**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Sunday 25th April 2021**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 1.00pm.**

**Present:** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Dave Copeland, Helen Pollard, Joe Partridge, Kevin Oliver, Malcolm Langley, Sean Rooks,

Malcolm Clarke - Annfield Plain FC, John Topping - DFA, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Dani Maguire-Myers, Emma Collins, Frank Thompson, George McKitterick,

Gordon Mason, Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson, Kevin McKitterick, Kevin Oliver,

Kieran Downey, Marshall Lawson, Steve Futers,

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

1. **Minutes of the last management meetings** - The minutes of the last meetings held on both Thursday 11th March 2021 and Thursday 18th March 2021, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Wheatley Hill WMC - playing an ineligible player against Washington AFC on 10/4/2021.**

Club Secretary / Manager Brian Hammond contacted the league to inform that he had played **Ashley Griffiths** in the league game thinking he was registered. It wasn’t until he came to do his online match return that he found that the player was not listed. The decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£30.00** as per the Fine Tariff relating to league rule 18(N)(i) and deducted 1 point. It was proposed and agreed that the fine to be suspended until the end of the season.

1. **Durham Corinthians Reserves - failing to field a team against Hylton CW on 17/4/2021.**

Club Secretary Helen Pollard informed the meeting that the Reserve team were unable to field a team due to not having enough players available. The manager left a few weeks ago and some of the players left at the same time leaving a depleted squad. The management committee deliberated and decided that league and FA Rule 20(E)(i) be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50.00** as per the applicable Fine Tariff. On this occasion it was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season.

1. **Durham Corinthians Reserves - request to sign players.**

Following on from the above situation that caused the unplayed game on 17th April, Club Secretary Helen Pollard contacted the league Secretary to ask if the Reserves could be permitted to sign players, a maximum of 6, to enable them to complete the season. Peter advised that the team had the option to withdraw from the league for the rest of this season with no penalties and restart in the new season. The management committee discussed the request and was informed that other clubs had had registrations declined after the deadline date of 31st March 2021. The decision of the management committee was that the request is declined.

1. **Northern League Promotions.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had recently received notification from the FA that following the National League restructure they are going ahead with promotion and relegation throughout. The league is expecting to have at least 1 club promoted from the 1st Division. The decision on which club(s) will be made by either the Northern League or possibly the Executive of the FA.

1. **Match Officials Fees.**

Kevin informed the meeting that, following a meeting of the North East Pool, from next season Fees for referees are to be increased by £5.00 to £35 and £25 for Assistants, plus 34p per mile. He reported that the league had not increased the referees match fees for at least 10 years, in comparison to the rest of the country, they are near to the bottom of the list.

1. **Supply League Status.**

Kevin reported that from next season Northern League Divisions 1 and 2 will be using referees of Supply League status. The Wearside league will be out. Peter informed that there is a need to try and keep the Pool going once out to ensure the volume of quality referees.

1. **New Division.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he has received 2 more applications and 2 enquiries to join the new division. Currently there are 17 applications. Both he and Peter are looking to arrange a meeting with the clubs at the end of the month to see what the clubs would like. Durham County FA Secretary, John Topping, has accepted a request to attend the meeting.

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

* **West Auckland Tunns - failing to field a team against FC Hartlepool on 24/4/2021.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had been notified yesterday (24/4/2021) that West Auckland Tunns were unable to field a team that day in the Alan Hood Cup. They were charged and opted to have the case heard at today’s meeting. League Secretary Kevin Harrison read out correspondence received earlier today to the committee 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 **£150.00**, and the game forfeited. It was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season.

* **Equalisation Scheme.**

League Treasurer, Sean Rooks, updated the meeting informing that all clubs have paid in full. The credits will be applied to next season’s league fees for clubs due a refund (same method as last season).

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.37pm.