**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 5thDecember 2023**

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

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

Dani Maguire, Dave Copeland, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kieran Downey,

Sean Rooks, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

Derek Kemp - (ANFIELD PLAIN FC).

1. **Apologies** Marshall Lawson, Paul Bell.
2. **Minutes of the last Management meeting**.

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Tuesday 10TH October 2023, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters arising.**

**Item 10 - Willington AFC v Wolviston FC - verbal abuse of Wolviston players and officials.**

Keith Simpson (WOLVISTON FC) informed the meeting that he had since been contacted by Durham County FA, who had mistakenly attributed the abuse made to his club. He informed them that their information was incorrect which was then duly corrected.

Willington were reported to the county by one of the match officials and charged with a breach of FA Rule 21 of ‘failing to ensure that their supporters conducted themselves in an orderly fashion’, which was found proven resulting in the club being fined.

1. **Correspondence**;

* **Email from Paul Charlton (COXHOE ATHLETIC) - game v Belmont Utd - 11th November 2023.**

Paul informs that he will be sending in a report to DFA regarding racist comments made by Belmont player manager Steven Turnbull during the game.

* **Email from the FA regarding the application process for promotion to NLS Step 6.**

Informing that applications are now welcome via the FA’s link ‘ONLINE APPLICATION LINK’ for clubs wishing to apply for promotion are required by the deadline date of 31st December 2023.

Kevin has circulated this to all clubs asking them to keep him informed should they make an application.

1. **Durham United v Annfield Plain - match abandoned at half time.**

Referee John Henderson reported that the match was abandoned at half time due to unmanageable behaviour from Annfield Plain players and reported this to DFA. The outcome of their investigation by the county was that the club were found guilty of the charge and fined.

Derek Kemp (ANNFIELD PLAIN) attended the meeting to request a possible replay of the game and reported to the committee on what he had seen and was made aware of during the first half and also at half time. Following deliberation, the decision of the management committee was that FA and League Rule 20.E.5. be applied which stipulates that “*In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent.”*

Derek acknowledged and accepted the management committee’s decision.

1. **West Auckland FC Reserves v Hetton Juniors FC - Tuesday 24th October 2023** - **Referee reporting Hetton Juniors FC for player/club misconduct.**

Referee Martin informed Kevin that he has submitted and Extraordinary Match report to the County FA regarding the conduct of Hetton supporter(s) during the game and also the conduct of some Hetton players (2 of which had been previously dismissed in the last 10 minutes of the game) for aggressively challenging and threatening the West Auckland Reserves manager, Jordan Hall, after the game.

1. **i2i International Soccer Academy - failing to pay the match official at their game on Saturday 28th October 2023.**

Referee Paul Burt contacted the league to report that he had not been paid his match fee plus expenses by the end of the game and was informed that he would be paid by bank Transfer on the following Monday as they did not have sufficient funds available to pay him and they also questioned the amount requested.

Kevin contacted James Gore, Chief Operating Officer for i2i Sports Ltd, following the game, who apologised for the misunderstanding, and payment was made to Paul within 13 minutes of the call.

The decision of the committee was that no action be taken on this occasion, but should there be a repeat situation reported to the league, the club will be charged and fined as per the Fine Tariff relating to FA and League Rule 23.E.

1. **Wolviston Reserves - requesting a break in fixtures.**

Keith Simpson (WOLVISTON FC) addressed the meeting following an earlier request for a break in fixtures for the Reserve team until the 1st week in January 2024 following the resignation of the team manager and several of the players leaving the club. League and Fixture Secretary Kevin Harrison agreed to the request and suspended their fixtures. Keith reported that the club were now in the process of appointing a new manager who has brought in 6/7 players and the team were looking to recommence fixtures in the new year.

1. **Fixtures update.**

Kevin informed the meeting that, due to the recent bad weather resulting in fixtures being postponed and that some pitches may be unfit for forthcoming games, he was seeking the views of the committee regarding the possibility of the league paying 50% of the cost of 3G pitch hire by clubs (on receipt of an invoice) particularly 1st and 2nd division clubs who are prepared to play some of their games on 3G pitches. The committee were in full agreement with the idea. Sean Rooks, League Treasurer, confirmed that league funds are available to support the proposal.

1. **Reward Scheme update.**

Kevin reported that the Reward Scheme is being updated following each set of fixtures, with 11 clubs, at the moment, having no points against them. Most of the penalty points awarded against clubs are for ‘‘Incorrect Result Sheets’ and ‘Late Match Returns.’ A number of clubs have been late with their online match return twice and should they be late for a third time they will incur, as per league rules, an automatic £20.00 Fine.

1. **Medical Emergency Action Plan Workshop.**

League Chairman Peter Maguire expressed his disappointment that no-one turned up for the Workshop on Thursday 19th October which was arranged by the league in conjunction with DFA. The Action Plan is a requirement of the club’s Accreditation for Charter Standard. Kevin contacted DFA to apologise for the non-attendance of clubs, offering to pay for the Tutor’s time. Peter will contact Phil Tye to find out which clubs have or haven’t got the plan in place and to find out who oversees the process. Any club requiring the plan will have to make arrangements themselves.

1. **Fines update.**

League Treasurer Sean Rooks informed the meeting that all fines had been paid.

The £3000 Administration Grant awarded by the FA has now been received.

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

* **Brandon United (Northern League).**

The meeting was informed that Brandon United of the Northern League Second Division, had resigned. Kevin reported that this may have an impact on whether a club is relegated from the Northern League to our Premier division or not at the end of the season.

* **League Secretary Holiday.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he will be away on holiday from 13th January until 27th January 2023. Mick Grant will be picking up his emails.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.