

 **WRGFL MEETING MINUTES**

 **MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**1. Chairperson – Welcome**Craig Webb (CW) Chairperson of the WRGFL welcomed all Clubs to the meeting and went through the agenda for the evening.

 **2. Roll Call**CW took the roll call of Clubs. The following Clubs were in attendance.

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| Ackworth Girls FC | Kellingley Welfare JFC |
| Allerton FC | Kirkheaton Youth FC |
| Altofts Juniors FC | Kirkstall Crusaders |
| Amaranth Crossgates FC | Knaresborugh Celtic JFC |
| Battyeford Sporting Club | Leeds 28 FC |
| Beacon Rangers JFC | Leeds City Juniors FC |
| Beeston Juniors FC | Lepton Highlanders FC |
| Bolton Woods JFC | Linthwaite Football Club |
| Bradford City Girls FC | Littletown FC |
| Bramley Amigos | LS27 FC |
| Bramley Phoenix FC | Methley United AFC |
| Brayton Belles | Middleton Park FC |
| Brighouse Juniors FC | Morley Glen Juniors |
| Brighouse Town AFC | Norristhorpe Junior FC |
| Calverley United JFC | North East Leeds JFC |
| Carlton Athletic Girls FC | Ossett Town Juniors FC |
| Castleford Town | Ovenden West Riding Juniors AFC |
| Castleford White Rose LFC | Pinfold Pumas JFC |
| Clifton Rangers YFC | Pontefract Collieries FC |
| Colton Juniors | Pontefract Wildcats GFC |
| Crossley NHFC | Pudsey Juniors AFC |
| Drighlington Juniors | Queensbury Celtic FC |
| Durkar Girls FC | Rothwell Juniors |
| Eldwick Juniors FC | Rothwell Town AFC |
| Farsley Celtic FC | Ryburn United Women FC |
| Farsley Celtic Juniors FC | Scotton Scorchers JFC |
| FC Pontefract | Silsden AFC Juniors |
| Featherstone Flyers FC | Skelmanthorpe United JFC |
| Forza Football Girls | Thackley Juniors 2003 FC |
| Garforth Rangers AFC | The Hunslet Club |
| Garforth Villa FC | Thornes Juniors |
| Gildersome Spurs JFC | Thornhill AFC |
| Golcar United | Thorpe Giants JFC |
| Gomersal & Cleckheaton FC | Tingley Athletic FC |
| Goole Town Tigers JFC | Wakefield City JFC |
| Greetland FC | Wakefield Owls |
| Guiseley Juniors FC | Waklefield Jets FC |
| Halifax FC Women | West End Terriers FC |
| Harrogate Railway JFC | Westend FC |
| Hebden Bridge Saints JAFC | Wetherby Athletic JFC |
| Holbeck Moor JFC | Wigton Moor JFC |
| Horsforth Juniors FC | Woodlanders FC |
| Horsforth St Margarets FC | Wortley FC |
| Howden Clough JFC | Wrenthorpe Rangers FC |
| Huddersfield United FC | Wyke Wanderers FC |
| Ilkley Town AFC |  |

The following Clubs were not in attendance and will be fined as per SCORY, £25.00.

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| Brodsworth Welfare AFC | Shadwell United FC |
| Crofton Juniors AFC | Sherburn White Rose FC |
| Howden AFC | Sporting Leeds FC |
| Marsden Football Club | Stanningley Albion Juniors FC |
| Ossett Albion Juniors FC | Woodkirk Valley FC |

 **3. Secretary’s Report**

The WRGFL Secretary Russ Clarke (RC) wished all teams the best of luck for the 2023/2024 season. He asked that all teams played fair and within the SCORY rules.

RC noted that season 2022/2023 saw a massive increase in poor behaviour/misconduct of Managers/Coaches, parents, and players within the WRGFL. RC sincerely hoped that the upcoming season would see an improvement.

RC wanted Clubs to be aware that the FA have brought in new disciplinary procedures for the upcoming season which will see teams deducted points for serious misconduct and any repeat offences, that would be across the board, it doesn’t matter whether the offence/misconduct was a manager/coach, player or parent the end result would be the same.

RC reminded Clubs that Saturday 30 September 2023 was play safe weekend. All Clubs should have received their captains’ armbands and pin badges for managers/Coaches. It would be fantastic to see a strong showing from our teams. He said that If teams had not applied and still wished to be involved, he understand the County FA still had a limited stock of armbands and pin badges. RC confirmed the County may not have that many so get in touch quickly.

Manchester FA Cups – RC stated that a number of WRGFL Clubs had entered their teams into the Manchester FA Cups for the coming season. RC confirmed that firstly, teams needed to request permission from the WRGFL to enter any competition outside of the WRGFL’s own Cups and WRCFA County Cups. He hoped the games would be played on a Sunday as no league games would be postponed to allow teams to play in the Manchester FA Cups. The WRGFL would be contacting those Clubs who had entered teams individually.

