**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 23rd April 2024**

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

**Present;** Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Dave Copeland, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart,

Keith Simpson, Kieran Downey, Paul Sharpe, SeanRooks, Steve Futers,

Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies;** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Frank Thompson (Vice-Chairman), Dani Maguire,

Marshall Lawson, Paul Bell.

In the absence of Chairman Peter Maguire and Vice-Chairman Frank Thompson, League Secretary Kevin Harrison conducted the meeting.

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

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondence;**

* **Great North Air Ambulance Service Charity donation reply.**

Letter received from Jan Gamblin on behalf of the G.N.A.A.S thanking the league for the £1,000 donation raised from last season’s Cup Finals which will go toward the provision of their service.

* **Season End Date - Regional NLS Feeder Leagues - FA.**

Letter from the FA requiring ALL Clubs who have applied for promotion to have their position settled by Saturday11th May. All other fixtures will be required to be completed by Saturday 18th May 2024. Kevin informed the meeting that he has no plans for any league games to be played after 11th May. Clubs will be required to play mid weeks to complete their fixtures by then.

* **Kevin Oliver (League Life Member) - retiring.**

Email from Kevin Oliver to League Secretary Kevin Harrison informing that he has fully retired from Boldon CA FC (former Wearside League now Northern League club) and all football. Thanking everyone involved at the Wearside League for making him so welcome at their grounds over the many years. Mick to write to Kevin on the league’s behalf.

* **Stadium Accreditation Technical Manager FA - Adrian Morris.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he will be actively involved with Adrian Morris in the now very stringent Ground Grading process for our clubs applying for promotion.

1. **Billingham Town Reserves v New Durham AFC. - 23rd March 2024.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the referee abandoned the game in the 73rd minute and reported the circumstance s to DFA. He understands that both clubs have been charged and the league awaits the outcome of the meeting. Once the decision is made by the county he will call a League Discipline meeting to decide what further action will be taken.

1. **Durham FC Corinthians Development - failing to field a team away to Wolviston Reserves on Wednesday 17th April 2024.**

Helen Pollard, Club Secretary, informed the meeting that between illness and injuries they couldn’t get enough players together to play the game.

The decision of the management committee was that the club be **fined £50.00**, as fer the Fine Tariff relating to **League Rule 20.E.1**. The game to be rearrange for Saturday 4th May 2024.

1. **Durham FC Corinthians Development - failing to field a team away to FC Hartlepool Reserves on Wednesday 24th April 2024.**

Helen informed the meeting that they were having difficulty getting enough players together for any midweek games and had to call the game off in advance.

As this was the **3rd time this season** that the club has failed to field a team, the decision of the management committee was that the club be **fined £50.00** as per the Fines Tariff relating to **League Rule 20.E.1. and** **3 points deducted**. In Addition, the points will be awarded to FC Hartlepool Reserves as the club had stated that they cannot field a team for a midweek game.

1. **Billingham Town Reserves - failing to field a team away to New Durham AFC on Wednesday 17th April 2024.**

Ray Morton, Club Secretary, submitted an email in mitigation apologising and informing that due to work commitments, a series of injuries and a rearranged Northern League first team game at Jarrow on the same night which took several players, also some of the younger players were playing on the afternoon for College teams, they ended up with only 7 registered fit players.

As this was the **3rd time this season** that the club has failed to fielda team, the decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£50.00**, as per the Fines Tariff relating to **League** **Rule 20.E.1** **and 3 points deducted.** The game to be rearranged at a later convenient date.

1. **Grassroots Safeguarding Requirements - Open Age Football Season 2024/25.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had received notification from the FA that there will be mandatory changes to the safeguarding affiliation requirements for Open-Age Football for 2024/25 season. The Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) and **all** team officials (excluding the Team Secretary) will now be required to undertake the Player Welfare in Open-Age Football Course in order to affiliate.

A further Club Affiliation Guidance document produced by Durham County FA aimed a Club Officials, has been received which will be circulated to all existing clubs. The County FA require a named League Welfare Officer by **Monday 7th May** who can complete the online course and act as a Link between the League and County FA. Kevin to contact Phil Tye, the league’s Welfare Officer, regarding this.

1. **Cup finals.**

Kevin presented a schedule of the remaining Cup Finals and their proposed dates and venues, asking for support from management committee members to attend at least 1 Cup Final to help out.

1. **New Applicants.**

Kevin reported that he had received expression of interest to join the league from 11 new applicants and 1 telephone enquiry. There is a possibility of a further 5 applications depending on another league’s circumstances which could create a 4th Division.

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

* **Billy Gunn - League Life Member.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had been informed by Peter of the sad passing of League stalwart and Life Member Billy Gunn at the age of 103. Both Kevin and Peter will be attending his funeral which is being held at Easington on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

* **Ground changes.**

Kevin reported that, following promotion to the Premier Division, Hetton Juniors are looking to change their home ground from South Hetton Cricket Ground to Murton.

Ian Stewart informed the meeting that Farringdon Detached will be playing their next home game at Silksworth on Wednesday 24th April and will be moving there next season.

* **Wolviston - ground problems at Metcalfe Park.**

Keith informed the meeting of the problems regarding the ground conditions at Metcalfe Park which has resulted in the team having to hire alternative grounds to play their home games. Despite help from the FA, Durham FA and others, the home pitch remains unplayable since November 2023. The hire cost for the various venues was draining the clubs finances. A proposal from Sean Rooks, League Treasurer, that the previous scheme to pay 50% of the hire cost to clubs on 3G pitches be extended to any ground hire for Wolviston, was unanimously agreed. Keith to liaise with Kevin with the ground details and hire costs.

* **Chairman retiring.**

Kevin informed the committee that Peter was considering retiring at the end of this season. Discussions took place regarding the various league tasks that Peter currently does and how to move forward should he retire. Kevin to speak to Peter and Vice Chairman Frank Thompson to seek their thoughts and suggestions and possible recommendations.

* **Fines Update.**

League Treasurer Sean Rooks informed the meeting that all fines issued, prior to this meeting, have been paid.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.58pm.