**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 10th March 2020**

**Held at Farringdon Youth & Community Centre, Allendale Road, Farringdon, Sunderland.**

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

George McKitterick, Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge,

Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson, Kevin McKitterick, Marshall Lawson, Emma Collins,

Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Brian Hammond, Dani Maguire-Myers, Dave Copeland, Doug Keys, Kevin Oliver, Malcolm Langley, Matthew Malton, Sean Rooks.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** - The minutes of the last management meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Correspondence.**
* **Open-age Adult Football Safeguarding Responsibilities - FA.** - Kevin informed the meeting that he had received correspondence from the FA advising that every open-age adult club is required to safeguard under 18s and where there are adult disability teams to promote safeguarding adults, across every aspect of the club. Information, guidance, templates and **D**isclosure and **B**arring **S**ervice FAQs are available via TheFA.com <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>. It advised that the relevant parent County FA will provide further communication and support for the leagues and for all grassroots clubs. He circulated a copy of the correspondence and guidance notes to all clubs advising that there is a responsibility on all clubs to comply with this if they have any players under the age of 18 years of age.
* **NLS Feeder Leagues Guide - FA** -correspondence from Matt Edkins at the FA providing an overview of the transition from Step 7 League to Feeder League status aimed at both County Associations and the Leagues themselves which comes into effect on the completion of the 2019-20 season. Existing Step 7 Leagues will automatically become recognised as Regional Feeder Leagues. A list of FAQs’ was included covering various aspects in relation to League / Club progression.
* **SCOR Rules Clarification -** **FA** - Following an enquiry from a Step 3 club (Spennymoor Town) who wish to put either a U23 team or development team in our 2nd division next season, Kevin contacted Matt Edkins at the FA to clarify if they can play contract players in the league based on the SCOR rule 18(B)(i). He received a reply back informing that ‘A contract player at a Club who has a team operating within steps 1 to 6 can play for another Team under that Club umbrella - even if this below Step 6 - providing the teams are under the same affiliation number.’
* **Coronavirus Update (4/3/2020)** - correspondence from Laurence Jones, Head of National League System, informing that the FA does not offer any advice to say not to shake hands Should teams decide to opt for an alternative method this must be conveyed to the match referee before the teams enter the field of play.
* **Rule changes AGM** - request from Ian Stewart (Farringdon Detached FC) to put forward 2 x rule changes for next season 2020/21. Firstly, regarding substitutes - that all teams be allowed to use 5 x substitutes in every game, not Roll on Roll off. and secondly regarding Bibs - Team’s management not having to wear bibs on a match day just substitutes. The management committee agreed to the first rule change request. For the second rule change Peter informed him that for it to be considered he would need another club to second the proposal and submit it before the end of May 2020 and it will be added to the AGM agenda to be voted on by the clubs.
1. **West End Reserves - failing to turn up against Norton & Stockton on 22/2/2020** - correspondence received from Paul Cracknell, Secretary of Norton & Stockton Ancients informing of the timeline of events that led up to the cancellation of the game. Keith Gill, West End Reserves Club secretary, attended the meeting and confirmed that neither of the clubs could get hold of West End’s team manager who had all the equipment, kits and finance and that a request had been made by West End to forfeit the match. Paul reported that he managed to get back to them and confirmed that they could not forfeit and would be fined by the league and would have to stand the home clubs costs for the game. Following Keith’s explanation, the management committee decided that league rules be applied whereby the club is fined **£50.00** as per the League Fines Tariff 20(E)(i). On this occasion it was agreed that the fine be **suspended until the end of the season.** As the defaulting club West End Res. were instructed, as per league rule 20(E)(i), to pay the expenses incurred by the home club which were as follows.

 Match Officials x3 (half fee plus expenses) £52.00 (£20.00 + £17.50 + £14.50).

