**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 30th November 2021**

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

**Present:** Peter Maguire, Kevin Harrison, Frank Thompson, Sean Rooks, Steven Futers,

Mick Grant.

1. **Silksworth Juniors - failing to field a team at home to Doxford Park U23s on Saturday 13/11/2021.**

Peter Davison, Club Secretary, joined the meeting and informed that, due to a lack of players through injuries, work commitments and again approaches for players, he had no option but to cancel the game against Doxford Park U23s. He reported that some of the players that had moved on were not getting games at their new clubs. He is struggling for players and hopefully will survive the remainder of the season. The decision of the management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the Fine Tariff relating to League and FA Rule 20 E 1., and 3 points to be deducted. On this occasion, to try and help the club, it was decided that both the fine and the points deduction be **suspended until the end of the season** and the game to be rearranged.

1. **Blaydon Community - failing to field a team at home to Billingham Town Reserves on Saturday 13/11/2021.**

Paul Reynolds, Team Manager, joined the meeting and apologised, explaining the events that led to the game being called off. The management committee acknowledged that the personal emergency had taken priority and had prevented Paul from getting to the game. As he had all of the strips and equipment in the car, he made the decision to call the game off. The away team and the referee were notified. The decision of the management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the Fine Tariff relating to **League and FA Rule 20 E 1**., and the game to be rearranged.

1. **Darlington RA - failing to field a team away to Farrington Detached on Saturday 20/11/2021.**

John Woolnough, Club Secretary, joined the meeting and detailed the email correspondence that had taken place between himself and Ian Stewart at Farringdon Detached following an early request from Farringdon, who were having initial difficulty in staging the game on the Saturday, to switch the game to the Friday evening, or reversing the fixture. Following eventual responses from players informing that they were unavailable for the Friday and Darlington unable to switch the game due to ground share, an assumption was made that the game was off. Farringdon then sent match confirmation to Darlington for the game on the original Saturday. As Darlington players had now made alternative arrangements for the Saturday, the club was unable to now field a team. The committee deliberated at length on the correspondence between both clubs and the time taken before the decision was made that the game was not going ahead and concluded that there had been a total misunderstanding on behalf of the club. The management committee decided that the club be fined, **£150** as per the fine tariff relating to League Rule 20 E 1. On this occasion, **the fine to be suspended until the end of the season.** The game to be rearranged.

Should the club fail to field a team again this season, the fine will immediately be levied and added to the outcome of the charge levied for the repeat offence.

1. **Durham Corinthians Reserves - failing to field a team away to Polton AFC on Saturday 20/11/2021.**

Helen Pollard, Club Secretary, was unable to attend the meeting and supplied an email in mitigation pleading guilty to the charge, Helen explaining that the main reason for not fielding a team was because they didn’t have a goalkeeper. He has suffered an injury and the backup Goalie, who is on a dual registration with Brandon United is also unavailable. Added to that, due to injuries and suspensions, they didn’t have sufficient players available. The Club have taken steps to address this and hope it won’t happen again. They have a number of new players training in the squad plus a couple of suspensions have now been completed.

The decision of the management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the Fine Tariff relating to **League and FA Rule 20.E.1**. The game to be rearranged.

1. **AFC Durham - resigning from the league with immediate effect (22/11/2021).**

Stephen Stratton, Club Secretary, was unable to attend the meeting and provided an email explaining that the Club had recruited a new Manager and coaching staff with Northern League experience and contacts to improve the playing squad. Despite this they still struggled to get a full squad often enough and complete games. The manager was approached by Coxhoe mid-season, and he and his coaching staff left. 10 players refused to play for the club leaving them with 6.

A new manager was appointed who had a squad of players, but he left after 1 game. This left both himself and the Chairman in the same position, so to give the loyal players who want to continue to play they took the decision to fold. The committee discussed the circumstances at length and decided that league rules be applied resulting in the club being fined **£250** as per the Fine Tariff relating to **league and FA Rule 11B.** (Failing to complete the season). At present the second half instalment **(£100)** of the club’s League Fees is still required. **Total owed - £350.**

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

* **Referees.**

Kevin informed the meeting that there is a massive shortage of referees available to cover games in all three of our divisions. Due to possible FA National League System reorganisation, it may be that the league will possibly lose its Supply League status resulting in the allocation of referees being further reduced at Wearside League level. Since his earlier notice of standing down as N.E. Pool Appointments Officer, the post has been advertised with no takers as yet. In an effort to try and keep Level 5 & 6 referees within the league Kevin has approached Steve Futers, our Fixture and Referee Allocation Secretary for the 2nd & 3rd Divisions, who has agreed to take on the role.

* **New Committee Appointments.**

Peter informed the meeting that he has been able to level up the management committee by co-opting 3 new teams to the committee now giving us 2 teams from each division. Alongside Ian and Helen for the first division, we now have Brian, and David Farrell from Hylton CW for the second, also Paul Sharpe of Hartlepool Pool Youth and Michael Smith of Wear United for the third division.

* **Outstanding Fines.**

Peter reported that he had chased up all Clubs that had outstanding fines. Polton AFC are still to pay the fine levied on their U23s for folding on 29th October 2021. Should the club fail to pay imminently, they (Nick Matthews) will be required to attend the next meeting of the league management committee.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.02pm.