**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 17th March 2025**

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

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

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

Joe Partridge, Kevin McKitterick, Michael Bloomer, Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:**  Keith Simpson, Kevin Robinson, Kieran Downey, Sean Rooks.
2. **Minutes of the Last Management Committee meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondence;**

* **Email from Coundon Cons responding to alleged discriminatory comments by Wolviston Reserves on Saturday 8th February 2025.**

The club were advised to contact Tracey Lavery at DFA following an Incident Report Form submitted by the Referee regarding the allegation.

* **Nike Kitstore Equipment Voucher Award to the League from the FA.**

Email from the FA notifying that the league has been awarded a **£200** Voucher for Kit or Equipment from Kitstore to be redeemed before the 31st May 2025. The management committee decided that the club with the best discipline record (Least dismissals/cautions) at the end of March would be awarded the voucher.

* **I2i Soccer Academy - alleged racial slur at a Deerness Valley player on Wednesday 4th March 2025.**

Referee M Heskett reported that in the 92nd minute a player from Deerness Valley told him that a player from i2i Soccer Academy made a racial remark to one of his players. Even though the referee didn’t hear the remark himself, he told them that he was reporting it to Durham FA.

1. **County FA decision re the match between Easington Lane and Annfield Plain abandoned on Wednesday 22nd January 2025.**

Kevin informed the meeting that both clubs were found guilty and each fined £115.00 for failing to control players and Spectators, and a further fine of £155.00 was levied on Easington lane and £90.00 on Annfield Plain. Due to both clubs being found guilty by the County FA, the league was required to apply **FA Rule 20.E.5.** in deciding the outcome of the game. The FA rule states;

**“In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.”**

The game to be void on the League Table. Mick to write to both clubs to inform them of the decision.

1. **FC Hartlepool Reserves - failing to field a team away to Shildon Railway in the league on Saturday 8th February 2025.**

An email from Chris Murray, Club Secretary and a letter in mitigation from Team Manager Davey Watson were presented to the committee and, following lengthy discussion, 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. Should the club fail to fulfil a league fixture again this season those 3 points will be automatically deducted from the clubs points total in addition to any other penalties deemed necessary. The fixture will be rearranged at a future convenient date.

1. **Jarrow Reserves v Hetton Juniors Seniors - match abandoned Saturday 15th March 2025.**

Kevin informed the meeting that the game was abandoned after 5 minutes due to an injury to the referee. He has rearranged the game for Saturday 19th April 2025.

1. **Cup Finals.**

Kevin listed the proposed schedule of dates for the forthcoming League’s Cup Finals;

Friday 11th April - Kick-off 7.30pm - **Clem Smith Bowl** - Willington v Deerness Valley.

Monday 21st April - Kick-off 2.00pm - **Shipowners Charity Cup** - Silksworth CW v Shotton Colliery.

Monday 5th May - Kick-off 2.00pm - **Alan Hood Charity Cup** - Durham Corinthians v Durham Utd.

Date T.B.A. **Monkwearmouth Charity Cup** - Easington Lane v Durham Corinthians or South Moor.

He again asked for assistance from management committee members to help out with

arrangements at each of the finals.

He also informed of the two **Durham** **County Cup Finals** being played at Eppleton CW in which our league is represented;

Friday 18th April - Kick-off 11.00am - **Minor Cup** - Hebburn Town U23s v Middlestone Moor.

Friday 25th April - Kick-off 7.00pm - **Trophy Cup** - Annfield Plain v Gateshead Leam Rangers.

1. **Rule Changes.**

Discussions took place regarding possible changes to both League and Cup rules with a number of suggestions and proposals put forward. Once compiled the proposed changes will be placed on the A.G.M. Agenda to be voted upon by the clubs.

1. **New Applicants.**

Kevin reported that he had, to date, received 8 enquiries/requests from clubs wishing to join the league next season. He will contact each applicant after 31st March to confirm their application.

1. **F.A. Ground grading.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had received the Ground grading results on the grounds of the clubs who had applied for promotion to Level 6 (Northern League) with Durham United FC meeting the ground criteria.

1. **AGM Venue.**

The meeting was informed that Kevin had enquired with Paul Sharpe at Fc Hartlepool Youth Seniors regarding holding the League’s AGM at their Social venue and asked for suggestions regarding other suitable venues. Brandon, Nissan and Stockton Town were mentioned as possible options should he wish to change. It was proposed and agreed that the AGM will be held on Sunday 8th June 2025.

1. **Fines Update.**

League Treasurer Sean Rooks, in his absence, contacted Mick to report that all fine have been paid and there is nothing outstanding from any club.

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

* **League’s Financial Statements.**

The management committee was informed that League Treasurer Sean Rooks has submitted the financial Statements and paid the Corporation Tax to HMRC following our last meeting.

* **Promotion to Northern League**

Kevin informed the meeting that Durham United only needed to win 1 more game to finish top of the Premier league. He is intending to present the Trophy, if successful, at their next game which is at home to Richmond Town on Thursday 20tth March.

* **New Clubs facilities.**

Helen asked if new clubs wishing to join the league could provide evidence of, or indicate on their application form, their ground facilities.

* **League Website Suspensions.**

Ian Stewart reported that he had an Incident where a player had been transferred out from his club and was later informed that the player was currently suspended which had not been showing as suspended players section on the League’s website. Kevin advised that the Whole Game **S**ystem was the main source for information regarding suspensions etc, as the league does not receive notifications of any cautions/dismissals issued in County Cup games.

* **League Reward Scheme - Update.**

Kevin informed the meeting that there are currently 13 teams with NO penalty points awarded against them. At the end of the season whichever teams remain on Zero points will share the £1,000.

* **Promotion/Relegation – Div 1- Div 2.**

Michael Bloommer enquired as to how many clubs will be relegated from Division 1. Kevin reported that it will be 3 down with 3 up from Division 2.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.