**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 21st May 2024**

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

**Present;** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Dani Maguire,

Dave Copeland, Helen Pollard, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kieran Downey,

 Paul Bell, SeanRooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

 Helen Bigerstaff - Wolviston FC

1. **Apologies;** Chris Murray, Frank Thompson, Ian Stewart, Marshall Lawson, Paul Sharpe.
2. **Minutes of the last Management Committee meeting.**

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Minutes of the Disciplinary meeting.**

The minutes of the Disciplinary meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024, also previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Appeal from Wolviston FC.**

Helen Bigerstaff, Secretary of Wolviston FC, attended the meeting to explain the Clubs appeal.

An Appeals Committee was formulated, as per FA Rules, comprising of 5 management committee members, to adjudicate. Helen gave a detailed explanation identifying the following reasons felt by the Club to submit their appeal;

1. Alleged ineligibility of a named Shotton Colliery player in their fixture with Shotton Colliery on 11th May 2024.
2. Shotton Colliery failing to fulfil their fixture with Gateshead Leam Rangers - match abandoned.
3. Rule 22.B and Rule 22.E: Relegation and Promotion Criteria - Rule anomaly.

 Following lengthy discussion, the decision of the Appeals committee was that the appeal is **denied**

 for the following reasons;

1. There was no ineligible player on Shotton Colliery’s behalf in that the player in question had played 7 Competition Matches under the jurisdiction of the league. All games played count for eligibility purposes whether played in Cup Competitions or League games.
2. A club can not protest against a decision which has not been made against their Club. In addition, for the protest to be valid it has to be submitted within 3 days of the decision, this was outside of this period
3. The league accepts on the face of it there is a discrepancy in the rule as listed due to a clerical error. However, the committee is satisfied that Wolviston FC are well aware of the Relegation / Promotion Criteria for the Premier Division. The rule was changed at the League’s AGM on 15th June 2021 at which the club was in attendance and indeed since then the league have relegated 2 clubs and promoted 2 clubs on each subsequent season.
4. **League Rules Review.**

Kevin presented, on screen, the latest list of mandatory SCOR rule changes from the FA, explaining the differences, where applicable, to our current rules. Added to the list are 2 League Rule changes proposed by the management committee. All of these rule changes will be provided to clubs in their AGM Notification pack which is due to go out by the end of the week.

1. **New Applications**.

Kevin reported that he had received confirmed applications from 6 clubs and was waiting for responses from a further 7 clubs who have expressed an interest. Hopefully we will have a better idea on numbers nearer to the AGM in June.

1. **Proposed League Constitution.**

Kevin presented, on screen, a proposed League constitution based on confirmed teams plus the those who have still to reply. He was proposing a Premier Division of 18 teams, as last season, including 2 teams promotes from the 1st Division. A First Division of 14 teams including 3 promoted from the 2nd Division, and a Second Division, following the resignation of Billingham Town reserves, consisting of at least 10 current teams plus new teams, to be reviewed.

1. **A.O.B.**
* **Cup Competitions.**

Kevin reported that he had been asked if it was mandatory for teams to enter all competitions. It was confirmed that it was and, following discussion, it was proposed and agreed by the committee that if a Club does not wish to enter a Cup competition for whatever reason, this can be done prior to the Cup Draw with an exemption fee of **£35.00** per competition. This new decision will be added as part of the League’s Cup Rules.

* **Member leaving.**

Peter informed the meeting that Paul Bell was standing down from the committee and leaving his Club Sunderland RCA. He thanked Paul, who was in attendance, for his time on the committee and wished him well for the future.

* **Chairman retiring.**

Peter addressed the committee on what he expects will be his last management committee meeting and thanked everyone for their continued dedication to the league. He expressed how proud he was of the 33 years he has spent with the league in his capacity as Chairman and he wished the league and everyone, teams and committee alike, all the best for the future.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm.