**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 20thApril 2023**

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

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

Helen Pollard, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Sean Rooks. Steve Futers,

Mick Grant.

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

Marshall Lawson, Paul Bell, Paul Sharpe.

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

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondence;**

* **Feeder League Season End Date - FA.**

Email from James Earl, FA National League System Manager, advising that the season end date is currently Saturday 6th May 2023 as the allocation for the National League System will be undertaken during w/c8th May. Kevin had informed all clubs that the league cannot go past the 6th May for games involving those clubs who have applied for promotion. As it stands, we will meet this target as long as no further games are lost. If games are lost it will probably mean switching games around to suit.

* **Guidance on Fixtures for Coronation Weekend 6-8 May 2023 - FA.**

Email from the FA informing that there will be a number of matches scheduled to take place over this weekend. Whilst there will be no restrictions on playing football, the FA would be supportive of Leagues and Clubs who wish to participate in the celebrations and would advise that leagues engage in early conversation with their clubs on this matter so that they can receive the appropriate support and guidance.

1. **Richmond Town - Referee reporting no Discipline Sheet against Windscale on Saturday 25th March 2023.**

Club Secretary, Jon Rutherford, joined the meeting and explained that he wasn’t able to attend matches on a regular basis due to work commitments with the match day organisation being left to the management team. He will relay the league’s required match procedures and concerns to the management team and request that they are fully applied. Online match returns were not being completed on time for which the club have been fined. Jon accepted that all this was his responsibility and would endeavour to make sure that all requirements were met. The club were warned as to their future conduct.

1. **Billingham Synthonia AR - failing to field a team away to Barnard Castle FC on Wednesday 5th April 2023.**

Email in mitigation received from Club Secretary James Gunn explaining that the fixture was their first midweek game of the season. Requests were made to the players the previous Saturday for their availability with only 5 players confirming that they would be, with the remainder declining due to work commitments. He explained that travelling from Middlesbrough and Billingham to the venue for a 6.30pm kick-off, and allowing for changing, team talk and warm up, would mean leaving at approx. 4.40pm. With players working till 5.00pm, and due to the early kick-off, most were unable to commit to play. A later kick-off would have been preferred. He had made the call to the opposition 24 hours prior so that no costs would be incurred for pitch rentals. Following lengthy discussion, the decision of the management committee was that **FA and League Rule** **20.E.1**. be applied, resulting in your club being fined **£50.00** as per the Fines Tariff relating to that rule and the game to be rearranged on a future available date.

1. **DCFA Appeal by Darlington Town.**

Following agreement by the management committee to the proposals made to allocate the venue for Cup Finals, as has been league custom and practice for many years, a request to lodge an official complaint/appeal against the League Management Committee decision to play the Alan Hood Charity Cup Final at Windscale, their opponent’s ground, was submitted by Darlington Town, and then to Durham County FA, on the grounds of impartiality on the league’s behalf, with no expenses being paid for either club. They stated that will have approx. £600.00 to pay for a coach just to play the game League Secretary Kevin Harrison responded to DCFA explaining that the reason why the league allows one club to host the game is purely to increase the gate money so that we can give more to Charity. Moving the game to neutral grounds would, in the league’s view, drastically affect the number attending. The league would have to pay to hire the ground which would probably take up most of the gate receipts. Both clubs would also encounter travelling expenses to such a venue, which seems ridiculous. Darlington Town have been offered the opportunity to host the Shipowners Cup Final so they can gain financially from all the things they claim Windscale are benefitting from.

League Chairman Peter Maguire attended the online Appeal held on Tuesday 11th April 2023.

There were concerns that Rule 6 and Rule 9 appeared to be contradicting each other and after taking everything into consideration, the Appeal Panel decided the following;

* The appeal lodged by Darlington Town FC be upheld and their appeal fee returned
* The league to pay 2/3’s of the coach costs incurred, following the submission of an invoice
* The rules be reviewed for next season
* Consideration be given to play cup finals at a neutral venue
* No costs levied

The panel agreed that the control of the final belonged to the management committee however decided that the expense Darlington Town FC would incur should be recompensed to a certain degree, i.e 2/3’s. The decision is final and binding on all parties.

