

Sussex R.F.U. Youth Management Group

West Sussex Clubs' Forum

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 17th September 2009.

PRESENT: Darren Lee (Horsham); Ian Jackson (Horsham); Steve Searle (U13/14 Leagues Organiser); Steve Briscoe (U15/16 Leagues Organiser); David Hooker (Chairman, Sussex YMG); David Beglan (Chairman).

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming those present and in particular Darren Lee, Ian Jackson, Steve Searle and David Hooker, who were attending their first West Forum Meeting. **Despite the apologies (noted below) it was regretted that there was so poor a showing from the Club Representatives (only Horsham managed to attend). Although there are many demands on people's time, it was thought that a greater effort could be made to send representation to the Forum. The note on Page 81 in the 2009 County Handbook is drawn to your attention.**

1). APOLOGIES had been received from Duncan Bennett (Chichester); Mike Richardson (Colts Leagues Organiser); Darryll Lamb (Crawley); Gary Ansell (Shoreham); Adam Tunesi (Hove); Mick Black (Crawley).

2). The Minutes of the Meeting of 26th March had been circulated and there were no corrections.

3). There were no matters arising from those Minutes, which did not form part of the Agenda.

4). Correspondence.

It was noted that new arrangements for CRB checks meant that one check would cover all eventualities and it was thought that this would be operational from 1st October 2009.

5). Youth Leagues.

a). Steve Searle reported that the Sussex Website now agreed with the fixtures lists that he had received when he took over the position of U13/14 League Organiser.

b). Steve Briscoe added a reminder that results must be submitted, by both teams, as soon as possible after matches had been played. There was a problem with results sent via Rugby First, which, apparently, does not recognise combined teams (e.g. Seaford and Hellingly) or Club's "B" teams. As long as the Sussex Website shows the results, all should be well. There had been complaints about League matches being organised within the School holidays/half term. Steve Briscoe explained that the Structured Season is restrictive. It is hoped that all the South Eastern Counties will arrange their Structured Seasons in the same manner, so that League matches fall on the same dates throughout the area, solving the problem of County matches escaping from their slot in the Structured Season. Steve Searle enquired if it was the job of League Organisers to check lists of Clubs' "A" list squads and Steve Briscoe said that Organisers should hold this information.

c). In his email of apology for absence, Mike Richardson had mentioned that two "B" teams had already dropped out of the Colts League (U17). David Hooker suggested that, in future, the "B" Leagues at Colts should start with more teams than the "A" group, to allow for drop-outs.

6). Mini matters.

The venues and dates for Mini Festivals are shown in the County Handbook. The County Minis Festival (West) will be held at Crawley RFC on 14th March 2010. (The East Festival is scheduled to take place at Eastbourne RFC on the same day). The winners at each age group will meet in the Sussex Finals at Pulborough RFC on 11th April. The matter of players being allowed to "play down" in age group should be referred to Kevin Blakiston. Ian Jackson suggested that it seemed that the draw for groups at some festivals was adjusted to allow possibly unfair advantages to certain clubs. The Chairman pointed out that the Forum could not interfere with festivals organised by individual clubs but that, for the Sussex Festival, the draws for groups should be seen to be fairly made. The problem of resolving drawn matches by a coin toss was raised. This has been referred to Kevin for his decision but several points were made. The Chairman favoured the suggestion that, in the event of a drawn final, the scorers of the first try in that match should be declared the winners. Other suggestions regarding a count back of tries were made but this was seen to be difficult in the event of uneven groups. Steve Searle mentioned that the use of the "first try ruling" was used in France and worked well.

7). Other business.

a). County U14 Development Squad. Steve Searle asked if anyone knew what was happening about this and David Hooker said that the whole matter is on ice, while Steve Briscoe said that he was referring all enquirers to the contact named on the Sussex Website. David Hooker offered to follow up the matter of the U14 County Squad and to advise the outcome of his enquiries.

b). Ian Jackson referred to schools that prevented their students playing for clubs on Sundays. This is a perennial problem that is not easily solved. The matter of overplaying comes into the question.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9-05 p.m.

The following dates have been agreed for the remaining West Forum meetings for this Season. Please would Clubs try to avoid holding conflicting meetings on these dates, thus allowing their representatives to attend the Forum.

Thursday, 19th November 2009,

Thursday, 7th January 2010,

Thursday, 25th March 2010.

All the above would be held at Horsham RFC at 8-00 p.m.

The West Forum expresses thanks to Horsham RFC for their hospitality.

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