RC went on to say that the WRGFL had only closed 3 Saturday’s during season 2023/2024, those Saturdays were 23 and 30 December 2023 and 30 March 2024 (Easter). No games would be scheduled on those dates. RC also confirmed that the WRGFL had published fixtures over all half-term breaks, but teams would be able to postpone games at half-terms where squad members were missing. RC Asked teams not to postpone a game because a star striker or goalkeeper was away. Outside of the closed dates and half terms there would be no acceptable reason for a postponement other than County Cup, WRGFL knockout competition clashes or players taking part in school activities.

Teams that would have players missing through-out Ramadan were asked to contact RC as soon as possible so the WRGFL could rearrange their fixtures outside of Ramadan dates.

RC explained that the WRGFL was still to get a link to the postponement form onto the new website but this would be up and running before the season started. If teams were postponing a game a postponement form should be completed. If a postponement form was not completed and a game not played the defaulting team would be fined as per the SCORY tariff.

RC confirmed the new WRGFL website was [www.wrgfl.org](http://www.wrgfl.org), or you could use [www.wrgfl.org.uk](http://www.wrgfl.org.uk). He asked that the website was used. Managers Contact details would be accessible via the website, all that was needed to access the Manager Contact details was to scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on the link.

Sunday teams – RC stated there would be 4 teams in the WRGFL who played home games on a Sunday. As per the agreement made when the WRGFL became a Saturday League those teams would be able to see out their journey in the WRGFL playing home games on a Sunday. Teams in the Divisions the Sunday teams were in should make a note and prepare parents early for the Sunday games. The Sunday teams would play away games on a Saturday. The Sunday teams would have Sunday in Brackets next to their name on FA Full-Time to allow teams to spot them early. Teams, Wortley Girls U17 and U14, Woodlanders U17 and Colton Juniors U15.

RC let Clubs know that Cup Semi-Finals at U9, U10, U11 and U12 would be played a central venue again during season 2023/2024. RC asked any Clubs happy to host Semi-Finals to contact him as soon as possible. The WRGFL would then have plenty of time to make the Semi-Final venues as close to those Semi-Finalists as possible. RC asked Clubs wishing to have a chat about hosting the Semi-Finals to give him a call on 07715991665.

RC confirmed that sadly there would be no Galas at U7 and U8 during season 2023/2024. The support for these had been poor in the last couple of seasons and the costs of hiring A1 did not stack up for the few teams that attend. It was a real shame as the Galas have been a real stepping stone for girls coming into the game at U7 and U8.

Cup/Shield/Plate round dates were 30 September, 25 November, 16 December 2023, 27 January, 24 February, and 20 April 2024. Those dates would have league fixtures published on them so teams should make sure they are aware if they made it through a round to be aware of the next round date. Cup/Shield/Plate games would take precedence and would be played before a league game. The County Cup would be played ahead of Cup/Shield/Plate and league games.

**4. League Welfare Officers Report**
Stacey Timlin (ST) confirmed that having briefed a new way of working and reporting welfare concerns last February, the WRGFL had had some great successes with clubs liaising with each other discussing standard welfare issues. This had been great to see and ST thanked all Clubs. ST thanked Club WO for embracing the changes and hoped they could see the benefit.

ST said that there would be no change to the way the WRGFL was currently working. ST would be sending the process out to all Club Welfare Officers again in the coming days.

ST asked Clubs to please ensure their Club Welfare Officers details were all correct on WGS and the WRGFL Club Portal, there was nothing worse for ST or a CWO than sending out important communications to just get a kick back saying a person was no longer the CWO at a particular Club. ST emphasised how important it was that the correct CWO details were available for Club-to-Club contact and WRGFL to Club contact, especially when there were concerns raised.

ST said she was looking forward to the new season ahead, working in partnership with all Clubs to create a safe and sustainable playing, coaching and spectator environment for everyone to thrive in.

ST asked Clubs to let any new CWO’s who would like some support getting up and running to pass her contact details on to them, she was always happy to support where she could.

 **5. Fixture Secretary’s Report (to include U7-U11 Division Report)**
RC confirmed that all Divisions and league fixtures had been published. All requests made after the initial draft publication had been dealt with and either accepted and amendments made or not accepted and the placing in questions left. There were a couple of late requests where teams had agreed to swap divisions which were still to be looked at. Other than those requests, what had been published was the new WRGFL constitution.

RC noted that Sunday teams would have their fixture dates changed before the season kicked off.

As noted previously games could only be postponed if teams had a County Cup clash or teams had players taking part in a school activity. If a team was postponing a game, that team needed to send in a Postponement Form, teams should not try to postpone a game with their opposition until the WRGFL had agreed to that postponement. If a game was postponed and no postponement form was received by the close of play on the Saturday of the game a fine would be imposed on the defaulting team. Even if a team was not the team postponing, they should send in a Postponement Form as soon as they had been informed a game was not going ahead.

