**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 11th November 2024**

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

**Present:** Helen Pollard (Chair), Kevin Harrison (League Secretary), Jeff Spooner,

Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kevin Robinson, Kieran Downey, Sean Rooks,

Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:**  Dani Maguire, Dave Copeland, Gareth Coxon, Michael Bloomer, Steve Futers.
2. **Minutes of the Last Management Committee meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

* **Annfield Plain - protest.**

Keith Simpson asked if there was any update on the appeal to the County by Annfield Plain. Kevin reported that nothing had been circulated by the county in their weekly discipline reports.

* **Player Details.**

League Chair Helen Pollard reported that she had contacted the FA regarding the displaying of players details i.e Name/Picture on the league’s website and was informed that it was down to the league to decide. Following this, approval was given for League Secretary Kevin Harrison to inform all clubs that the league will show names of all players on our website who are registered with our clubs. If any player under the age of 18 does not want their name showing, the club concerned should contact Kevin and he will action it.

1. **Minutes of the Discipline meeting - 8th October 2024.**

The minutes of the Discipline meeting also held on Tuesday 8th October 2024, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from those minutes.

1. **Minutes of the Discipline meeting - 21st October 2024.**

The minutes of the Discipline meeting held on Monday 21st October 2024, also previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Correspondence;**

* **NLS Feeder League Administration Grant - F.A.**

Email from the FA’s National Game Board of the award on an Administration Grant of **£3,000** for season 2024-25.

* **Promotion to NLS Step 6 Applications - F.A.**

Forms and Link to application form for clubs to complete who wish to be considered for promotion to Step 6 (Northern League) for the 2025-26 season. The closing deadline for applications is **31st December 2024.** All clubs applying must liaise with league Secretary Kevin Harrison.

1. **Durham County FA’s decision re Referee’s Discipline Report on Durham United v Hartlepool Pools Seniors on Saturday 31st August 2024.**

As no one from the Club was in attendance it was decided to request the club to attend the next management committee meeting to give their view of the events.

1. **Richmond Town - failing to field a team at home to Shotton Colliery in the league on Saturday 2nd November 2024.**

Club Secretary Jon Rutherford addressed the meeting and explained that they did not have enough players to field a team and had no option but to inform the league.

The decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£150**, as per the Fines Tariff relating to League rule 20.E.1. and 3 points deducted, which are suspended. Should the club fail to fulfil a league fixture again this season those 3 points will be automatically deducted from their clubs points total in addition to any other penalties deemed necessary. The above fixture to be rearranged at a future convenient date.

Gareth Coxon, Club Secretary for Shotton Colliery, contacted the league informing that following confirmation of arrangements with Jon Rutherford, the club paid for a bus the day before the game was cancelled (payment details provided), to go back for post-match refreshments. He had managed to get back £450 and was looking to claim back some money from Richmond Town.

The management committee decided that on this occasion the league would contribute the £50.00 balance.

1. **Durham Corinthians FC Development - failing to field a team at home to Jarrow Reserves in the league on Saturday 2nd November 2024.**

Club representative Kevin Robinson attended the meeting which was informed that the team did not have enough players available for the game to go ahead.

The decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£50**, as per the Fines Tariff relating to League rule 20.E.1. and 3 points deducted, which are suspended. With this being the second time. as previously advised, the 3-point deduction which was suspended following the team’s failure to fulfil its fixture against Ferryhill Youth on 19th October 2024 will now be deducted from the team’s points total. Again, should the team fail to fulfil a further league fixture this season the 3 points suspended for the above failure will be automatically deducted from the clubs points total in addition to any other penalties deemed necessary. The above fixture will be rearranged at a future convenient date.

1. **Easington Lane Reserves - League Administration.**

Paul Walker attended on behalf of the Club and informed the meeting that due to other commitments, Jordan Woodley, Club Secretary/Manager was unable to attend. Paul apologised for the delays in the club submitting some of their online match returns and errors, which have resulted in fines being levied against them. He has offered to help Jordan out with administration, and League Secretary Kevin Harrison will arrange a zoom meeting with Paul to go through the Online Match Return process and other league requirements.

1. **Washington Reserves - failing to pay the Referee at their home game on Saturday 19th October 2024.**

A letter in mitigation received from Gary Sykes, Head of Football at Washington FC, was presented to the meeting informing that he had genuinely left the money at home and there was no money in the Club house as the Bar was not going to be used on Saturday afternoon.

He spoke to the Ref and apologised and asked him to send his bank account details and that he would sort it out when he got home. The payment was made at 18:51pm .

Following discussion, the decision of the management committee was that, as the payment was not made before/immediately after the match as per league rule, League and FA Rule 23.E be applied resulting in the Club being fined **£30** as per the Fines Tariff relating to the rule.

1. **Promotion/Relegation - Season end 2024-25.**

Kevin informed the meeting that, as the Premier division has already lost a team mid-season, it was his intention in line with the same decision that was made 2 seasons ago when Washington United resigned, subject to the approval of the management committee, to relegate only 1 team from the Premier Division and promote 2 from the First Division at the end of this season.

The committee approved his proposal.

1. **Fines and Fees Update.**

League Treasurer Sean Rooks reported that 2 Clubs, Hetton Juniors Seniors and Easington Lane Reserves have still to pay their fines. He has contacted both clubs to chase them up. Kevin suggested that should any club not pay be the required deadline, they should be levied with a further fine as per FA and league rule 6.I.

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

* **December Fixtures.**

Kevin reported that the December fixture will be published on Sunday 17th November. The last fixture date in December will be 14th and will return to full fixtures on Saturday 4th January 2025.

* **Trophies.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he will shortly be placing the Trophy Order which will be less in numbers than previous seasons due to no First Division Cup or Washington Aged Peoples Trophy being played for this season. He will be reviewing the fixture situation for clubs as the season progresses.

* **Match Balls.**

Although receiving an offer from another supplier to provide Match Balls and other sports equipment, it was proposed and agreed that the league will remain with Total Sports for the foreseeable future.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.54pm.