

25th November 2024

Anthony Axford North West Cricket League

Abridged Minutes of the Second AGM
Held at Brinscall C.C.

Apologies; Astley Bridge, JH (FSC), Read, Callum Clarke.

Attending; BS (Chair), PA, MB,TB, FH, KK, GM, AS, RS, RT, clubs with the exceptions of Atherton, Barrowford, Barnoldswick, and Kearsley.

Minutes of the Previous AGM; These had been circulated previously.

President's Remarks; Mr. Hinks congratulated the trophy winners, and thanked the Executive members. 2024 had been a successful season and looking forward he hoped 2025 would be an equal success.

Chair's Remarks;

The season did not get off to a great start with the poor weather over the winter making the preparation of grounds for the start of the season impractical and the decision being made to put the season back by two weeks, this proved to be a good decision that was later followed by other Leagues.

Despite the seemingly poor weather, we had very few matches called off, only one in the Premiership and three in the Championship. Saturday's weather was better than Sundays for some reason, however we managed to get all the Cup Finals completed on the dates scheduled other than the Birchall Cup for the Third Teams which was completed at the second time of asking.

Congratulations to all our League and Cup Winners and those that have secured promotion.

Congratulations to Little Lever and Lostock for their progress in the Lancashire KO Cup and ECB 20/20 Competition.

The presentation evening at Accrington Stanley last week was well attended and once again the food and venue were excellent. Congratulations to all the individual winners of the trophies.

Many thanks to particularly Mike, Simon and Tracey for ensuring that the night went smoothly and was so enjoyable.

The League, both Senior and Junior, do not function without a huge amount of work by the League Executive and the Junior League Committee.

I therefore on your behalf thank all those involved in running the League. Special thanks to Kevin Boyle who is standing down as the League Disciplinary Officer after several years of doing sterling work in that role for both the Ribblesdale League and the NWCL.

Many thanks to our sponsors, particularly our main League sponsor, Anthony Axford.

As we look forward to the 2025 season, the Premiership and Championship will consist of 22 teams, 12 in the Premiership and 10 in the Championship.

The League is looking for Clubs to join the League to get the Premiership/Championship back up to 24 teams and also to increase the number of teams in the Conferences, with 36 looking to be an ideal number, with three Divisions of 12.

Tracey has already done a huge amount of work of the fixtures, this is a massive task when you consider the number of Divisions, the various Cup competition, as soon as they are finalised, they will be circulated and put on the web site.

Treasurer's Report; The income and expenditure account up to 31st October 2024 was distributed. Clubs were thanked for their prompt payment of invoices. Invoices for the Presentation night and league subscriptions will be sent to clubs in March. It was agreed subscriptions would remain the same. Anthony Axford Ltd are continuing as our main sponsor and we are seeking sponsors of our cup competitions. This will be Mike's last year as Treasurer.

Discipline Report; This had been given at the last meeting.

Umpires' Report; Mrs Knott thanked the captains for their reports, which had helped form the basis for the training days. She said it was good to read positive as well as negative reports. Last season we recruited seven new umpires and hoped to add to this after the course at Bolton Indians C.C. on 18th January. It is hoped for a better attendance at an umpires / captains meeting in the new year.

Registration Report; See separate download.

EDI and Safeguarding Report; Ms. Slinger said that there were no outstanding issues, and of the few that had been brought to the League's attention most were relating to Social Media.

Grounds and Facilities Report; See separate download.

Junior Report; Next season's inter league will be similar to 2024, Under 12 to Under 17, the only difference being Under 17 matches will be midweek. The County are no longer running Under 11 competitions, but negotiations are taking place between individual leagues. Inter League training will commence in January. Bradshaw and Brinscall juniors were accepted at NWCL members at the junior AGM and Dave Cross from Little Lever will be joining the Junior Executive. Pink instead of red balls will be used in 2025. There will be a girls inter league Under 14 team, and locally Under 13 softball competitions and 14 - 16 hardball, with a possibility of Under 9s.

Clubs may combine to form girls teams. If you have a small number of girls interested in playing, contact Tracey and she will liaise with other clubs. Clubs interested in staging the Under 21 match against the MCC on 6th August should contact Tracey. The League will cover all expenses. £590 was raised for junior cricket at the Senior Presentation.

Proposed Rule Changes; Those relating to rule proposal procedures, rain affected games in the Conference section, all no balls resulting in a free hit, umpires being required to be present at the ground 45 minutes before the commencement of play, and the process concerning the early calling off of matches were carried. Amendments to the rules will be highlighted on the Website.

Election of Officers; With the exception of Kevin Holt replacing Kevin Boyle as Disciplinary Officer, the Executive were re-elected en bloc.