**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 10th May 2021**

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

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

Dave Copeland, Emma Collins, George McKitterrick, Gordon Mason, Joe Partridge, Kevin Gibson, Kevin McKitterick, Kevin Oliver, Malcolm Langley, Steve Futers

Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Danni Maguire, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Keith Simpson, Marshall Lawson, Matthew Malton,

1. **Minutes of the last management meeting** - The minutes of the last management meeting held on Sunday 25th April 2021, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Correspondence;**
* **Hetton Utd Jnrs v Wynyard Village - 8/5/2021 - Referee’s Report.**

Referee David Watson reported that his decisions were constantly questioned by the home team and following the sending off of one of their players, the pitch was entered by most of the Hetton officials and substitutes causing a match delay of 5 minutes. A Hetton club official then told the players to leave the pitch and said they were not going to carry on with game. He collected his flags from both teams assuming the game would be abandoned. However, the Chairman of Hetton approached him, apologised on behalf of the club, and then asked for the game to be restarted which he did. At the end of the game, he was approached by two players, one of which had been sent off, asking if he had to put the sending off in. Kevin informed the meeting that he expected the referee to report the incidents to DFA and we would await the outcome.

1. **Washington AFC playing an ineligible player - Joseph Hassanin – against Ryhope CW U/23s – 28/4/2021.**

It was brought to the attention of the league that the player, registered with the club’s 1st team who play in the Northern League Div 2, played for the Washington AFC side against Ryhope CW U/23s on 28th April 2021. On investigation it was discovered that he was also registered with Hetton Juniors in our 2nd division. Following a letter in mitigation being presented to the committee, and subsequent discussion with both club secretary Lee Holmes and club chairman Mark Gibbon, regarding the circumstances relating to the registration of the player, it was accepted that on this occasion there was a blip in the registration system which allowed the player to be registered for both Washington AFC and Hetton Juniors FC. However, it was felt that every effort should have been made to ensure that the player was clear to play for the reserve side. The decision of the management committee was that the club be warned as to its future conduct and no further action taken.

1. **Hylton CW - failing to field a team against Polton on Saturday - 1/5/2021.**

Club Chairman, Gary Foster, attended the meeting and informed the committee that, due to a number of injuries and some players who work at Nissan being requested to go into work, had resulted with the club not having enough players available to field a team. Following his explanation, the management committee deliberated and decided that league and FA Rule 20(E)(i) be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the applicable Fine Tariff and the fixture to be rearranged on a later date. It was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season. He was advised that should the club be responsible for failing to fulfil any fixture between now and the end of the season, the above fine will be added to any further fine levied.

1. **Simonside FC - failing to field a team against Durham Utd FC on Wednesday 5/5/2021.**

Club secretary Noel Blackburn was unable to attend the meeting and submitted an email in mitigation for his club not being able to field a team. He informed that he was disappointed with the team and understood that injured players could not play, but to be told by the rest of the players only hours before the game that they could not make the game due to work commitments is totally unacceptable. He apologised and stated that this will not happen again.

Following presentation of his email to the committee, the management committee deliberated and decided that league and FA Rule 20(E)(i) be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the applicable Fine Tariff and the fixture to be rearranged on a later date. It was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season. The club was informed that

should they be responsible for failing to fulfil any fixture between now and the end of the season, the above fine will be added to any further fine levied.

1. **Annfield Plain - failing to field a team against Boldon CA in the Alan Hood Cup on Saturday 8/5/2021.**

League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the committee that he had been contacted by the club informing that they were unable to field a team. and following discussion it was decided that, as per the Fine Tariff relating to league rule 20(E)(i) and ‘new competition’ rules, the club is fined **£150,** and the game forfeited to Boldon CA with a 0-0 score-line recorded. It was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season.

1. **AGM date.**

It was agreed that, as the season’s fixtures for the 2nd division are expected to be completed by early June, the AGMwill be held on **Tuesday 8th June 2021** via zoom video conference, commencing at 7.00pm, with a limit of 1 representative per team.

1. **New Division Update.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had met with the new clubs last week and they were all unanimous in wanted the 3rd division to be an ‘open age’ division. He has contacted all the clubs, including those who have made tentative enquiry, and League application forms have been sent out to them all. He is now waiting for firm responses. Verbal approval for the new division has been given following a meeting with Mel Spedding at the County FA and we are just waiting now for formal notification of confirmation.

To create and supply referees to the new division, discussions have been held, and agreed, with Alex Clark, DFA Referee Development Officer, regarding a proposal for the league to sponsor new referees. To pay for the course fees - £125 for each new referee, then do 10 games in the division, and when completed the individual will refund the league. Courses are due to commence next week. A meeting of the Directors will be required to sign it off.

1. **Season 2021/22 start.**

The following season start dates for the divisions were proposed and approved.

**1st Division** Saturday **24th July 2021** (with midweek games until the end of August)

 **2nd Division** “ **17th July** “ “ “ “

 **3rd Division** “ **17th July** “ “ “ “

If the earlier start impacts on ground availability clubs will be allocated away games until the ground is available.

1. **Potential Rule Changes.**

Kevin informed the meeting that, as well as with the introduction of the new division, the League Rules and rules for the Cup competitions needed to be reviewed. He identified a number of areas to be looked at that needed changing, and a meeting of a sub-committee will be held to go through them and then report back to the full committee for agreement before submitting them to the county FA to be sanctioned.

1. **Step 6 Ground Inspections.**

Kevin reported that where in the past the decision on who would be promoted would be made by the Northern League, he had been made aware that this time they will not be recommending anyone. No official notification on how promotion for clubs will be decided has been received from the FA but it is believed that the FA will choose clubs on Ground Criteria. He informed the meeting that all eight of our clubs that had applied for promotion have had their ground inspected but as yet have not been notified of any decision on who has been selected.

1. **A.O.B.**
* **Online Match Returns.**

Mick Grant reported on clubs that do not complete their club’s online match return by the due deadline of 56 hours following the end of the game. Clubs who have not completed the match return receive an email reminder from him the following day with most acknowledging and then completing the return. Some clubs, albeit very few, receive a further reminder if it is still not completed, with no penalty. He was asking if some rule could be put in place where an automatic fine could be levied via him against the defaulting club without bringing it to the attention of the management committee first. Peter advised that this would be looked at when reviewing the rules for next season.

* **Chester-Le-Street Utd.**

Kevin informed the meeting that Chester-Le-Street United were struggling to field a team for Wednesday’s Alan Hood Cup fixture away to Richmond and are asking for permission to sign a goalkeeper. Peter reported that clubs can, under special circumstances, sign a goalkeeper after the deadline date for registrations. Permission to sign was given by the committee.

* **Cup dates.**

Kevin Gibson (Boldon CA) asked for confirmation of dates for the semi-final and Final of the Alan Hood Cup. Kevin Harrison informed him that the semi-finals will be held on Saturday 22nd May and the final on Saturday 29th May. A decision of the venue for the final will be made once the semis have been completed.

* **Fees.**

Kevin Harrison informed the meeting that under new rules the Affiliation Fees to Durham County FA, normally paid for by the league and included as part of a club’s league fees, need to be paid directly by the club on the **W**hole **G**ame **S**ystem. Remainder of the League Fees to be paid to the league.

* **N.E. Pool - New Matchday Observer.**

Kevin reported that the North East Pool are looking to appoint a new ‘Match Day Observer’. An advert will be going out shortly seeking applications from interested parties.

 Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.