**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 27th January 2025**

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

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

Dani Maguire, Dave Copeland, Joe Partridge, Kevin Robinson,

Michael Bloomer, Paul Sharpe, Sean Rooks, Mick Grant.

Jonathan Gibson-Hayes - Hartlepool Pools Youth FC Seniors

Jeanette Bernard - New Durham AFC

Steve Bowes - New Durham AFC

1. **Apologies:**  Gareth Coxon, Jeff Spooner, Keith Simpson, Kieran Downey.
2. **Minutes of the Last Management Committee meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondence;**

* **Racist comments by Coundon Cons v Hilda Park on Saturday 16th November 2024.**

Correspondence from Hilda Park reporting on comments made by Coundon Cons FC players and sidelines during the game. The club were advised by the league to report this to the County FA who will deal with it. Kevin informed the meeting that to date he was not aware of any decision made or if the case had been dealt with yet.

* **Parking Charges by New Durham AFC.**

Correspondence received from Carl Whelpdale of Willington, and confirmed by Gareth Coxon of Shotton Colliery FC, informing that he received prior notification from New Durham AFC before their away game, that New Durham AFC charge everyone to park in the nearby school as they pay the school to use their car park. The committee was informed that there was nothing that the league can do.

* **Easington Lane FC v Annfield Plain match abandoned on Wednesday 22nd January 2025.**

Match report submitted by Referee Dave Carr informing that he abandoned the game near the end of the first half due to an on-field incident in front of the benches resulting in 2 dismissals that sparked a mass confrontation, benches and spectators entering the field of play, and persons being assaulted. A full report has been submitted to the FA.

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

Hartlepool Pools Club Secretary Paul Sharpe together with Assistant Manager Jonathan Gibson-Hayes, who was present at the game, attended the meeting to give their version of events that took place, both during and after the game. Following a Discipline Report submitted by Referee Kris Middleton to the County FA naming a particular person, Hartlepool were found guilty under FA Rule 21 of failing to ensure spectators/supporters conduct themselves in an orderly fashion, and threatening the referee, the Club was fined £190.00.

League Secretary Kevin Harrison informed the Club that the league does not accept this behaviour from any club. Should there be any repeat or further serious discipline incidents reported, the League will call a Special General Meeting of the clubs to consider the withdrawal of their membership of the league. The Club reported that they had dealt with the individual in question.

1. **Durham County FA’s decision re Referee’s Discipline Report on Newton Aycliffe YFC Seniors v New Durham AFC on Saturday 41st August 2024.**

New Durham AFC Club Secretary Jeanette Bernard together with Manager Steve Bowes attended the meeting to answer questions in relation to their Club being reported to the County FA by Referee Matthew Kerr who reported that he feared for his safety after the game due to the aggressive attitude of their spectators, bench players and coaching staff throughout the game.

The County FA Disciplinary Hearing found the club guilty and find them £50.00.

League Secretary Kevin Harrison also informed them that their club has one of the highest discipline records (dismissals/cautions etc) in the league to date which needs to be addressed. The Club were informed that the league will monitor their discipline, and should it not improve, their membership of the league may be up for consideration at the end of the season.

1. **Richmond Mavericks - failing to pay the Referee at their home game on Saturday 7th December 2024.**

A letter/email in mitigation was received from Club Secretary Fabio Sartini informing that the manager went to pay the referee via bank transfer after the game, but the bank details provided failed. After being contacted by Steve Futers Fabio immediately contacted the referee to obtain his details and paid him. Steve later contacted Mick Grant to advise that he had confirmation from the referee of payment received at 10.33pm. Following discussion, the decision of the management committee was that FA and League Rule 23 be applied resulting the club being fined **£30.00** as per the Fines Tariff relating to that rule.

1. **Richmond Mavericks - failing to field a team away to FC Hartlepool Reserves in the league on Saturday 14th December 2024**.

A letter/email in mitigation was received from Club Secretary Fabio Sartini informing that the team had been struck down with illness and viruses and had tried everything possible all week to get a team together. The decision of the management committee was that the club be fined **£50.00**, 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 to be rearranged at a future convenient date.

1. **Complaint from Farringdon Detached re late postponement of their game away to South Moor on Saturday 14th December 2024.**

Correspondence received from Farringdon Detached secretary Ian Stewart lodging a complaint regarding being notified at 12:00 midday by Connor Price, Secretary of South Moor, of the postponement of their fixture at South Moor. Connor informed Ian that the referee had just been to inspect and had called the game off due to a small area in the middle of the pitch.

Kevin Harrison contacted Connor for his response, and he replied that they felt the pitch was playable but the referee wanted to inspect and could only do so once his morning game had finished. The referee made the decision not the club.

Kevin informed the meeting that No further action to be taken as the referee had called the game off.

1. **Promotion Applications to Step 6 (Northern League).**

Kevin informed the meeting that the FA had informed the league that 4 clubs, **Durham FC**, **Durham United FC**, **Easington Lane FC** and **Gateshead Leam Rangers FC**, had submitted applications for promotion, and he does not think there will be any problems regarding their grounds.

1. **Fines Update.**

Sean Rooks, League Treasurer, reported that all Fines previously levied have been paid.

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

* **Cup Finals.**

Kevin reported that he was looking to play the Final of the Alan Hood Trophy involving Durham United and Durham FC Corinthians on May Day Bank Holiday Monday 5th/weekend at Consett Bell View Stadium, subject to confirmation. He asked for assistance from management committee members to help out with arrangements on the day.

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