**2025 AGM**

**Monday 13th January 2025**

**Virtual Meeting 7.30pm start.**

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| No | Minutes | Action |
| **1** | **Roll Call –** Clubs not in attendance:- Cutsyke Raiders, Dearne Valley Bulldogs, Wakefield Hawks, West Leeds Eagles. Roll call taken again before meeting closed | DS |
| **2** | **Election of Officers to YJYARL**  **Secretary:-** No applications, no objections to Donna remaining in post – carried  **Fixture Secretary:-** No applications, no objections to Michelle remaining in post – carried |  |
| **3** | **New Clubs**  **Sherwood Wolf Hunt 15s and 18s –** 18s had been part of the League in 2024 under the inclusion of COHDRL teams at 18s. There were concerns about travel, but they were accepted. Younger age groups would be unlikely to be able to join the League as the travel was prohibitive. To monitor the situation (18s would be in our League under COHDRL inclusion again in 2025) |  |
| **4** | **Minutes of Previous AGM (January 2024)**  **Approved:- Hunslet ARLFC Seconded:- Bentley**  **Matters Arising:-** None |  |
| **5** | **Chairperson’s Report-**  I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to the 2025 season. I would ask all clubs to emphasise to their volunteers and spectators to have good touchline behaviour. All the best | **TO** |
| **6** | **General Secretary’s Report-**  Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers within all the clubs for their time and commitment. I would personally like to thank all the fixture secretaries and appointment officers for their time and hard work each week:- Thanks to the support teams: Welfare Team, Discipline Panel and Secretary, Media, and Registrations/Transfer team:- Thanks to everyone on the Board of Management. Thanks to The RFL Community and Safeguarding Teams for their help and support.  Stats for 2024, we had 9,431 Players – up from 9,251, 1,212 Coaches, up from 1,073.  2,621 Volunteers, up from 2,429. We played 4,171 games up from 4,074. Along with the positive increases, come the additional safeguarding and discipline cases, with transfers within the League just going up by 8 to 1,087. Completion of League games was 91%, cup games was 96%  2025 – Looking to the upcoming season  It is likely to be a difficult year, with changes due to Brain Health recommendations 6s and 7s will be non contact, we will be trialling playing in festival format, and there will be a meeting for the coaches at these age groups asap (19th Feb 7.30pm at Shaw Cross). Festivals will be locally based, and teams will still get to play even if a team can’t make it – there will be enough players to fulfil games.  The season is going to be tight to still host our cup games and the BARLA Yorkshire Cup – despite what was on Social Media the BARLA National Cup will be going ahead, we just haven’t had chance yet to discuss all the options/dates with BARLA. We will not give mid week games, or ask teams to regularly play 3 games in an 8 day window. We know the players will do other sports, or play for school, college, scholarship midweek – but we have to try and reduce our risk to the Health of our players. If you need to play midweek instead of at the weekend, then that is perfectly acceptable. Rearranging games, we will need to be stricter on this process. Many teams that sign up to play on a Sunday morning just want to play on a Sunday morning – and it shouldn’t be seen as being awkward. Saying that, moving the time by an hour or so is not unreasonable as clubs need to work around availability of facilities and referees. We would ask clubs to try and work together to get games played however possible.  I will forward on the email about training platform, club webinar, and defined off season.  Presentation Dinner will be at Headingley again, on Sunday 7th December.  Please remember that the constitution has a lot information, to help you find answers, and is available on the website. Emailing myself can cause delays in you getting an answer especially at this time of year. No-one is expected to know everything in it but know that there are rules that need to be checked around match day, and transfers in particular.  Some issues are too important to just leave to the referee to send in a report, we can’t do anything about issues if we don’t know about them. Sometimes things don’t get to where they should, it’s always best to check with the League. We might not be able to tell you anything more than who is dealing with it, but at least you will know that we have it. Good luck to all in 2025. | **DS** |
| **7** | **Treasurer’s Report**  Accounts were sent out, we received no questions. These were displayed to the clubs, no questions were raised over income or expenditure. As warned last year registration fees have increased for 2025.  The closing balance was £67,457.89 | **DS** |
| **8** | **The RFL – David Raybould**  Club Webinar booked in for Thursday 23rd 6.30pm. Pre-season club webinar, opportunity to ask questions, the Medical section to explain more about Brain Health and the recommendations. Thank you to everyone for their support, we understand change is never easy. More information on the Game Wide Review that has discussed Touchline Behaviours, Coaching, Match Officiating, retaining players. Return to contact training is a phased return starting today. There are slides on The RFL website, showing how to build up gradually but it is essentially a common sense approach. Full contact games will be allowed from 22nd February. We had Primary workshops with the Foundations last week, and they will be rolling out training in the next month or so. Primary Workshops will be offered to clubs, and you can attend any that you are able to – don’t need to go to your local Foundations. It’s great to see the game growing, and all the best for 2025. In response to a question confirmed that all coaching qualifications, particularly around primary need to be looked at, and maybe a refresh. | **DR** |
| **9** | **Rule Changes**  Most were in response to Operational Rules or Changes to the wording for clarity. Rule changes that were voted in:-  6.1.2 Clubs must attend a minimum of 4 meetings over a two-year rolling period (out of 6 possible meetings). If they fail to do this it will be determined that they have resigned from the League, and must reapply for membership of the League and be charged a readmittance fee if they are accepted back in (See Appendix 1).  10.10 Any team joining the League after the last weekend in April will be allocated friendly games only and will not be entered into any League cup competitions  23.12 If the game is abandoned because of the on field misconduct of only one team then that team will be deemed to have forfeit the fixture. If the offending team is ahead or drawing equal, then the game will be awarded 18-0 to the non offending team. If the non-offending team is ahead, then the score stands  Section 25  To clarify some of the rearrangement rules.  Primary age groups to revert to the 2 postponement rule |  |
| **10** | **Questions/Answers**  *Will 6s be allowed to play with 7s?* Yes, however this should be seen as a temporary measure, they will be forced to split when the older ones are permitted to introduce contact. We recommend that you split them as soon as you can, and don’t wait until they are forced to split. At that point dispensation will NOT be given just because players have settled in to that team and made friends.  *Will the multiple games per week rule affect those playing tag?* Why would they need to play multiple games – we will only give one fixture per week.  *Can Under 16s play with 18s?* Only players that have reached their 16th birthday will be able to play in the 18s.  *Can players now register?* Yes, the links went out in December – if anyone needs them let me know and I will resend.  *Has the decision on 7s being able to play with 8s changed? It was on the list as being ok.* This was an error, and the DOB listings were updated within a couple of days.  *At what age can players play Open Age?* Same as 2024, when they are Under 17s. |  |
| **11** | **Close AGM 9.29pm** |  |