**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 9th November 2021**

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

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

Dani Maguire-Myers, Dave Copeland, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kieran Downey, Sean Rooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Brian Hammond, Emma Collins, George McKitterick, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Kevin McKitterick, Malcolm Langley, Marshall Lawson.

1. **Minutes of the last meetings** - The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Thursday 22nd July 2021, and Discipline meetings held on Monday 6th September, Thursday 7th October, and Tuesday 12th October, all previously circulated, were confirmed as true records.

**Matters Arising**

* **Discipline meeting 7th October 2021.**

Keith Simpson asked if there was any update on midweek games being played under floodlights at Richmond following the problems encountered at their (Wolviston) game. Kevin reported that it was unlikely that Richmond Town would have any more midweek games at home. Should that change, he would be looking for an earlier than normal Kick-off time.

* **Discipline meeting 12th October 2021.**

Kevin updated the management committee on the situation regarding Darlington FC disputing the use of the Hubs which led to the club refusing to use Ford Quarry resulting in them being charged with failing to fulfil a fixture. The matter regarding the Hubs has now been forwarded to Durham FA to deal.

1. **Correspondence;**
* **Doxford Park v Gateshead Redheugh in Durham County Minor Cup.**

A letter of commendation of Doxford Park AFC by the Secretary of their opponents, was sent to Durham County FA and forwarded on to the league, stating - “Doxford Park are a credit to their league (Wearside League) both as a team and a group of players and coaches – absolute pleasure to play against them before, during and after the match.” Both the County FA and Kevin congratulated all at the club.

* **West Auckland Tunns - clubs not staying for ‘after match refreshments’.**

Email from Dean Whitworth, Club Secretary, informing that some named clubs had not turned up for after match refreshments, and that it was costing £60 for food each time.

* **West Auckland Tunns v FC Hartlepool - 9/10/2021 (1 v 3).**

Email from FC Hartlepool informing of incidents that have happened during the game that have no place in football. He stated that one Hartlepool player was assaulted (headbutted resulting in a broken nose) unfortunately unseen by any of the officials, with players on the end of some awful tackles as well as receiving abuse from both the West Auckland Tunns players and bench. The club refused to go back for after match refreshments.

* **Gordon Mason.**

Notification from Gordon Mason informing that he is standing down as Chairman of Silksworth CW FC and from the League Management Committee due to ill health.

Mick Grant will write to him on behalf of the League Management committee and Officials, thanking him for his contribution and service to the league and that he gets well soon.

1. **Polton U23s - resigning from the league (3rd Div.) with immediate effect.**

Nick Matthews, Polton’s Head of Football Development, joined the meeting and informed that the U23s team within the Club were really struggling with player numbers and a decision was made, in the best interests of Polton, and to not let the league down, to fold the team. The management committee’s decision is that the club is fined **£250** as per the Fine Tariff relating to league and FA Rule 11B.

1. **FC Durham County - resigning from the league (3rd Div.) with immediate effect.**

Stephen Durrant, club secretary, informed the league by email that he was leaving the club to take up a vacant manager’s post at AFC Durham. As Bill Harper is the only one left and will not continue alone, they have decided to tender their resignation from the Third Division with immediate effect. The management committee’s decision is that the club is fined **£250** as per the Fine Tariff relating to league and FA Rule 11B.

1. **Hetton FC - resigning from the league (2nd Div.).**

Chris Hughes, Hetton FC secretary, following a call with Kevin Harrison, advised that due to a lack of a management team and players, they have been left with no other option but to resign the team from the league. They look forward to re-entering the league next season with a more organised and improved adult setup. The decision of the management committee was that league rule apply and the club was fined **£250** as per the Fine Tariff relating to league and FA Rule 11B.

1. **Silksworth Juniors - failing to field a team against Spennymoor Town Youths on 23/10/2021.**

Peter Davison, club secretary, joined the meeting and informed that due to a lack of players through injuries, work commitments and approaches for players, he cancelled the game and tried to rearrange the fixture for midweek, which Spennymoor refused. Kevin informed him that it is the league that arrange all fixtures. The decision of the management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the Fine Tariff relating to League and FA Rule 20 E 1. The game to be rearranged.

1. **Coxhoe Athletic - failing to field a team against Darlington RA on Wednesday 27/10/2021.**

Paul Charlton, club secretary contacted League Secretary Kevin Harrison to report that he was unable to field a team for the midweek fixture and had concerns regarding having enough players for the game on the following Saturday. Following discussion, the decision of the management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£150** as per the Fine Tariff relating to League and FA Rule 20 E 1. Kevin suspended the Saturday fixture.

1. **Wear United - failing to field a team away to Hartlepool Youths on Saturday 30/10/2021.**

Michael Smith, club secretary, joined the meeting and informed the committee that he contacted the league on the day of the match that the club was unable to field a team due to 5 dropping out on the morning. He contacted Hartlepool to make them aware.

The decision of the management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50** as per the Fine Tariff relating to League and FA Rule 20 E 1. As this was the second time the Club had failed to field a team this season, 3 points to be deducted, suspended until the end of the season. As the defaulting club, they are required to pay the referee’s match fee of **£30** which was paid by Hartlepool Pool Youth. The game to be rearranged.

1. **Doxford Park AFC & U23s - mid week games.**

Kevin Harrison, League Secretary, informed the meeting that there were concerns about both teams struggling to field teams for midweek games resulting in games being called off by both teams. Reece McEwan, club Chairman, together with new Secretary, Paul Stainsby, joined the meeting. Reece reported that the previous Secretary, Stephen Pescod, had now left the club and there would be no further problems under the new secretary. Sean Rooks, league treasurer, informed Reece that there was still an outstanding balance of £247.50 consisting of fines and league fees to be paid. A payment arrangement had been agreed with Stephen whereby two payments would be made over the next two months, one of £125 and one of £122.50. Reece to look to sort it.

1. **Spennymoor Town Youths - players representing the County FA.**

Following recent notification by the club of some of their players representing the County Youth FA and the club advising the league that their league fixture for that date is postponed, League Chairman Peter Maguire reported that this was a county FA rule relating to Youth teams. As there are a number of youth clubs now playing in the league, the management committee agreed unanimously to allow the postponement of a Youth club’s fixture should **3 or more players** be selected to represent the County. Advanced notification of when County fixtures are taking place will be required so that the fixture secretary can schedule his fixtures for that particular day/date.

1. **League Covid Rules - review.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the number of postponements of games by clubs due to Covid was becoming a regular occurrence. It was agreed that there was not much that the league can do in the way of acquiring proof from clubs without contravening GDPA rules. It was decided to leave the league rules governing Covid unchanged but would take each game on its merits and raise it with any club who notifies the league of a Covid call off.

1. **A.O.B.**
* **Armistice Remembrance.**

Peter informed the meeting that Clubs will be permitted to observe a 1-minute silence before kick-off at games to be played on Saturday 13th November 2021. The league will contact all referees involved on the day to advise.

* **Darlington Deacon.**

Sean Rooks, league treasurer, reported that Darlington Deacon had not yet paid the £250 fine levied on them on 10th October, which was required within 14 days, for resigning from the league to merge with Hurworth Albion. Mick will write to them again advising that **if** **payment is not received within 7 days,** the league will **immediately** apportion the fine over all players and officials registered with the club. A list of names etc will then be forwarded to The County FA who in turn will endorse their suspension from all football until each pays his portion of the fine.

 Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.31pm.