to be able to bring on a non FR player. This was not in the spirit of the game where we should see equal numbers of players on each side wherever possible. This point was echoed by Paul Gibbon. Much discussion ensued in the meeting with Jamie Bright of Wilmslow, Gary French of Didsbury Barbarians and Alex Fusco of Southport being against the proposal as it would not encourage teams to train up FR players. There was support for the proposal from Mike Feeley of Widnes and Mark from an-named club. It was asked whether there was data available for the numbers of FR players going off and a team having to go down a man if no FR replacement available. Mike Henry said that this was not information that could be collected as referees have enough already to officiate the game without having to keep this data and how it could be recorded. A vote was taken, and the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated on a show of hands.

There being no further business, the AGM finished.