**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 28th July 2025**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 7.30pm.**

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

Dave Copeland, Jeff Spooner, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kieran Downey,

Kevin McKitterick, Kevin Robinson, Michael Bloomer, Paul Sharpe, Sean Rooks,

Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:**  Dani Maguire, Gareth Coxon, Ian Stewart, Steve Futers.
2. **Minutes of the Management Committee meeting - 6/5/2025.**

The minutes of the Management meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2025, 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 Committee meeting - 2/6/2025.**

The minutes of the Discipline Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2025, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Minutes of the SGM - 19/6/2025.**

The minutes of the SGM held via email on Monday 19th June 2025, previously circulated, were also confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matter arising from these minutes.

1. **Minutes of the Last Management Committee meeting - 3/7/2025.**

The minutes of the last management committee meeting held on Thursday 3rd July 2025, also previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

Again, there were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondenc**e;

* Email from DFA sanctioning the league and Cup competitions for season 2025-26.
* Email from Mark Carruthers of ‘If You Care Share Foundation Inside Out Campaign 2025 asking for teams to show support for World Suicide Prevention Day (Wednesday 10th September) by taking a match photo at their games on the previous Saturday (6th September) of players/coaches with a match shirt inside out and post it on their social media page with the hashtags - #InsideOut and #AskMeWhy. Kevin circulated this to all league clubs.
* Email from Seb Stockbridge at DFA informing of the new IFAB law changes referencing Law 3 - Only the Captain. This is to stop players surrounding and mobbing the referee. The referee can initiate the rule which creates a 4.5 metre area in which only the captain can approach and communicate with the referee. Any player entering this area will be cautioned for dissent and sin binned. The meeting was informed that this is being implemented in both Northern League Divisions 1 and 2. It was proposed and agreed by the committee that this rule be implemented in our league this coming season. Kevin to inform all clubs and make their players aware.

1. **New Durham AFC - folding from the league on Sunday 20th July 2025.**

Email received from Jeanette Bernard, New Durham AFC club secretary, informing that sadly due to a number of players moving to other local clubs they have no choice but to fold the New Durham AFC Senior team. They have a manager who wants to take the team on and bring some players but don’t know how long it would take. Kevin, in conjunction with League Chair Helen, agreed to give them until 16th August to commence their games. Jeanette consulted with the club but unfortunately the decision was to proceed with the folding. The Club were advised that they would be charged under FA and League Rule 11.B. and invited to attend the meeting to answer the charge. As no one from the club was in attendance the case was dealt with in their absence. The decision of the committee was that the Club be fined £250 as per the Fine Tariff relating to the rule and the club informed that the players who are currently registered for the team will NOT be allowed to transfer to another team in our league until the fine has been settled.

1. **Wearside FC - struggling with their August fixtures.**

Email received from Wearside FC Club Secretary Danielle Jaggers informing that they are struggling to fulfil their August fixtures. They have a small squad but appears they have been subject to a core group of Sunday team players using them for free games/training and they have all just announced that they are not continuing. The committee discussed their situation and it was agreed to give them 30 days to see if they can pull sufficient players together which would mean their 1st game would be on Wednesday 27th August. Kevin to ask them to get in touch with him with an update before he compiles the fixtures for September which he will be doing on the weekend of 16th August 2025.

1. **Referees Fees for Season 2025-26.**

Mick confirmed the following Match Officials new Fees to cover league and cup games, proposed by the League and agreed by the clubs for Season 2025-26;

**Premier Div.** - Referee **£50**, Assistants **£40,** plus travel expenses of 0.40p per mile or standard rate public transport expenses.

**First, Second and Third Div.** - Referee **£40**, plus travel expenses of 0.40p per mile or standard

rate public transport expenses.

1. **Level 2 Emergency First Aid Courses run by the F.A.**

Kevin informed the meeting that he had been made aware of the course which provides a better level of training in sports Injuries than the basic online one and circulated the syllabus to all of our clubs. The league would look to fund 50% of the training costs for 12 persons and also provide refreshments. He reported that he received interest from 2 clubs only, Wolviston and Washington, so it was a non-starter. He informed clubs that there was a course that they can book themselves being held on Thursday 18th September 2025, 09:00 to 17:00, at Ford Quarry Football Hub, South Hylton, Sunderland, SR4 0RW.

1. **Manager’s Jackets.**

Kevin gave an update reporting that an order for 132 Jackets has been placed which included 8 clubs who wanted extras. An enquiry has been made with the supplier DCD regarding the cost of having the jackets shipped directly to the clubs and are waiting for a reply. If it is too expensive we will need to arrange collection points. It is not envisaged that the Jackets will be available for the start of the season. League Chair Helen has signed a 2 Year agreement with DCD to provide 60 jackets with the League supplying the rest.

1. **Fines Update.**

League Treasurer Sean informed the meeting that the 2 clubs, Norton & Stockton Ancients and Park View AFC Reserves, have paid their fines for folding and there are no other fines outstanding.

He reported that there has been a good response from clubs regarding payment of Annual Subscriptions and he will be sending out a reminder near to the end of August.

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

* **Registrations.**

Registration Secretary Dave Copeland reported that, as of the weekend gone (26th July), Wynyard Village had not submitted any player registrations yet and their 1st game is on 6/8/2025. Kevin to chase this up with the club.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.03pm.