**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Friday 28th May 2021**

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

**Present:** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Brian Hammond,

Dave Copeland, Emma Collins, Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard, Joe Partridge,

Kevin Gibson, Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Sean Rooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Danni Maguire, Keith Simpson, Frank Thompson, George McKitterick, Malcolm Langley, Marshall Lawson.

1. **Minutes of the last management meeting** - The minutes of the last management meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record with no matters arising.
2. **Minutes of the Sub-committee meeting** - held on Tuesday 18th May 2021, previously circulated, were also confirmed as a true record.
3. **Durham FC - failing to field a team against Durham United FC on 19/5/2021.**

Fraser Reynolds, Secretary of Durham FC, submitted a letter in mitigation explaining the reason for failing to field a team was that on the morning of the game he was informed by the manager that they only had 5 fit/available players. He then contacted the away team manager informing him, and that the game was off. 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. The fixture to be rearranged on a later date. On this occasion it was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season. 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. **Polton AFC - failing to field a team against Durham United FC on 19/5/2021.**

As no-one from the club was in attendance, the charge was dealt with in their absence.

Kevin informed the committee of the circumstances reported to him via numerous emails with Steve Futers following Polton notifying Steve that the above game was off because they were unable to field a team on that date. Various efforts and suggestions to get the game played on either the day before or the day after that date were unsuccessful due to pitch availability and inconvenient kick-off times. The management committee deliberated and decided that Polton was responsible for the game not going ahead, and that league and FA Rule 20(E)(i) be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the applicable Fine Tariff. The fixture to be rearranged on a later date. On this occasion it was proposed and agreed that the fine be suspended until the end of the season. The club to be 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 - resigning from the league with 5 games remaining.**

Noel Blackburn, club secretary, joined the meeting and informed that he was trying to keep the team going until the end of the season but was unsuccessful in his efforts and will therefore have to resign from the league. The management committee accepted the club’s resignation and decided that the club be fined **£250** as per the applicable Fine Tariff in relation to **League and FA Rule 11B.** With the club failing to play 75% of its fixtures (12 out of 17), results to date shall be expunged from the league table as per **League and FA Rule 22D**.

Should payment not be received, a list of all players registered with the club may be forwarded to the County FA for each to be placed under suspension until the amount of the fine is paid.

1. **Doxford Park - failing to comply with league rule regarding online match returns.**

Mick Grant informed Kevin that the club had failed to complete their online match return on numerous occasions within the required 56 hours and also ignoring reminders to complete them at all. Kevin had since communicated with club secretary Stephen Pescod and the club were requested and he agreed to attend the meeting to discuss the problems the league is having with their administration involving referees not being paid and DFA suspensions . Whilst the meeting was in progress Peter was contacted by Stephen informing that he was unable to attend. It was proposed and agreed that a further meeting be held with the club to hopefully resolve the problems. Kevin reported that he had just received an email from the referee David Standley, who officiated their game on Saturday 22nd May, informing that his fee for the game had still not been paid. Kevin arranged for the league to make an immediate payment to him and would recover the payment from the club.

1. **Alterations to League and Cup Rules for season 2021/22.**

The list of selected proposed rules and their changes were reviewed by the committee with all being approved other than those relating to Player Registration. All registrations are now to be done on the FA’s **W**hole **G**ame **S**ystem. Once the FA release their Standard Code of Rules (SCOR) the league will insert the appropriate wording. Rule 18L relating to the eligibility of players registered with reserve teams being allowed to play for their first team in the Feeder league division, was discussed. Proposals to either dual register players as opposed to transfer, or limit the number allowed to play in any 1st team game were discussed.

1. **A.G.M. - new date.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the original date of 8th June 2021 for the AGM will need to be put back to 15th June as the FA have not yet issued SCOR yet. It is envisaged that it will be issued sometime next week. We need to give the clubs 14 days’ notice of the AGM. The notification for the league’s AGM, with or without SCOR, will go out as soon as possible.

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

* **WL WhatsApp page.**

Helen Pollard (DURHAM CORINTHIANS FC) asked for clarification/guidance on the correct etiquette for the WL WhatsApp group as there are lots of conversations that happen on that group that don’t need to happen where there’s lots of people having to read all the notifications. Kevin Harrison agreed and Peter proposed to put something in place for next season.

* **Next Season start date.**

Brian Hammond (WHEATLEY HILL WMC FC) asked if the start of the season could be as late as possible to allow players a decent break as the current season won’t finish until 12th June for some clubs in the 2nd Division. Kevin informed the meeting that the league will definitely start for all clubs on Saturday 7th August 2021. However, if any team in either division(s) feel they want a later start for whatever reason this will be granted, subject to informing the league via email before 1st July 2021.

* **After Match Refreshments.**

Marshall Lawson (ANNFIELD PLAIN FC) expressed concern that under the present Covid climate his club would not be able to provide after match refreshments (food) and asked if league rule could be relaxed / reconsidered. Peter reported that the league would review the situation on a regular basis and advise clubs depending on Covid guidance.

* **Promotion to Step 6.**

Kevin Oliver (BOLDON CA) informed the meeting that the club are appealing the decision made by the FA to not promote them in favour of Horden CW even though Boldon CA met the criteria laid out by the FA. Kevin reported that none of the other 6 league clubs that applied have received anything from The FA regarding their application.

* **Alan Hood Cup Final.**

Kevin Harrison reported that the Alan Hood Cup Final between Boldon CA and Chester-le-Street was taking place tomorrow, Saturday 29th May, at Boldon Colliery Welfare and asked for volunteers to help out at the game. Kevin Oliver outlined the procedures that the club had put in place to ensure that all arrangements complied with Covid requirements.

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