**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Saturday 23rd May 2020**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 2.00pm.**

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

Dave Copeland, Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart,

Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson, Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Malcolm Langley,

Sean Rooks, Steven Futers, Emma Collins, John Topping (DFA), Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Brian Hammond, Dani Maguire-Myers, George McKitterick, Joe Partridge,

Marshall Lawson, Matthew Malton,

The Chairman opened the webinar at 2.00pm and welcomed John Topping, Durham County FA Company Secretary, to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** - The minutes of the last management meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **2020 AGM** - League Chairman Peter Maguire informed the meeting that the AGM for the 2019-20 season will be held on Sunday 14th June 2020 via Zoom video conference, commencing at 1.00pm. He reported that there were a couple of rule change proposals submitted to be considered by the clubs and that league officials would be reviewing the current league rules for any proposed amendments. Discussions then took place regarding the possible refund of league fees to all clubs. Due to the decision by the FA to conclude the season early with all results in both league and cup competitions declared null and void, it was proposed and agreed that all current clubs would have their league fees for season 2019-20 refunded which will be used to pay the fees for the forthcoming season 2020-21.
3. **Formation of Divisions** - League Secretary Kevin Harrison reported that there is a lot of interest from clubs wishing to join the league’s second division. He had received several applications from new and established teams as well as enquiries from more clubs currently in other leagues. Due to the number of applications, the league would be looking to possibly increase the FA’s required number of 16 teams in a division at Level 7 to 18 in the first division, after promotion, and include all the new applicants into the second division. John Topping clarified the situation regarding those clubs within other leagues wanting to apply. A recommendation on the formation of the divisions, based on applications received, will be made at the AGM.
4. **A.O.B.**

Kevin Oliver (BOLDON CA) asked if there was any financial assistance available to help clubs with the upkeep of grounds to prepare for the new season. John Topping advised him and any other clubs seeking funding assistance to visit the FA’s website where clubs can apply to the Football Foundation Pitch Improvement Progamme.

John also informed the meeting that newly formed clubs should be advised to contact Durham FA where they can apply for a start-up grant of £200.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.40pm.