**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 9th February 2023**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Peter Maguire, Kevin Harrison, Dani Maguire, Mick Grant.

 Anthony Johnson - Team Manager, Chester-Le-Street Utd Reserves.

**Chester-Le-Street United Reserves - charged with playing an ineligible player AARON JERVIS together with a Protest received from Deerness Valley FC.**

Peter reported that the meeting had been called to deal with a protest that had been submitted by Deerness Valley claiming that the above named player who played for their opponents in the Semi-final of the 3rd Division Challenge Cup on 28th January was ineligible as, according to the league website, it was his 1st game for Chester-Le-Street and he had not played for the club prior within the 7 days as required to qualify as per League and Cup Rule 4. Craig Thorn, club secretary for Deerness Valley, declined the invite to attend the meeting.

Photo evidence presented by Deerness Valley showed that the player did not appear on Chester-Le- Street’s online match return for their game against Wynyard Village Reserves on the 21st January 2023, 7 days prior, which led to the claim that he was ineligible for the semi-final.

Chester-Le-Street provided counter evidence stating that the player, who had signed on 20th January, was on the paper copy of the team sheet for the game on 21st as a substitute. Video evidence of the game was also provided showing that he came on and played the second half of the game.

Anthony Johnson, Team manager of Chester-Le Street United Reserves, attended the meeting on behalf of the club informing that when he came to complete the online match return Aaron Jervis’s name was not showing on the website team player listing for selection. He decided to submit the online match return without him on but failed to contact Peter Maguire to advise him of the issue which he would have rectified with a further upload from the Whole Game System. League secretary Kevin Harrison informed him that he should have waited until after the query was resolved before submitting the online match return. The player’s absence on the team sheet for 21st January was the reason for the protest from Deerness Valley.

 The decision of the meeting was that on investigation the protest re **Aaron Jervis** not being

 qualified for the semi-final on 28th has **not been** **upheld** for the following reasons;

* The player was a named substitute on the Team Sheets handed out before the game.
* Also, video evidence of the game on 21sy January was provided by Chester-Le-Street Reserves to show that the player came on as substitute at half time, this has also been verified by the match referee. This was observed by the Match Referee, league chairman and the league’s Media Officer.
* Social media evidence was also provided to show he was on the Team Sheet - Chester-Le-Street Reserves twitter dated 21st January 2023.
* Both the league chairman and the league’s Media Officer attended their game on 4th February to verify the player against his photograph on the Whole Game System.

It was agreed that the £25.00 Protest Fee from Deerness Valley FC be refunded.

The charge by the league of Chester-Le-Street United Reserves playing an ineligible player was withdrawn but the club to be disciplined and fined **£20.00,** as per the Fine Tariff relating to **FA and League Rule 21C,** for failing to complete the online match return correctly for the game away to Wynyard Village Reserves on 21st January 2023.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.