

24th November 2025

Anthony Axford North West Cricket League

Minutes of the AGM

Held at Brinscall C.C.

Apologies; Bill Slinger, Callum Clarke, Karen Knott, Andy Scambler, Astley Bridge and Read.

Present; Barnoldswick, Baxenden, Blackrod, Brinscall, Burnley Beldevere, Chatburn, Cherry Tree, Eagley, Earby, Farnworth, Feniscowles, Foulridge, Little Lever, Lostock, Oswaldtwistle Immanuel, Padiham, Read, Ribblesdale Wanderers, Salesbury, Tonge, Walkden, PA (Chair), MB, TB, KH, MS, RS, and RT.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM; These had been circulated and were agreed to be a correct record. There were no matters arising.

President's Remarks; Frank Hinks said he felt the League was stabilising and moving forward, although some rules required tweaking. The standard of cricket and umpiring was good, but some grounds require improvement.

Chair's Remarks; Separate item at the end of the minutes. The 2026 season will start on 18th April and end on the weekend of 12th September. Proposals for the future structure of our divisions are contained in the November Newsletter.

Finance; The audited accounts will be available at the next full meeting. Mike Bridges thanked our sponsors adding there are still sponsorship opportunities, and thanked clubs for their prompt payments. He also paid tribute his colleagues on the Executive for their support.

Umpires; Coverage over the season had been good, with a minimum of two umpires in the Premier and Championship leagues and at least one in the other divisions. For one more season Mike Bridges will be the Fixture Secretary.

Registrations; Although he is standing down as Registrations Secretary, Callum Clarke will be available for any urgent professional or overseas amateur queries until a replacement is found. Clubs are reminded it is their responsibility to ensure players from overseas meet the rules and regulations set by the NWCL, ECB and UKBA. Phil Andrews thanked Callum for his work, both with the Ribblesdale League and NWCL and hoped he would be available as a consultant to the Executive in the future.

Discipline; Kev Holt reported that there had been a slight increase in the number of disciplinary cases, especially in the second half of the season. He said that discipline needs tightening both at club and league level.

EDI and Safeguarding; Rebecca Slinger said there had been 33 EDI or Safeguarding reports covering junior and senior cricket. While this is an increase on previous years, this is not necessarily a negative as it demonstrates more incidents are being reported. The LCF are updating their reporting strategies,

and forms sent to the LCF should be copied to Rebecca. Club Safeguarding officers should not use their club's generic email for EDI and Safeguarding cases.

Juniors; Matt Seigne said it had been an outstanding season, partly due to the good weather. There were 17 clubs involved with eight inter league teams for boys and girls. Over 500 matches had been played with a wide range of winners in the league and cup competitions. Several clubs had expanded their junior sections with 'B' teams and girls teams. The Presentation Evening had been a success. The girls' teams had won their U15 and U13 inter league divisions and a dozen boys had represented the county at various age groups. The Junior Executive meetings had been constructive, and Tracey was thanked for all her work.

Grounds and Facilities; A form will be sent to clubs in the near future.

Voting on Proposed Rule Changes; It was agreed clearer guidance is required for proxy votes.

1.11.1 (Amended proposal) - Scorers - Passed 12 to 7

10.2 (Amended proposal) - 12.30 start time in September - Passed 17 to 0

10. 21 (Amended proposal) - Fewer than 20 overs - Passed 19 to 0

4 C & D - Possibility of new clubs starting in the Premier division - Passed 8 to 6

10.24 - Bonus points - Failed 12 to 7

14.6 - League placing on equal points - Passed 17 to 0

18.7 - Development Division Eligibility - Passed 6 to 5

Election of Officers; It was agreed Mark Graham would replace Mike Bridges as Secretary. Callum Clarke is standing down. The Executive were then elected en-bloc. It was proposed by the Chair and Seconded by the Secretary that Mike Bridges be appointed Vice-President for his work with the Ribblesdale League and NWCL, the proposal was approved unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks

Firstly, apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, I am currently out of the Country.

Unlike the previous season when we had to put back the start of the season due to grounds being too wet to get on, this season even in April we had Club grounds staff saying we needed some rain!!

Overall the good weather continued until late in the season, when unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worse and washed out

the last weekend completely when most titles, promotion and relegation issues were still to be decided.

We had an excellent presentation evening at Accrington Stanley FC last week, many thanks to all those involved in the organisation of the event.

Congratulations to the Clubs and players who won any League, Cup or were successful in gaining promotion as well as to the players who won individual awards.

Many thanks to the members of the League Executive for their work on behalf of the League and Clubs throughout the year, much of this work goes on behind the season but without which the League would not function.

Many thanks to the Umpires and Scores throughout the season and the NWCLOA for their role in supporting and developing Umpires/Scorers.

In the coming season we have five teams representing the League in the Lancashire Knock Out Cup and lets hope one of our teams can go one better and reach the Final after Salesbury were denied a Final appearance this season in a nail biting bowl out.

The League Executive spent a lot of time looking at the format of the League and Cup Programme for the 2026 season, which needed to take into account Whalley joining the Northern League.

The format looks to give all Clubs in the Premiership, Championship and Conferences the optimum number of fixtures that can be played looking to keep as much League Cricket on Saturday's as is possible given the odd number of teams in each Division which necessitates some free dates.

It only remains for me to wish all Clubs, Players, Officials, Umpires and Scorers a short winter and best wishes for the festive season.

Best wishes,
Bill