**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

 **Saturday 27th February 2021**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 1.00pm.**

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

Brian Hammond, Dave Copeland, Emma Collins, Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard,

Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson, Kevin McKitterick,

Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Malcolm Langley, Sean Rooks, Steve Futers,

John Topping - DFA, Malcolm Clarke - Annfield Plain FC, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Dani Maguire-Myers, George McKitterick, Marshall Lawson, Matthew Malton.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

1. **Minutes of the last management meeting** - The minutes of the management meeting held on Saturday 9th January 2021, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Correspondence.**
* **Promotion Applications** - email from the FA issuing a list of clubs from Feeder Leagues who have made application for promotion to Step 6 by December 31st 2020 alongside the 2019-20 applicants which were rolled over, including 8 clubs from our league, **Boldon CA, Chester Le Street Utd, Darlington Town FC, Durham Utd, Gateshead Leam Rangers FC, Horden Community Welfare FC, Richmond Town FC and Wolviston FC.** It advised that they can confirm that these clubs will be factored into the consideration of the feasibility study of the restructure of Steps 4-6. At this stage the process is yet to be determined, however, for the avoidance of doubt, the decision of a league to conclude their season early or extend to June will not prevent a club’s application from being considered by the FA as part of this process.
* **Charter Standard Rewards 2020/21** - email from the FA informing that the League has successfully achieved the FA’s Annual Health Check Certificate for this season 2020/21 and as a reward the league have been given a voucher for £105 to redeem Nike kit or equipment from the FA. It was decided that the voucher would be put into a draw involving all clubs with the winning club being picked out.
* **Regional NLS Feeder League Survey** - email from the FA informing that the FA Leagues Committee are looking at a wide range of topics at present including reviewing the move from Step 7 to Regional NLS Feeder Leagues. They have requested a short survey to Feeder Leagues, which Kevin has completed, to gather more insight on a local level.
* **Online Player Registration** - Letter from Durham FA advising that correspondence has been issued by the FA in relation to Online Player Registration informing that from next season, 2021/22, all player registrations have to be done on the **W**hole **G**ame **S**ystem. The FA will be hosting online training sessions to cover changes to the Online Player Registration system. Kevin has forwarded dates for the sessions to all clubs together with the booking links.

Leagues - 1st March 2:00pm and 11th March 7:00pm.

Clubs - 2nd March 7:00pm, 3rd March 7:00pm and 10th March 2:00pm.

1. **The Way Forward** - League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the meeting that, should the league resume, the earliest any fixtures would take place would be 10th April. He reported that approval has been given for the Grassroots season’s end date to be extended from May to the end of June. A number of committee members associated with clubs expressed concern at the number of games their players would be involved in due to playing for Sunday teams as well as their own team and also that the situation regarding spectators being allowed in grounds and the rules governing travel restrictions have yet to be made clear. Durham FA Secretary, John Topping, agreed to speak to the FA to get clarification on those issues and report back as soon as possible. Once that information is at hand, recommendations will be put to the clubs on a restart. The committee agreed to send out a survey to all teams seeking their view on the way forward.
2. **Enquiries to Join the League** - Kevin informed the meeting that he had received expressions of interest from at least 11 teams at the moment wishing to join the league. The league will consider operating a 3rd division as an U/23’s division for 2021/22 season, if necessary, to suit most applicants. He will write to all clubs who have expressed an interest at the end of April.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.54pm.