**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE`**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 28th March 2022**

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

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

Dave Copeland, George McKitterick, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge,

Keith Simpson, Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Malcolm Langley, Matthew Malton, Michael Smith, Sean Rooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:** Dani Maguire, Dave Farrell, Kevin McKitterick, Marshall Lawson, Paul Sharp.
2. **Minutes of the last meetings** - The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Thursday 17th February 2022, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
3. **Correspondence;**

* **Referees Discipline Reports.**

League Chairman Peter Maguire informed the meeting that the league had received Discipline reports from two referees officiating recent games highlighting the serious level of disrespect to referees that is steadily growing within the game. The reports had been submitted by the referees to the County FA for them to deal with. It was suggested that Clubs involved in reported incidents should be named and shamed within the league.

1. **Polton AFC - playing Richard Heslin against Durham Utd on 12/2/2022.**

Richy Willett, team manager, addressed the meeting in the absence of recently appointed club secretary, Haris Rafiq. He reported that as far as he and the club were aware, Richard Heslin was a team member and had played for the club earlier in the season. This only became known when checking the WGS. The decision of the management committee was that the club be warned as to its future conduct and no fine levied on this occasion. Should the secretary need assistance with registrations, members of the management committee have volunteered to help.

1. **Durham Corinthian Reserves - failing to field a team against Durham Utd on 5/3/2022.**

Helen Pollard, Club secretary, addressed the meeting and apologised for not being able to field a team. The decision of the management committee was that league Rule 20E.1 be applied with club being fine £50 as per the Fine Tariff applicable to that rule with the game being rearranged.

1. **Wear United - failing to field a team against Billingham Town Reserves in the Semi-final of the Semi-final of the 3rd Division Trophy on 12/3/2022.**

Michael Smith, club secretary, addressed the meeting explaining that there had been a communication issue regarding the fixture resulting in a number of players being unable to arrange availability to play as the team had not had a fixture for a number of weeks. The decision of the management committee was that league rule 20E.1 be applied resulting in the club being excluded from the cup competition. On this occasion the **£50 fine,** as per the Fine Tariff applicable to the rule, **will** **not be applied.**

1. **Wolviston - failing to field a team against Chester-Le-Street on Tuesday 15/3/2022.**

Keith Simpson, League Vice-president, and Club representative, gave a detailed breakdown of the number of players and the reasons why they were unavailable, resulting in the game to be called off. Following lengthy discussion, the decision of the management committee was that League Rule 20E.1 be applied, resulting in the club being fined **£150**, as per the Fine Tariff applicable to the Rule, and the game to be rearranged.

1. **Blaydon Community - failing to field a team against Belmont Utd on 19/3/2022 and then folding from the league with immediate effect on 25th March 2022.**

Paul Reynolds, team manager, addressed the meeting and explained that the results to date confirmed that the club, in their own opinion, was out of their depth in the division and felt that it was in the best interests of the club and the league that they fold rather than mount up further fines for possibly again failing to field a team in their remaining fixtures, The decision of the management committee was that league and FA Rule 11B, failing to complete fixtures, be applied resulting in the club being fine **£250** as per the Fine Tariff applicable to the rule.

1. **Wheatley Hill WMC - failing to field a team against South Moor on 19/3/2022.**

As no one from the club was in attendance, the charge was dealt with in their absence. The decision of the management committee was that league rule 20E.1 be applied resulting in the club being fined £50 as per the Fine Tariff applicable to that rule and the game to be rearranged.

1. **Hylton CW - failing to field a team against Wearmouth CW on 26/3/2022.**

Gary Foster, club chairman, addressed the meeting explaining in depth the situation within the club regarding the current player availability following changes in management and that he would be doing everything possible to try and ensure the club completes their remaining fixtures. The committee deliberated at length and the decision was that league and FA rule 20E.1 be applied, resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the Fine Tariff applicable to that Rule, with the game to be rearranged.

