**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday 2nd November 2022**

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

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

Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Michael Smith,

Phil Tye, Sean Rooks, Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:** Dave Copeland, Dave Farrell, Frank Thompson, George McKitterick,

Malcolm Langley.

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

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Thursday 15th September 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 Thursday 29th September 2022, previously circulated, were also confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising,**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Correspondence;**

* **League Development Programme Pilot - FA.**

Email from the FA’s NLS Manager inviting all Step 5 and 6 Leagues and All Regional Feeder Leagues to apply to be a part of a 'Pilot League Programme’ for season 2022-23 to have either a dedicated league consultant support or support via a digital offer.

League secretary Kevin Harrison suggested we await further progress developments before making a decision on whether to apply.

1. **Durham Utd v Shildon Res. 14/9/2022 -** **match abandoned due to Shildon players refusing to play in play in the 2nd half.**

Steven West, club secretary, attended the meeting and reported on the circumstance that led to the team refusing to play. He informed the meeting that following a number of decisions made by the referee, the management and players from Shildon became concerned for their welfare and made the decision that it was in the best interest of everyone involved that they didn’t come out for the second half. The Club pleaded guilty to the misconduct charge and were fined £75.00 by Durham FA. The decision of the management committee was that it was unacceptable for any club to force a game to be abandoned, and the club was warned as to its future conduct. The result of the game to stand. Should it happen again the club’s membership of the league would be up for consideration.

1. **Wear United v Consett AFC Res. - 15/10/2022 match abandoned due to Wear United players walking off and refusing to play.**

Michael Smith, club secretary, informed the meeting that on the day of the match a few players dropped out and the team was left with the bare 11 at kick off. The team took to the field and soon were behind. The lads weren’t going to return for the second half due to the score, but the manager convinced them to play on. However, in the 55th minute they were 10-0 down and some of the players decided that they had had enough and walked off leaving the team with not enough players to conclude the game. Subsequently those involved, including the manager, have now left and the club have received a £55.00 fine from Durham FA. The club now has a new manager and new players who seem more committed and hopefully won’t have the same issue again. The decision of the management committee was that the club is warned as to its future conduct, the result of the game to stand, and should it happen again the club’s membership of the league would be up for consideration.

1. **Wearmouth CW - Team Sheets / Online match returns / Club contact details.**

Following concerns from the league regarding the recent lack of response to communication via their club website, and general administration within the club, Keaton Trott, returning club secretary, addressed the meeting informing that as of now the league won’t have any problems with match returns, team sheets etc. All the mistakes were made after he left. He stated that he is now the contact and will make sure the club is run properly.

1. **Sunderland RCA Res. v Billingham Synthonia AR on 18/10/2022 - match abandoned.**

Referee John Mason reported that the match was abandoned in the 20th minute due to a head injury to a Billingham Synthonia player which resulted in an ambulance being called and the player taken to hospital. The management committee agreed that the fixture be rearranged at a later date.

1. **Wynyard Village Reserves - failing to field a team away to Barnard Castle on Saturday 22/10/2022.**

A letter in mitigation was received from club manager Richard Willetts informing that the club failed to field a team due to lack of players due to sickness. “We are a relatively new team and we are still recruiting players and getting organised as a squad. The Wynyard setup has over 45 players registered, but as planned by myself and the managers of the first team they say that the players from the first team are not available on certain dates so they do not send players down to the reserve team. We are attracting players more frequently now so I am getting on top of this situation.”

The management committee deliberated, and the decision was that league rules be applied resulting in the club being fined £50.00, as per the Fine Tariff relating to league rule 20.E.1. and the game to be rearranged on a later date.

1. **Billingham Synthonia AR - failing to field a team away to Barnard Castle on Saturday 29/10/2022.**

James Gunn, club secretary, addressed the committee informing that he was struggling with injuries to a number of players prior to the game but he only found out when the team was set to travel that he didn’t have enough players. The decision of the management committee was that league rules be applied resulting in the club being fined £50.00, as per the Fine Tariff relating to league rule 20.E.1. and the game to be rearranged on a later date.

1. **Online match returns**

League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the meeting that a significant number of clubs are not completing the match report on time or not completing the player discipline correctly. Incidents noted by club committee members regarding Discipline sheets not being completed were discussed.

It was emphasised that all clubs must supply the referee with their completion and for the club to collect post game to prevent mistakes on the match return.

It was decided that once a club has failed for the 3rd time to complete online match returns on time and consequently every occasion following of not completing, the club will be dealt with in accordance with league rules, resulting in a fine. Clubs who have already transgressed will be informed of where they lie.

1. **Fines Update.**

Sean Rooks, League Treasurer, reported that 2 clubs (1 former - Peterlee United) have still to pay outstanding fines - Peterlee United owe £300 (£250 + £50), and Polton AFC owe £128.50 (£108.50 + £20). Kevin contacted Polton during the meeting and they agreed to arrange payment straight away. It was decided that the fine for the outstanding amount owed by Peterlee United be forwarded to Durham County FA to start the ‘Debt Recovery’ process.

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

* **Safeguarding.**

Phil Tye, League Marketing & Welfare Officer, addressed the meeting reporting on the update in the FA’s Safeguarding process. He will be the named League ‘Ambassador’ whereby clubs with players aged under 18 can receive assistance from him in completing their club’s online DBS process.

* **Secretary Holidays.**

League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the meeting that he will be taking a break for 5 weeks from the 8th of November until mid-December so any club wanting a free weekend in December needs to let him know before Sunday 6th November. In December there will only be fixtures on 3rd, 10th and 17th December. Games will recommence on Saturday 7th January 2023. He will then email the fixtures on Tuesday 8th November. During his period away, clubs are requested to contact League Chairman Peter Maguire.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.