1. **Cup Finals.**

Kevin gave an update on progress in the cup competition finalists, venues and dates with the following being given approval by the management committee;

**Monday 08/05/2023 - 2.00pm @ Leam Rangers - Monkwearmouth Charity Cup**

Gateshead Leam Rangers v FC Hartlepool

**Friday 12/05/2023 - 7.00pm @ Seaton Carew - 2nd Division League Cup**

Wynyard Village v Bishop Auckland Reserves

**Saturday 13/05/2023 - 2.30pm @ Windscale - Alan Hood Charity Cup**

Windscale v Darlington Town

**Thursday 18/05/2023 - 7.30pm @ Consett - 3rd Division League Cup**

Consett AFC Reserves v Chester-Le-Street Reserves

**Saturday 20/05/2023 - 2.00pm @ Darlington Town - Shipowners Charity Cup**

Darlington Town v FC Hartlepool

**Venue T.B.D - Coxhoe Athletic if they don’t host another Cup - Clem Smith Bowl**

Hetton Town v Belmont United

**Coxhoe will host if they win Semi-Final otherwise it will be Billingham Town –**

**Washington Aged Person Trophy**

Belmont United v Coxhoe

T.B.C v Billingham Town Reserves

Potential dates – 1st, 3rd, 10th May 2023

Kevin circulated the above schedule to the full management committee again requesting all members to assist on at least one game to help on the Gate and to get in touch with him with dates they can be available.

1. **Hylton CW v Hetton Town - match abandoned on Wednesday 5th April 2023.**

Referee Thomas Wallace reported that the game was abandoned on 80 minutes due to poor light. Due to no floodlights, it was agreed by all that it was in the best interests to not continue. He asked if the game needed to be replayed or not as it had passed 70 minutes. The decision of the management committee was that the game will not be replayed and the result stands.

1. **Postponements due to inclement weather.**

Helen Pollard, club secretary of Durham Corinthians, reported on their recent postponed game away to Durham City at Leyburn Grove on Saturday 5th March following inclement weather and the actions taken by Durham City regarding the postponement. She reported that the match was called off without a referee inspection of the pitch and that she was notified by email. To then discover from one of her committee members that the postponement was posted on social media. Helen expressed her concerns and feels that these situations need to be addressed and maybe for next season consequences for breaking protocol need to be put in place. A suggestion that we have written instructions on what to do in those circumstances would help when new personnel take over clubs and new clubs join the league. Kevin confirmed that he would produce written guidance for all clubs next season.

1. **Consett AFC v Hilda Park on 8th April 2023 - caution issued to half-time substitute.**

Referee Dave Watson issued a caution to Consett Reserves for introducing their substitute at half time without notifying him of the change. Following this the referee had since been informed by DFA that a sub being brought on at half time without the knowledge / permission of the referee is not a caution yellow card but a notification email to the league and an extra ordinary report to the FA as back up. Kevin thought that this would be dealt with under the Laws of the Game and the referee would be right to issue a caution. Referee Dave Watson will in future ask if any substitutions have been made following the half time break. Kevin reported that other than mentioning it to the club concerned he was not sure what action the league can take against the club.

1. **Shildon Reserves v Durham City – match abandoned on Wednesday 19th April 2023.**

Referee Paul Burt reported that game was abandoned on 41 minutes due to what appeared to be a serious leg injury to a Durham player with the score at 2-0 to Shildon Reserves. He waited 50 minutes before deciding to call a halt to the game.

Kevin contacted both clubs asking if they wanted the game to be replayed bearing in mind their league positions. Durham wanted a replay, Shildon Reserves didn’t (match costs). Kevin reported that he had since been informed by DFA that the game has to be replayed even though our league rules allow the league committee to decide the outcome of the game.

Following lengthy discussion, it was decided that the game would be replayed with the date of Saturday 13th May 2023 to be confirmed.

1. **Fines Update.**

League Treasurer, Sean Rooks, reported that the following Clubs had paid their Fines;

Chester-Le-Street Res. - £20.00, Belmont United - £20.00, Silksworth CW - £150.00.

Still outstanding - Richmond Town - £20.00 (Mick to chase up),

Roseberry Park - £50.00 (Sean chasing up).

South Moor informed Sean that their £150.00 fine would be paid tonight (20/4/2023).

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

* **Rules Review Meeting.**

Kevin reported that a meeting will need to be arranged soon to review the current League Rules. Once reviewed they have to be forwarded to Durham FA for their approval.

* **AGM - 2022 -23 Season.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the intended date for the League’s AGM is **Sunday 11th**

**June 2023** at a venue to be sought and confirmed.

* **Attitude of Clubs towards Referees.**

Peter reported on the attitude, both observed and reported, of clubs towards referees before, during and after games. He reiterated that this conduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, and he will be looking to incorporate something into the league rules for next season to deter/punish clubs who are reported to the league.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.