**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 15th October 2020**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Dave Copeland, Emma Collins, Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson,

Sean Rooks (League Treasurer), John Topping - DFA, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Frank Thompson, Malcolm Langley, Dani Maguire-Myers, Matthew Malton,

George McKitterick, Kevin McKitterick, Joe Partridge.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

1. **Minutes of the last management meeting** - The minutes of management meeting held via zoom video conference on Tuesday 22nd September 2020, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Correspondence;**

* **County Cup competitions** - Reply from Durham FA to letter requesting the cancellation of the County Cup Competitions, advising that the Sunderland Shipowners Cup, Monkwearmouth Charity Cup and Alan Hood Charity Cup have already been sanctioned for season 2020 - 2021. John Topping did give permission for clubs to opt out.
* **NLS Administration Grant** - Letter from Laurence Jones, Head of National League System advising that the National Game Finance Committee have awarded the League an **administration grant** of £3,000. As a result of the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, The FA will not be in a position to make any awards in relation to development grants for the 2020 - 2021 season.
* **AFC Durham v Hurworth - 8/10/2020 - match postponed at Downhill Hub.** - Referee Gavin Leadbitter reported that with 87 minutes played, and an additional 3 racked up to play, the Downhill Hub turned the lights off (9.00pm) so, due to nil vision, he had no option but to blow the final whistle. A player from AFC Durham went in to ask for the lights to be put back on, which he did not realise, and they were but Hurworth Albion were already changing and within a few minutes they were changed and leaving. With the score at the time 5-3 to AFC Durham, the decision of the management committee was that the result stands.
* **Gateshead Leam Rangers v Windscale - 14/10/2020 - postponement of fixture** - email from Anthony Huddart, Chairman of Gateshead Leam Rangers, received 13th October informing that they are not in a position to travel to Windscale the following night to fulfil the fixture. Michael Jeffries, representing the club, linked in to the meeting and presented their case, informing of the concerns of the Chairman, himself and the players, some of which had previously been shielding over the previous weeks, as well as officials of the club regarding travelling to Windscale for the midweek fixture in this present climate, and also the circumstances surrounding transport and the regulations imposed regarding travelling by the FA in view of Covid-19.

Following lengthy deliberation, the decision of the management committee was that league rules be applied resulting in the club being fined **£150**, as per the league’s fine tariff relating to league rule 20(E)(i)., and the fixture to be rearranged at a later date. It was decided that the £150 fine be **suspended until the end of the season**.

1. **Equalisation Scheme** - Kevin informed the meeting that he would be looking to re-introduce the Equalisation scheme this season after it was cancelled last season due to the early enforced season closure by the FA as a result of Covid-19. The scheme will stand when the season comes to an end on whatever date even if the season has to be curtailed due to the current virus situation. The management committee agreed for it to go ahead. Kevin will send out an updated sheet at the end of each month games.
2. **A.O.B.**

* **Doxford Park FC** - League Treasurer Sean Rooks informed the meeting that he had contacted second division club Doxford Park FC on several occasions requesting payment of their league fees. They did not reply to his last email and, as at today’s date, payment has not been received. It was agreed that Mick would write to them with an instruction that should payment not be received within 7 days of his letter the club will face suspension from the league.
* **Registrations and Transfers** - League Registration Secretary Dave Copeland reported that he was receiving lots of calls, especially from the new teams in the second division, about the basic processes regarding registrations and transfers and felt that a number of clubs needed training. Peter stated that he would put something together and get it out to all clubs.
* **Second Division** - Kevin reported that the league would need to make a decision on whether clubs in the second division are to play each other twice. He would be reviewing it with Steve Futers, the second division fixture secretary, after six months. If a number of clubs look like finishing their fixtures early the league would consider playing cup games towards the end of the season.
* **Management Committee WhatsApp page** - League Treasurer Sean Rooks asked if the league could set up a WhatsApp page for committee members in order to make it easier for him to communicate with everyone. His request was granted, and Peter agreed to set one up as soon as possible.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.58pm.