1. **Annfield Plain - failing to field a team against Gateshead Leam Rangers on 26/3/2022.**

Mick informed the meeting that he had received a phone call prior to the meeting from club secretary Marshall Lawson informing of the circumstances that lead to the club failing to field a team. He reported that the manager found out that a number of the players were involved in a cup final on the Friday night and were not prepared to play on the Saturday. Marshall reported that the manager had left taking some of the players with him.

The decision of the management committee was that league and FA Rule 20E.1 be applied with the club being fined **£150**, as per the Fine Tariff applicable to that rule, and the game to be rearranged.

1. **Match Officials Appointments Officer – season 2022/23.**

Kevin informed the meeting that from the 2022/23 season, the Northern League First and Second Divisions will become a Supply League and that Matthew Malton has taken up the role of Match Appointments Officer following Kevin’s standing down from the position at the end of this season. Both Mathew and Steve Futers will work together to try and get, where possible, the required quality and quantity of referees to officiate in our league next season. Kevin reported that he had contacted referees for next season and would be 28 referees down following the end of this season. He will be looking to recruit new referees with the aid of the County FA.

As Matthew will be standing down from his role within the league management committee, Peter thanked him on behalf of the league for his work over the years and wished him well in his new Role within the Northern league.

1. **Cup Finals.**

Kevin informed the committee of the 2 forthcoming 1st Division’s Charity Cup Finals;

**Monkwearmouth Charity Cup**

**Monday 18/4/2022**

Chester-Le-Street Utd v FC Hartlepool

@ Riverside, Chester-le Street - Kick Off 11.30am.

**Alan Hood Charity Cup**

**Saturday 7/5/2022**

FC Hartlepool v Gateshead Leam Rangers

@ Grayfields Enclosure, Hartlepool - Kick Off 12.00am.

He reported that there are still 4 Cup Finals to be arranged involving 2nd and 3rd Division teams and once dates and venues have been decided, the finals’ details will be made know. Kevin asked for a presence from the management committee at all Cup Finals to attend and assist with the various duties. Committee member, Michael Smith, has offered to video each Cup Final.

1. **New Teams Applications.**

Kevin reported that he had received Enquiries / Applications from 14 clubs looking to join the league for next season and presented each by name to the committee. He will be contacting each club at the end of the season to confirm their interest.

1. **Writing-Off of Fines.**

League Treasurer, Sean Rooks, reported on the clubs who had resigned from the league during the season with Fines/Fees owing. He gave a breakdown of the clubs and amounts owed which was mainly for the 2nd half of individual club’s league Fees where they chose to pay in two instalments and left before the 2nd half was due.

He reported that current club, West Auckland Tunns, have outstanding League Fees of £70.49.

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

* **Darlington RA - playing 3 unregistered players in the game against West Auckland Tunns on 19/3/2022.**

Following correspondence received by the league informing that the club played three unregistered players, Lewis Henry, Alex O’Hagen and Mitchell Simmons in the game against West Auckland Tunns, the club were contacted and charged. Following an internal investigation with their manager, Michael Weston, the club replied confirming the findings. The management committee discussed this at length, the decision made was that league and FA Rule 18M be applied and that the club to be deducted 3 points, the game to be replayed, and the club fined £30 as per the Fine Tariff applicable to that rule.

* **Defib Pads.**

Kevin Oliver reported that that the battery in their Defibrillator is due for replacement and enquired as to who to contact. Kev Harrison informed the meeting that Phil Tye, the league’s Welfare Officer, managed to get free replacements last time but now to no avail. Kevin will be contacting all clubs asking them to check their Defibs and get in touch with Phil for advice or a contact number. With the league no longer getting initiative funding from the FA, the cost for these will fall to the clubs who have them.

* **Rule Revision - Subcommittee.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the league rules will need to be reviewed once issued by the FA, prior to submission to the clubs at the next AGM. He asked for volunteers to be part of a sub-committee to go through each of the league rules. Helen Pollard, Dave Copeland, and Steve Futers agreed to join Kevin, Peter, and Mick to carry out the review.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8,23pm.