**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 5thSeptember 2023**

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

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

Dani Maguire, Helen Pollard, Ian Stewart, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson,

Paul Sharpe, Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies** Chris Murra**y,** Dave Copeland**,** Kieran Downey, Marshall Lawson, Paul Bell.
2. **Minutes of the last Management meeting**.

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Thursday 13th July 2023, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Minutes of the Club Application meeting,**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31st July 2023, also previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matter arising.**

There were no matters arising from those minutes also.

1. **Correspondence;**

* Notification received from John Topping – Durham FA confirming that the Wearside League and related Competitions and including Charity Cups are sanctioned for the 2023/2024 season.

1. **Willington AFC - failing to field a team against Darlington Town in the Monkwearmouth Charity Cup on Saturday 12th August 2023.**

Carl Whelpdale, club secretary, submitted an email in mitigation explaining that they were unable to field a team as they only had 6 players available for selection due to holidays and picking up several serious injuries during preseason. He had tried to sign players but several required a 7 days’ notice of approach and there was no guarantee of approval in time so took the decision to contact Darlington Town and the match officials apologising for the situation and calling off the game. The decision of the management committee was that **FA and League Rule 20.E.1**. be applied resulting in the club being fined £150.00, as per the Fines Tariff in relation to the rule and excluded from the Cup competition.

1. **Annfield Plain v Richmond Town - game abandoned 12th August 2023.**

Referee Paul Burt reported that he abandoned the game in the 88th minute with score 7-0 to Richmond Town due to a Richmond Town player dislocating his knee, which was not tackle related. The league was later informed by Annfield Plain that it was nearly an hour after the ambulance arrived and dealt with the player before it left for hospital.

The decision of the management committee was that the result stands.

1. **Deerness Valley v West Auckland Reserves - Saturday 12th August 2023 – No Referee changing room.**

Referee Declan Ward reported that Deerness Valley didn’t have an official changing room for the match official. He had to get changed in the back of the Deerness Valley changing room and at half time wasn’t allowed to stay in there. League Secretary Kevin Harrison contacted the club and was informed that the keys to the referee’s changing room had been lost but the situation would be rectified in time for the next home game. He has not been made aware of any problem since. It was proposed and agreed by the committee that no further action would be taken.

1. **Medical Emergency Action Planning Workshop - Thursday 19th October 2023.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he was waiting for a reply from 5 clubs to confirm whether they will be attending or not. He will send out a reminder and then arrange for the workshop to take place at Farringdon Youth and Community Centre, Allendale Road, Farringdon, Sunderland, SR3 3EL.

1. **Durham City v Ferryhill Athletic - game 19th August 2023 - Alleged Racial Abuse of a Ferryhill player.**

Ferryhill Club Secretary Jeff Spooner informed the league, and also copied in John Topping, Secretary of Durham FA, of an incident that took place during their game at home to Durham AFC on the above date. The complaint raised was that midway through the 2nd half of the game a Durham player made a racist remark at their captain. A few of his players heard this and this resulted in play being stopped for a good 10 minutes. The referee apparently did not hear him make this remark, but the club understands that the player admitted to the referee that he did. League Secretary Kevin Harrison reported that the complaint was now in the hands of the County FA who will deal.

1. **Willington AFC v Durham United - game 30th August 2023 - Alleged Racial Abuse of a Durham United player.**

Alex Zimaras, Durham United President, contacted Kevin to inform him of what happened at their game away to Willington on Wednesday 30th August. He reported that after the game there had been a racist remark directed at one of their players. Durham’s coach spoke to the referee after the game who said it would be included in his report and wanted Adam, the coach, to send over the video footage which they take at all of their games. Kevin reported that he had copied John Topping in on the email and it is now in the hands of the county who will take the necessary action.

1. **Late Match Returns.**

Kevin reported that there was a vast improvement from last season on club administration in relation to Online Match returns with only one club failing to complete its match return on more than one occasion after the required deadline. Approval was given for Clubs to be advised that should they fail to comply with league rules regarding match returns on more than 2 occasions, they will be issued with an automatic fine on the 3rd and any further subsequent incidents. Penalty points are awarded against clubs on the ‘League Reward Scheme’ who fail to comply with certain requirements listed in the scheme.

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

* **Charity Donation.**

League Chairman Peter Maguire informed the meeting that the annual cheque to the Monkwearmouth Hospital had not been ‘delivered’ and on further investigation it was found that the premises was partly abandoned, and construction work was being undertaken on the site. It was proposed that a new charity be chosen to receive the £1,000 donation. Following discussion, it was proposed and agreed that the amount be now donated to the ‘Great North Air Ambulance Service’ charity whose headquarters are at; Progress House, Urlay Nook Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, TS16 0QB.

* **First Aid Kits.**

Ian Stewart asked if there were any developments regarding 1st Aid Courses and/or the possible purchase of medical equipment for clubs, as previously discussed.

Peter informed that the Level 2 First Aid Course(s) were now under the remit of the FA and no longer under DFA. The costs of the FA courses are too expensive and also have a long waiting list. An option now is for clubs to do the online course.

He will look into the costs of the 1st Aid Kits and various equipment.

* **Wear United.**

Peter informed the meeting that no contact had been made with him regarding the return of the Ground Passes and 3 match balls following the club folding. He was not aware if any payment has been made yet of the £250 fine levied on the club.

* **Hylton CW.**

Peter reported that the Ground passes and match balls previously collected by the club at the AGM in June, had now been returned to him.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.27pm.