**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 31st January 2023**

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

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

 Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kevin Oliver,

 Michael Smith, Paul Sharp, Sean Rooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies** Dani Maguire, Dave Copeland, David Farrell, George McKitterick,

 Kevin McKitterick, Kieran Downey, Malcolm Langley, Marshall Lawson,

 Paul Bell.

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

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Correspondence;**
* **New Complaints Procedure - Durham FA**.

Letter received informing that the County FA are receiving an increase in complaints regarding other team members and match officials and have set up a Microsoft form to help deal with the increase;

 <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/t14HW81Wvy>

1. **Annfield Plain**- **playing Aaron Wilkinson against South Moor in the league game on Saturday 22nd October 2022.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the player had apparently accrued 5 cautions and was, according to the WGS, under suspension. The club were not made aware of this and as far as he was aware the county hasn’t taken any action. Therefore, no action to be taken by the league.

1. **Shildon AFC Reserves - charged with misconduct by DFA for playing Jamie Redfern whilst the player is under suspension for money owed to two clubs.**

Kevin reported on a letter issued to the player by Durham FA, and circulated to all leagues, informing him that he owes money for discipline to both Willington WMC (£95) and Shildon AFC Reserves (£75). He is currently under suspension and the county informed him that he will remain under suspension until correspondence is received from both clubs stating that they have received full payment. Kevin reported that there would no further action taken at this time. It would be left in abeyance, and should anything come back, the league will look at this again. Peter reported that he will check with the county to see if any further progress had taken place.

1. **Billingham Synthonia AR v Polton AFC - match abandoned (Mass Brawl) in the Clem Smith Bowl on Saturday 55th November 2022.**

Confirmation received from Durham FA that both clubs had been reported to the County by the referee and dealt with for causing the abandonment with both being found guilty.

The decision of the management committee was that **FA and League Rule 20.E.5**. be applied resulting in both clubs being excluded from the cup competition.

1. **Polton AFC - failing to fulfil the Washington Aged Peoples Cup fixture against Gateshead Leam Rangers Reserves on Saturday 14th January 2023.**

A letter in mitigation received from Secretary Haris Rafiq was presented to the management committee and the decision made was that **FA and League Rule 20.E.1**. be applied resulting in the club being fined **£50.00**, as per the Fines Tariff in relation to the rule, and also excluded from the above Cup competition.

1. **Match Balls - Hylton CW.**

A request was received from Hylton CW club secretary David Farrell, for dispensation not to use the League’s Match Balls, due to the cost and how many they lose each home game, was put to the committee. Following discussion, it was reiterated that as all clubs are required to use the league match balls, as per league instruction, the request was declined.

1. **Cup Finals.**

Kevin informed the committee that he was looking at the possible team and venue permutations of the clubs involved in the semi-final stages of the cups. He was looking to hold some finals at Easter, as normal, and reviewing other possible dates. He asked for all members of the committee, not just the regular attendees at all finals, to attend at least 1 Cup Final where possible. He would report back once the final venues and dates have been decided.

Peter reported that he will be ordering the trophies for the various Cup and Division Winners and R/ Up and was given approval to order 17 trophies per club for the Winners and R/Up in the 1st Division and related Cup competitions, and 19 trophies per club for the Winners and R/Up in the 2nd and 3rd Divisions and related Cup competitions.

1. **Fines Update.**

League Treasurer, Sean Rooks, informed the meeting that the following clubs had paid their fines;

Roseberry Park - **£50**, Annfield Plain - **£150**, Wearmouth CW - **£300**, Darlington RA - **£20**,

A Debt Recovery process by Durham FA has been initiated on Peterlee United for the **(£300**) owed to the league which has been spread over the players and officials. The county has informed the league that the 25 players have been sent their letters and invoices stating they all owe **£13.00** each. They have until **Friday 10th  February** to pay and if not received by then they will then be suspended from all football activities. To date only one player (Luke Clegg) had paid his fine.

1. **Fines for ‘Late Online Match Returns.’**

Mick informed the meeting that automatic fines and invoices are now being issued to those clubs who fail to submit their online match return by the required 56 hours from the end of the game, on their 4th or more occasion over the season. They will be further invoiced for each repeat of the offence.

Peter asked that all clubs ensure that Discipline Sheets are completed and collected from the referee at the end of the game so that any discipline reported is correctly recorded on their online match returns.

1. **Promotion Applicants.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had received confirmation from the FA’s **N**ational **L**eague of the Applications for promotion from the following 1st Division clubs:-

**Darlington Town, Durham Corinthians, Durham United, FC Hartlepool, Gateshead Leam Rangers, Norton & Stockton Ancients, Wolviston.**

1. **Wear United - failing to field a team away to Billingham Synthonia AR on Saturday 28th January 2023,**

Michael Smith, Wear United Club Secretary, addressed the meeting and apologised for the game not going ahead. He explained that the Manager wasn’t available as he was away and there were too many players either at work, ill or down at Fulham. He had tried hard over the previous 24 hours to get more players on board to get the game on to no avail. The decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£50.00** as per the Fine Tariff relating to **FA and League Rule 20.E.1.** and the game to be rearranged at a future convenient date.

1. **A.O.B.**
* **Enquiries to Join the League.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had received enquiries from at least 8 teams up to now expressing an interest in joining the league. He will be contacting them, together with any further enquiring clubs, after March to see if they wish to firm up their interest.

* **Disciplinary Committee.**

Peter informed the meeting that there will need to be a Disciplinary Committee meeting convened to deal with a protest submitted following the Semi-Final of the 3rd Division League Challenge Cup on Saturday 28th January 2023 between Deerness Valley and Chester-Le-Street Reserves.

* **Fixtures - Saturday 6th May 2023 (King’s Coronation)**

Helen Pollard (Durham Corinthians) asked if the league would be postponing fixtures on that date. Kevin reported that it was not the league’s intention to do so. Clubs can request a free weekend if they wish to participate in any planned festivities surrounding the event.

* **Defibrillators.**

Kevin Oliver (Boldon CA) asked if there was anywhere to contact regarding the batteries for the defibrillators previously purchased from WEL Medical and provided to the league clubs. Correspondence had been previously received and Mick will forward a copy to him.

* **Meetings.**

Keith Simpson (League Vice-President) asked about the possibility of resurrecting the ‘Face to Face’ committee meetings in future. Peter reported that he would look into it.

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