RC confirmed he would be looking after all fixtures in the U7 to U11 age groups as well as all knock-out competitions. Any queries in relation to fixtures in those age groups or the knock-out competitions should go to him – 07715991665, wrgflsecretary@gmail.com.

 **6. 12/U13 Fixture Secretary’s Report**

Rob introduced himself to the League Council and said he was looking forward to the 2023/2024 season. He would do his best to make sure fixtures were kept up to date. Robs contact details were on the website.

**7. U14/U15 Fixture Secretary’s Report**

There was no report from Carl Ridyard the U14/U15 Fixtures Secretary.

 **8. U16/U17 Fixture Secretary’s Report**

Wayne introduced himself to the League Council. Wayne noted that all league fixtures were up to date on FA Full-Time and that all Clubs who had requested moves had been accommodated where possible. Sunday teams now had their games showing on a Sunday rather than the default Saturday dates.

 **9. U18 Fixture Secretary’s Report**

CW had nothing to report but confirmed he was looking forward to the 2023/2024 season. If any Clubs needed anything they should get in touch with him.

**10. Registration Secretary’s Report**

Catrin Ridyard was unable to attend the meeting due to illness so there was no report.

**11. Referee Secretary’s Report**

There was no report from Carl Ridyard the Referee Secretary

**12. WRCLGS Report**

James Todd (JT) introduced himself to the League Council and gave a little bit of background on himself, he told those attending that he had coached at Guiseley Juniors from 2009-2021 and had been the girls coaches mentor there for the last 6 years. He joined the WRGFL Committee in March 2023 as a Development Officer/Centre Manager for the County Representative teams.

JT noted that after a break of several years the WRGFL had reintroduced its County Leagues Representative Squads for season 2022-23, those squads had been led by Russ Clarke & Steve Conboy, with teams at U12/U14 and U16.

JT confirmed that for season 2023/2024 the squads had been expanded to squads at U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15 and U17.  From season 2024/2025 squads would only be run at U10-U15 to fall in line with the England Talent Pathway.

Trials for the squads had been held over a 4-week period in June 2023, the trials had attracted over 500 players for the 54 places that had been available. JT confirmed that, including those successful trialists and those players in their second year in the Counties set up, the WRGFL had 110 girls representing the West Riding Counties League Squads. Those players involved were from many different leagues in the West Riding.

JT noted that trials would be held again in 2024 for the U10, U14 and U15 squads and potentially to replace any players who decided not to continue in other age groups or had the opportunity to progress up the talent pathway.  JT asked all Clubs to support the trials and promote them within their clubs.

JT wanted all Member Clubs to be assured that The West Riding Girls Counties Leagues Squads wanted to work in collaboration with them to ensure that players were available to their clubs. Training and the majority of matches would be on Sunday evenings, with occasional games on Fridays so as not to conflict with league fixtures.

There was a dedicated section on the website ([www.wrgfl.org](http://www.wrgfl.org)) where match reports would be published and also where details of the 2024 trials would be posted.

Alex (AM) had nothing to add other than introducing himself and confirming what had been said by JT.

 **13. FA Future Lionesses Report**

RC confirmed that the FA Future Lionesses Centres would be running again in 2023/2024. The Centres were part of the England Talent Pathway. Goalkeepers wishing to be part of the FA Future Lionesses could either join the Grassroots Centres in Leeds, Trinity Academy or West Riding County FA by applying via the application form or contacting RC himself. To attend the High Performance Centre goalkeepers had to be invited via the centre or through the Discover my Talent route.

**14. Social Media/Website Update**

Robert Leek (RL) introduced himself and gave a little background. He had coached in grassroots for three years, the last year working alongside Wayne Lockwood at Norristhorpe Juniors coaching the U16 girls’ team.

RL confirmed his role would be to update the website while promoting the league across Facebook,

Twitter and Instagram.

The ‘Contact us’ tab was now updated to include all committee members and their contact details.

The ‘WRGFL Clubs’ tab had been updated to include all links to Club website/social media

pages. RL asked all Clubs to check these in case they were linked to old sites/social media

pages. If they needed changing RL asked Clubs to drop him an email and he would get them updated.

The plan for the ‘News Page updates’ on the website was for all posts on there to be

published on the social media channels also.

The WRGFL would be using the hashtag #WRGFL on all their social media posts, RL asked that Clubs

also use it when promoting their own Clubs and teams, that would be great in helping the

WRGFL increase engagement on social media across the county. RL Also asked Clubs to feel free to @ us in any Club social media posts and the WRGFL would like them to increase engagement across Clubs own social media channels.

 **15. AOB**
There was no AOB.