 3G Pitch Hire - Bede Sports Centre £80.00

 Food provision by Norton CIC £30.00

 Total **£162.00**

 All charges are required to be paid **within 14 days**.

1. **Norton & Stockton Ancients - failing to field a team away to Durham Utd Res. on 7/3/2020 -** Club secretary, Paul Cracknell contacted League secretary Kevin by telephone and email on 1/3/2020 advising that he had received late notification from the players that most of the them were away for a special occasion and the club would not be able to field sufficient players that coming weekend, against Durham United Res. on 7th March 2020 and therefore have no alternative but to postpone this fixture. Kevin advised him that as the fixtures had already been issued the club will be charged with an unplayed game and he would be invited to attend the next management meeting to explain. On the eve of the meeting Paul emailed Kevin apologising that he was unable to attend so the charge was dealt with in the club’s absence. Following discussion, the committee decided that league rule be applied and that the club be fined **£50.00** as per the League Fine Tariff 20(E)(i). On this occasion it was decided that the **fine be suspended until the end of the season.** Should the club be responsible for failing to fulfil any further fixture between now and the end of the season, the above fine will be added to any further fine levied.
2. **Annfield Plain - failing to fulfil fixture away to Richmond Town on 7/3/2020** - Marshall Lawson club secretary, informed the management committee of the circumstances the led to the game being postponedand following deliberation, the decision of the 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). It was decided that on this occasion the fine be **suspended until the end of the season**.
3. **Development Funding -** Kevin reported to the committee that Peter, Mick and himself had attended a meeting with the FA in Stokesley (North Riding FA headquarters) on 21st February to discuss the League’s Development Plan Funding award and the FA were impressed with the presentation on how it was being spent, in meeting the FA’s Objectives during the current season 2019/20. Kevin outlined the league’s intentions in meeting those objectives for next season 2020/21 and they were again impressed with the ideas being adopted by the league. Kevin informed the management committee that he had sort quotes for FracPacs and Kool Packs and presented a sample of each that he would be ordering, for viewing. Next season every current and new club will be issued with them which will be funded jointly from the Development Grant and league funds as well as match balls.
4. **DCFA Trophy Final -** email received from Durham FA informing that the final of the Durham County FA Trophy between Darlington Town FC and Hebburn Town Reserve FC will be held on Friday 27th March 2020. Kick Off 7.15pm at The Hetton Centre.

Kevin added that Richmond Town had reached the final of their County Cup which is being held on Wednesday 18th March 2020.

1. **Cup Finals** - Kevin reported that the cup competitions were nearing their final stages and he is looking to confirm venues and dates for the finals. Once the remaining semi-finals have been completed in both divisions, he will announce those finalists and venues. One Cup Final confirmed to date in the 1st Div. is The Shipowners Charity Cup between Wolviston and Silksworth CW, which is scheduled to be played at Meadow Park, Wolviston on Easter Monday 13th April, Kick Off 11.00pm. The following dates for the 3 Cup Finals In the 2nd Div., to be confirmed, are Saturday 18th April, Saturday 25th April and Wednesday 6th May 2020 (Clem Smith Bowl).
2. **League Finish Date** - Kevin informed the committee that he was looking for clubs in the 1st Div. to complete their fixtures by Saturday 2nd May 2020, with the 2nd Div. finishing earlier.
3. **Charter Standard** - In the absence of Phil, Peter reported that, as far as he was aware, all clubs were up to date with their Charter Standard Health Check. Marshall Lawson (Annfield Plain) informed that he had recently received his confirmation Health Check Certificate.
4. **A.O.B.**
* **AGM** - Kevin informed the meeting that he was looking to hold the 2019/20 AGM and the Training Meeting together on the same day with the date pencilled in for **Sunday 14th June 2020,** at Farringdon Youth and Community Centre, Farringdon, Sunderland.
* **Trophies -** Clubs with trophies from last season were requested to return them, cleaned and in a presentable condition, as soon as possible.

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