**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 15th September 2022**

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

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

Dave Copeland, George McKitterick, Helen Pollard, Michael Smith, Sean Rooks,

Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:** Dani Maguire, Dave Farrell, Keith Simpson, Kevin McKitterick,

Malcolm Langley, Marshall Lawson, Steve Futers.

1. **Minutes of the last Management meeting**.

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Wednesday 29th June 2022, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Minutes of the Emergency meeting.**

The minutes of the Emergency meeting held on Monday 22nd August 2022, previously circulated, were also confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising,**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Durham Corinthian Reserves - withdrawing from the league.**

Helen Pollard, Durham Corinthians’ Club Secretary, informed the meeting that they had had to withdraw the Reserves team from the league as they now have a lot of junior players who are not ready to play senior football yet and need the extra year playing at 18’s. The club felt that to try and continue with the Reserves this season would impact on all of their teams and that this was the best option all round for the Club. The club had already paid the Reserve team’s Annual League Fees of £200 for the coming season. The committee decided that, as the notification to withdraw the team was made on 3rd August 2022, which was after the notification deadline date, but long before any fixtures had been compiled, it would accept the withdrawal and the club is to forfeit the Reserve team’s League Fees as a fine in accordance with FA and League Rule 11B.

1. **Peterlee United - failing to field a team away to Hilda Park in the 3rd Div Challenge Cup on Saturday 27th August 2022.**

As no one from the club was in attendance at the meeting the charge with failing to field a team for the above Cup fixture was dealt with in its absence.

Their notification email was presented to the committee and following deliberation, it was decided that FA and League Rule 20.E.1. be applied resulting the club being fined **£50,** as per the Fine Tariff relating to that Rule, and excluded from the 3rd Division Challenge Cup competition.

1. **Sunderland RCA Reserves - failing to field a team away to Wynyard Village in the Clem Smith Bowl on Saturday 3rd September 2022.**

As no one from the club was in attendance at the meeting, the club charge of failing to field a team for the above Cup fixture was dealt with in their absence.

The notification email was presented to the committee and following deliberation, it was decided that FA and League Rule 20.E.1. be applied resulting the club being fined **£50,** as per the Fine Tariff relating to that Rule, and excluded from the Clem Smith Bowl Cup competition.

The referee reported that due to late notification by Sunderland RCA Reserves that the game was not going ahead, he did not find out until he reached the ground. He was paid the full match fee of **£30.00 plus £5.60** travelling expenses by Wynyard Village. As RCA Reserves were the defaulting club, they are responsible for the payment. Total amount to be paid **£85.60.**

1. **Polton AFC - failing to pay the Referee at home to Hartlepool Pools FC Youths Seniors on Saturday 3rd September 2022.**

As Haris Rafiq, Club Secretary, did not attend the meeting as requested despite prior communication with League Secretary Kevin Harrison, the, charge with failing to pay the referee for the above Cup fixture, was dealt with in his absence.

Following lengthy discussion in which concerns were also expressed regarding general club administration, including late online match returns, the decision of the management committee was that the Club be fined as follows;

League & FA Rule 23E - Failure to pay Match Officials Fee 3/9/2022 £30.00

Match Officials Fee + Expenses (paid by League) £33.50

Administration Charge £25.00

League & FA Rule 21C - Late Online Match return - Fixture 3/9/2022 £20.00

**Total £108.50**

1. **Windscale - failing to field a team away to Norton & Stockton Ancients on Wednesday 7th September 2022.**

Club Secretary Stephen Fawcett attended the meeting and apologised that his club was unable to field a team on the night due to having 6 confirmed Covid cases from the squad of 14 players available to travel following the previous Saturday’s game. He has also tested positive and there are further players feeling unwell which he suspects will lead to more positive cases. He stated that the club did not want to put any players or officials of both his club and Norton at risk. He felt that spending 6 hours on a team bus was likely to lead to increased spread of the virus. To take action then will hopefully avoid any further disruption to their fixture schedule. They were unable to use players from their Reserve squad as they had a fixture on the same night.

After lengthy deliberation, the decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£150.00**, as per the Fine Tariff relating to FA and League Rule 20.E.1. **On this occasion only, the fine to be suspended until the end of the season.**

He was advised that should the club fail to field a team again this season, the suspended fine will immediately be added to the outcome of the charge levied for the repeat offence.

1. **Wearmouth CW Reserves (Div. 3) - folding from the league with immediate effect - 7th September 2022.**

An email from Club Secretary Curtis Richardson was received and also a subsequent phone call confirming which of the two teams was folding. As no one from the club was in attendance, the club, charged under FA and League Rule 11.B, with resigning from the league with games remaining was dealt with in its absence.

The decision of the committee was that the resignation be accepted, and league rules be applied resulting in the club being fined **£250** as per the Fine Tariff relating to Rule 11.B.

1. **Application to join the league this season 2022-23 from Wynyard Village Reserves.**

Team manager Richard Willett addressed the meeting reporting that he was liaising with the First team to ensure that everything was in place should they be successful with their application. Following his presentation, the decision of the management committee was to accept the application and place them in the 3rd Division on a one-year probation. They agreed that they will start their fixtures on Saturday 1st October 2022. The league will be looking for them to play midweek fixtures going forward to catch up with their games. They will not be entered into any cup competitions.

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

* **Defibrillators - (Kevin Oliver)**

With Kevin Oliver not in attendance it was decided to leave his enquiry until the next management committee meeting.

* **Durham United AFC v Shildon Reserves on Wednesday 14/9/2022 - match abandoned.**

Notification from Referee Dave Watson reporting that the game was abandoned at half time as Shildon Reserves refused to take the field in the 2nd half. He has reported the game to Durham FA, and we will await the outcome before making a decision on what action to take.

* **National League Administration Grant.**

The meeting was informed of an email received from Laurence Jones, head of the FA’s National League System, informing that the Wearside League has been awarded an Administration Grant of **£3,000** from the National Game Board for this current season 2022-23.

* **Bill Robson.**

Mick informed the meeting that he had contacted Bill’s son Graeme to update him and received an email from him conveying his thanks to the league for the proposal to continue to provide minutes of meetings etc, but felt that, in his dad’s current condition, it would not be of any benefit to him to receive future correspondence. He asked that he be taken off the league’s mailing list.

* **Non-attendance by Members at meetings.**

Concerns were expressed regarding management committee members not submitting apologies, as requested, or informing even at late notice, if they are unable to attend management meetings. Prior to commencement of a meeting a ‘Roll Call’ is taken to ascertain ‘who’ and ‘how many’ members will be in attendance and who to expect. Meetings are only called when there are matters of importance to discuss and make decisions upon and the league would prefer as many members as possible, who are able to attend, to give their input in decision making. If there are any members who feel, for whatever reason, that they are unable to commit, or wish to stand down, please contact the Chairman, Peter Maguire.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.