**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

 **Tuesday 22nd September 2020**

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

**Present:** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Frank Thompson,

Brian Hammond, Emma Collins, Gordon Mason, Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson,

Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Phil Tye, Sean Rooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Dave Copeland, Malcolm Langley, Dani Maguire-Myers, Matthew Malton,

George McKitterick, Kevin McKitterick, Joe Partridge, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

1. **Minutes of last meetings** - The minutes of the meetings held via zoom video conference on; Saturday 23rd May, Wednesday 24th June, Sunday 26th July, Sunday 9th August, and Tuesday 18th August 2020, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Coxhoe v Washington Utd - 2/9/2020 - Referee Match Report** - Referee Victoria Davison informed the league that the game had to be finished 4 minutes early due to bad light with the score at 2-2. The management committee agreed that the result stands.
3. **Simonside v Washington AFC Res. - 2/9/2020 - Referee Match Report** - Referee Joe Robinson reported that the game was stopped 73 minutes in due to a lack of light. Kevin informed the meeting that he had enquired as to why and was informed that both teams had arranged to kick off at 6.45pm. The score at the final whistle was 7-1 to Washington. With both teams in agreement, the management committee approved that the result stands.
4. **Darlington v Annfield Plain - 15/9/2020 - Match off - Annfield Plain failing to field a team** - Following their 16-0 defeat to Horden Community Welfare on Saturday 12th September, the league secretary was informed on 14th September that the manager of Annfield Plain and the players had left the club, and that Annfield Plain cannot field a team for the fixture on Tuesday 15th away to Darlington resulting in the game not going ahead. League Secretary Kevin spoke to Marshall Lawson, club secretary for Annfield Plain, and was informed that 9 of the players that played on Saturday 19th September had signed on the Thursday prior to Saturday’s game. Correspondence, dated 15th September, including extracts from Annfield Plain’s Twitter page, was received from Norman Stephens, Chairman / Secretary of Darlington Town Football Club , relating to the situation at Annfield Plain, and read out to the committee. Lengthy discussion then followed on what punishment option should be levied on Annfield Plain and 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. No points to be deducted. It was decided that the £150 fine be **suspended until the end of the season**. Should the club be responsible for a future unfulfilled league fixture, the above fine will be added to any fine levied in relation to that fixture.
5. **Shotton Colliery v AFC Durham - 19/9/2020 - Match Off - AFC Durham unable to field a team** – Correspondence received from Stephen Stratton, club secretary of AFC Durham, requesting a postponement of the above fixture due to a number of his players self-isolating, some quarantining on returning from holiday, injuries, and work commitments, resulting in not having enough players available to play. Kevin contacted Stephen and advised him that if he could not field a team then the game will have to be called off and give his opponent as much notice as possible. Stephen confirmed that they are definitely not going to be able to field a team on Saturday and will contact Shotton Colliery. It was agreed that no further action be taken.
6. **Durham City AFC - illegal approach** - Correspondence received from Washington United FC regarding the illegal approach by Durham City AFC for 2 players, Gisel Gil and Mounir Bousiri, who had contacted Cameron Thompson, first team manager, and told him that they were leaving the club to join Durham AFC. The correspondence outlined the full sequence of events which were then brought to the attention of League Chairman Peter Maguire. Peter updated the committee informing that he had spoken to Cameron Thompson at Washington explaining the correct procedure regarding transfers and gave advice on the clubs next steps. The situation has now been resolved and no further action taken.
7. **Horden CW v Darlington Town - Referee’s Match Report** - Referee Kevin McKitterick submitted his match report which informed that he was reporting Darlington Town to both the league and DFA. This was because his assistant, Nathan Godfrey, had been the subject of foul and abusive language by someone from their club, who when approached and asked if they were an official or player of the club, replied “I am a supporter”. As the person was wearing club attire he was asked to leave, which he did. Despite requesting a name from Darlington this was refused. We await the outcome from Durham FA.
8. **Covid situation re Postponements** - Kevin informed the meeting that he had been contacted by a number of clubs reporting that some of their players were having to self-isolate because of Covid resulting in requests to have games called off, sometimes at late notice. He was having to take their word for it and have the games rearranged.
9. **Fixture situation** - Kevin reported that any future call offs will cause problems with the fixtures. Things are ok at the moment, but should the situation continue the league would seriously consider teams only playing each other once. This would apply to both divisions.
10. **4G Hubs** - Kevin informed the meeting that the league has hired the use of 4G pitches at both Downhill and Ford Quarry Hubs, which is a level 6 facility, for midweek games. Tuesday nights for 1st Division clubs, hopefully not more than 2 night, with the overflow for Division 2 clubs. QR Posters will be on display at the Hubs following an urgent circular received today from the FA instructing clubs that they must register for an official NHS QR code and display the official NHS QR poster from 24th September 2020. Kevin will write to all clubs and circulate the advice.
11. **County Cups** - Discussion took place regarding County Cup competitions and it was proposed and agreed that Kevin would write to John Topping, DFA County Secretary, to request the cancellation of the County Cup competition in an effort to limit the number of games for clubs.
12. **A.O.B.**
* **League Current A’c.** - Sean Rooks, League Treasurer, informed the meeting that he had identified a different Bank, Starling bank, that would make online payments on behalf of the league easier, explaining its process. Approval was given to change over.

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