**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 11th March 2021**

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

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

Brian Hammond, Dave Copeland, Emma Collins, George McKitterick,

Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson,

Kevin Gibson, Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Malcolm Langley, Steve Futers,

Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Dani Maguire-Myers, Kevin McKitterick, Marshall Lawson, John Topping - DFA.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

1. **Minutes of the last management meeting** - The minutes of the management meeting held on Saturday 27th February 2021, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Results of Survey** - League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the meeting of the results of the survey issued to all clubs requesting a decision on how they wished to the season to progress (results of survey circulated to committee members to preview prior to the meeting). He gave the following summary broken down by divisions.

**1st Division** - League Null & Void = **14** For **4** Against

- Cup games = 4 Clubs did not want to take part in any further games.

The management committee discussed the 1st Division responses and upon a vote of 94% for and 6% against, it was decided that the 1st Division be declared Null & Void for the season.

Kevin reported that The F.A., subject to their proposed restructure of steps 4 to 6, will decide the criteria for any teams selected for promotion. There will be no relegations from the 1st division this season.

As an alternative to league games, the 14 clubs elected to participate in any Cup competition

being organised by the league.

The management committee, upon a vote of 88% for and 12% against, approved the request.

The league will now look to organise a cup competition based on two groups, culminating in

semi-finals and Final. Kevin advised that this is all dependant on any guidance from the F.A. and /

or Government on whether there will be any travel restrictions and if spectators will be allowed

or not. The league has been informed that a decision is expected some time next week.

**2nd Division** - League Null & Void = **5** For **11** Against

- Cup games = a few clubs did not want to take part in any further games.

The management committee, upon a vote of 81% to continue, and 19% to Null & Void, approved league fixtures continuing, subject to no travel restrictions imposed by the F.A. Fixtures continuing will enable any promotions to be decided on the field of play (subject to any vacancies). Kevin reported that there will not be any promotions from the 2nd division if the F.A. do not promote any team from the 1st division (unless there is a resignation) as the league is not allowed to have more than 18 teams in the 1st division. Teams in the 2nd division who no longer wish to continue will have their fixtures expunged, and the teams remaining will play each other once. There will be no cup competition for this division. Steve Futers, Fixture Secretary for the 2nd division, informed the meeting that he will email all second division clubs to find out if they are continuing before compiling and issuing their next set of fixtures.

Ian Stewart (Farringdon Detached FC) asked if it would be possible to bring forward the current deadline date of 31st March for registrations and transfers due to leagues higher up in the pyramid no longer playing to prevent clubs from within the league signing players from the Northern League etc. Kevin proposed that, to protect the integrity of the league, he we would look to poll all our clubs for their views.

1. **A.O.B.**

* **Charter Standard Voucher** - Kevin made the draw for the £105 Voucher which was awarded to the league by the FA to redeem Nike kit or equipment. The winning club was Durham United Reserves.
* **New Clubs** - Peter informed the meeting that he will be promoting the proposed 3rd division on the league’s Twitter page and will be looking to hold a meeting in due course with all interested clubs. It was reported that some 2nd division clubs had indicated that they would prefer to drop down to the division.
* **Equalisation Scheme** - Kevin informed the committee that, as previously advised, the Equalisation scheme will stand this season. The league Treasurer will notify clubs of the amount(s) owed to / from the league.
* **League Fees** - Ian Stewart (Farringdon Detached FC) asked, with the season for the 1st Division now declared Null and Void, and if clubs do not play any more games, will League fees be wavered for next season. Peter reported that a decision would need to be made at a meeting of the Directors.
* **League Donation** - Kevin Gibson (Boldon CA FC) asked if the league would consider making a donation to an NHS Charity as a thank you for all the work done during the Covid pandemic. Peter reported that he would speak to Sean, (league Treasurer).

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.