**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 10th September 2024**

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

**Present:** Helen Pollard (Chair), Kevin Harrison (League Secretary), Frank Thompson,

Dani Maguire, Dave Copeland, Gareth Coxon, Ian Stewart, Jeff Spooner,

Joe Partridge, Michael Bloomer, Keith Simpson, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Kevin McKitterick, Kevin Robinson, Steve Futers.

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

The minutes of the last management meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024, previously circulated,

were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Minutes of the Discipline meeting.**

The minutes of the Discipline meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. **Minutes of the Emergency meeting**

The minutes of the Emergency meeting held on Monday 15th July 2024, also previously circulated,

were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondence;**

* Email from DFA confirming that the League and Cup competitions for season 2024-25 have been sanctioned.
* Email from Crook Town FC expressing Safety concerns within the league’s 2nd Division following reported incidents of serious foul play on their young players.
* Email from Referee Matthew Kerr apologising for not turning up for the Shildon Railway v Willington AFC game on 28th August, resulting in the game not going ahead.
* Email from Paul Bradley - DCFA informing of the new Referee appointments process for County Cup games.
* Email from referee Kris Middleton fearing for his safety after the game between Durham United and H/Pool Pools Youths on 31st August 2024. Reported to Durham FA.
* Email from referee Matthew Kerr reporting on the conduct of the coaching staff and benched players of New Durham AFC and fearing for his safety following the game against Newton Aycliffe YFC Seniors on 31st August 2024. Reported to Durham FA.

1. **Newton Aycliffe YFC Seniors - failing to field a team at home to Belmont United in the Clem Smith Bowl on Saturday 3rd August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Newton Aycliffe YFC Seniors - failing to field a team away to Windscale in the league on Wednesday 7th August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Brandon United - naming 7 substitutes on their online match return for their game**

**against Shotton Colliery on Saturday 3rd August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Brandon United - failing to field a team at home to Seaton Carew Reserves on Saturday 24th**

**August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Bishop Auckland FC Reserves - failing to field a team away to Windscale on Wednesday 14th**

**August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Bishop Auckland FC Reserves - failing to field a team away to Gateshead Leam Rangers on**

**Saturday 24th August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Bishop Auckland FC Reserves - failing to field a team away to Windscale (Rearranged**

**game) on Wednesday 4th September 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **Annfield Plain - playing an ineligible player in their game away to Farringdon Detached on**

**Wednesday 21st August 2024.**

See Discipline Meeting minutes.

1. **i2i International Soccer Academy Reserves - notice of resigning from the league received**

**on Friday 16th August 2024.**

James Gore, Chief Operating Officer for i2i international Soccer Academy, addressed the meeting

explaining that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Academy are not going to be able to

proceed with the team in Division 2 this season. 50 of the guys haven't passed their University

modules and are not able to return at this point. They will need to re-sit several modules and may

not be able to return until January 2025 if at all. As a result, the Academy are not going to be able

to sustain the Division 2 team this season. They hope to be able to review this next season

Following discussion, the decision of the management committee was that league Rule be applied

resulting in the Reserve Team being fined **£250**, as per the Fines tariff relating to League and FA

Rule 11.

1. **Richmond Town - not attending post-match hospitality after their game away to Silksworth**

**CW on Saturday 10th August 2024.**

Jamie Cole, Secretary of Silksworth CW reported that no one from Richmond Town attended the

after match refreshments. Correspondence received from Jon Rutherford Club Secretary for

Richmond, informed that it was the players intention to go back but were due to go out after the

Game and so had to leave straight away to go home to shower given they weren’t prepared to use

the facilities (photographs supplied). Following lengthy discussion, the decision of the

management committee was that league rule be applied resulting in the club being fined **£40.00**, as

per General Club Requirements. The committee had taken note of the conditions portrayed in the

photographs and will take this up with the club.

1. **Wolviston Reserves v Crook Town AFC Youths - league game abandoned on Saturday 17th**

**August 2024.**

Referee Nathan Sherratt reported to the league that he abandoned the game due to a mass

confrontation in the 77th minute involving almost all 22 players, club officials from both sides and

some spectators following a confrontation between 2 players who committed head-to-head violent

conduct. He concluded that he would not be able to restart the game and deliver it to a safe

conclusion such was the ill-feeling between those associated with both clubs. The report has been

submitted to the County FA to deal. Keith Simpson of Wolviston Football Club, informed the

meeting that the club had been fined by the county and it was believed that Crook Town was

seeking a personal hearing following the outcome.

1. **Management Committee meetings – Attendances.**

Mick informed the meeting that some committee members were not submitting apologies when

they were not able to attend the upcoming meetings and in some cases not attending any. On the

approval of the Chair and League Secretary, he had removed some members from the mailing

list who had never attended a meeting for a number of seasons. It was proposed and agreed

that the subject be added to the Agenda for each upcoming meetings.

1. **League Reward Scheme.**

Kevin reported that the Scheme is in operation again for this season. A number of clubs have

already accumulated points at this early stage.

1. **Charity Donations.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the league will again be supporting the Great North Air

Ambulance Service and ‘If You Care, Share’ Charities this season. League ‘Chair’ Helen had

contacted ‘If You Care, Share’ and both the Wearside league and the Charity will have increased

coverage on Social Media.

1. **Match Ball Sponsorship 2025-26 season.**

Kevin reported that he had been contacted by ‘Spirit Sports Equipment’ regarding providing the

league with custom footballs for the 2025-26 season. The founder of the company is a Durham

University Student who says played in the league for the last two years for Durham United.

The current agreement regarding match balls is with Total Sports who keep a supply where clubs

can arrange purchase and delivery if required.

1. **League Fees and Match Fees Update.**

In the absence of Sean, League Treasurer, it was agreed that this would be carried over to the next

league management meeting.

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

* **Hire of Ford Hub.**

Kevin reported that he had been contacted by Ford Quarry Hub regarding the usage for the Wearside League. To use ‘Pitch 1’ the total cost will be £2205. This will cover 25 fixtures all being on Tuesdays with 7:30pm ko, latest 7:45pm. (works out at £88.00 per game).

Kevin agreed and requested a 7.45pm kick-off and confirmation that there will be at least 30 minutes beforehand for the teams to carry out a warm-up. He will arrangement for payment to be made asap..

* **Shotton Colliery - Floodlights.**

Gareth Coxon, club Chairman/Secretary, informed the meeting that the Floodlights at the ground need work done to them but the club do not have sufficient funds. Kevin informed him that he has the option to apply to the league for an Interest Free Loan to help out.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.