**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE`**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 13th January 2022**

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

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

Dave Copeland, George McKitterick, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson,

Kevin McKitterick, Matthew Malton, Michael Smith, Paul Sharpe, Sean Rooks,

Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Dani Maguire-Myers, Helen Pollard, Malcolm Langley, Marshall Lawson.

1. **Minutes of the last meetings** - The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Tuesday 9th November 2021, and Discipline meeting held on Tuesday 30th November, both previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Correspondence;**

* **FA League Development Plan Grant.**

Email from Laurence Jones, Head of FA National League System advising of an award to the league of an **administration grant** of **£3,000** from the National Game Finance Committee for season 2021-22.

1. **Hurworth Albion - failing to field a team against Polton AFC on 11/12/2021 then folding from the league with immediate effect on 14/12/2021.**

The Club was fined **£250**, as per League and FA Rule 11B, invoiced, and payment since received.

1. **Darlington Town v Chester-Le-Street on 8/1/2022.**

Correspondence received from both clubs in relation to Away Changing Rooms and After Match Refreshments was presented to the management committee for deliberation. Following lengthy discussion, it was decided that the correspondence from both clubs be noted, with no action to be taken against either club.

1. **Covid Procedure.**

League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the committee that both he and League Chairman Peter Maguire attended a meeting of all Durham County leagues at DFA headquarters on Monday 10th January to discuss the effect that Covid was having on fixtures and to try and find a common process in dealing with postponements due to Covid. The general consensus was that every league had their own procedures and would be continuing to apply their own rules. The County to contact the FA for guidance. An alternative proposal to the current Rule within our league, which is the 10-day suspension of fixtures following notification of a team being unable to play due to Covid, such as a reduction to 7 days suspension, was discussed. Following a vote, it was decided and agreed that the current rule of 10 days suspension of fixtures should remain and any club informing/requesting a postponement due to Covid must contact Peter Maguire first to discuss.

1. **New Teams League Fees.**

Peter informed the meeting that a number of new clubs have folded during the season and, due to the current payment option of being able to pay their fees in 2 halves, have left without paying their second instalment. League Treasurer, Sean Rooks, proposed that all new clubs coming into the league should pay their league Fees (at present £200 -3rd Div.) in the form of a deposit before a ball is kicked which would be refunded back to them after completing their first full season. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

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

* **Fixtures Update.**

**1st Division** - Kevin reported that he would be working to hopefully complete the fixtures by the FA’s deadline date of 7th May / 14th May latest. The league will continue to use the Hubs for midweek games, paid for by the league, to try to ensure clubs complete their fixtures by the season end date. There will be no Shipowners Cup competition this season.

**2nd & 3rd  Divisions** - Steve Futers reported that fixtures were going as planned. Some clubs were nearing completion of their fixtures and he would be looking to see what could be arranged to ensure that those clubs did not finish their season well ahead of the rest of the clubs.

* **Promotion / Relegation.**

**1st Division** - Kevin informed the meeting that 5 first division clubs are applying for promotion to the Northern League - Chester-Le-Street, Darlington Town, Wolviston, Durham Corinthians, and Gateshead Leam Rangers. All subject to the clubs meeting ground grading requirements by 31st March 2022.

**2nd Division Promotion** to **1st Division** - 2 up, 2 down.

**3rd Division “ “ 2nd “** 3 up, 3 down.

Kevin will write to all clubs interested in gaining promotion.

* + - * + **AFC Durham - Outstanding Fine.**

Peter reported that he had contacted officials of AFC Durham regarding the non-payment of the **£250** fine for folding from the league and made them aware that he had spoken to DFA with regard to suspending all players and club officials associated with the club should payment not be received. The Club have promised to pay the fine.

* + - * + **Silver Plating of Trophies.**

Peter informed the meeting that he had received an exorbitant estimate of £700 to have an existing trophy re-plated. The league will continue to present the Trophies cleaned and in the best condition as is possible.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.49pm.