**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 7th October 2021**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference.**

**Present:** Peter Maguire, Kevin Harrison, Keith Simpson, Helen Pollard, Steven Futers,

Mick Grant.

1. **Darlington RA - charged with not staying for ‘After Match Refreshments’ at Windscale on Wednesday 8/9/2021.** Windscale reported to the league that only a few from Darlington RA remained for refreshments after being informed, when confirming the game, that food was available for up to 20 people. Due to the distance and the time to get home from Windscale, most had decided not to stay un-beknowing to the home club. The committee felt that Darlington RA could have advised them that they would be declining the hospitality and fined them £40, as per league rules, with the fine suspended until the end of the season and only applies to future breaches of this rule.
2. **Darlington Deacon - folding from the League to merge with Hurworth Albion during the current season.**

The club were invited but did not attend the meeting. Kevin informed the committee that he had received notification from the club that they are folding. Following lengthy discussion, the management committee accepted their resignation 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, with folding from the league with fixtures to be played. All their fixtures will be expunged.

The club to be advised that should payment of the Fine not be made, the fine will be then passed to the players and officials of the team who may then be placed under suspension until their portion of the fine is paid.

1. **Polton Football Club - charged with misadministration and playing an ineligible player on Saturday 25/9/2021**. Concerns were expressed regarding issues with both teams in relation to failing to comply with league requirements in respect of fixture communication and administration, particularly in relation to online match returns. The decision of the management committee was that the club’s both teams be fined **£30** each suspended until the end of the season, subject to a marked improvement in administration and both outstanding match returns for the Under 23s, on 4th September and 18th September being completed without delay.

The Under 23’s playing an ineligible player, Ellis Stephenson, on 25th September 2021, who is not registered with the team, which was confirmed by club official Nick Matthews who attended the meeting on their behalf. The decision of the management committee was that League and FA Rule 18 M, be applied resulting in the Under 23’s being fined **£30** payable within 14 days.

1. **Annfield Plain - failing to field a team against Gateshead Leam Rangers on Saturday 25/9/2021.** League Secretary, Kevin Harrison, informed the meeting of the circumstances that lead to the game not going ahead and the decision of the management committee was that League Rule 20.E1. be applied resulting in the club being fined **£150,** as per the Fine Tariff, with payment required within 14 days of notification.
2. **Wear United - failing to field a team away to Silksworth Juniors in the Clem Smith Bowl on Saturday 25/9/2021.** Club Secretary Michael Smith attended the meeting and explained that he only had six players turn up for the day. Following his explanation, the decision of the committee was that League and FA Rule 20.E.1 be applied resulting in the club being fined, **£50** as per the Fine Tariff, and excluded from the Cup competition.
3. **Hylton CW - failing to field a team (Covid) away to Blaydon Community in the Washington Aged Peoples Trophy Cup on Saturday 25/9/2021. Alan Hood Cup game now OFF on 2nd October due to 10 days suspension of fixtures.**

The management committee discussed the current situation regarding Covid and agreed to allow the club to participate in both cup competitions. The games to be rearranged as soon as was practical. Kevin informed the meeting that the current rules regarding Covid will need to be reviewed at the next full meeting of the management committee.

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

* **New Team.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had received a request from a new team, **Bishop Auckland FC X1**, to join the League. He has provided them with all the relevant league requirements, and they have everything in place to start. The committee agreed to them joining, subject to approval from the County FA. They would not be taking over the remaining league fixtures of Darlington Deacon who have folded but will start from scratch and catch up with midweek games at the Hub over the winter. It was also agreed that they would not be included in the Cup competitions this season to see how they fare in the league.

* **Referees.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the situation with referees was now becoming desperate. At present he is 7 referees short for fixtures in November. Steve Futers was now having the same problems for the 2nd and 3rd divisions. It has become a matter of taking fixtures week by week, hoping that none call off at the last moment as replacements are not knowingly available.

* **Midweek fixtures at Richmond Town.**

League Vice-president Keith Simpson informed the meeting that at their (Wolviston) recent midweek game at Richmond, following full time when the floodlights were switched off, the surrounding streetlights also go off leaving the area in complete darkness, creating a danger to people trying to get out of the ground. Kevin to look into it with the possibility of arranging an earlier kick-off for midweek games.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.12pm.