**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 6th May 2025**

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

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

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

Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kevin McKitterick, Kevin Robinson, Michael Bloomer,

Sean Rooks, Mick Grant.

1. **Apologies:**  Kieran Downey, Paul Sharpe, Peter Maguire, Steve Futers.
2. **Minutes of the Last Management Committee meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 17th March 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.**

The minutes of the Discipline Committee meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

1. **Any Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Correspondence;**

* Report from Referee Harry Fister Boyd informing of an alleged homophobic remark made by a i2i Soccer Academy player to a Gateshead Leam Rangers Reserve player on Saturday 22nd March 2025 which has since been referred to the appropriate County FA.
* Report from Referee Lewis Dixon informing of an assault on a i2i Soccer Academy player by Cody Hoyland of FC Hartlepool Reserves contributing to the match being abandoned on Saturday 29th March 2025. Kev reported that he was awaiting the outcome of a Hearing pending at Durham County FA. Once dealt with, a decision on what action to take will be made at the next league management committee meeting.
* Report from Referee David Carr informing that he abandoned the Shotton Colliery v Annfield Plain match on Saturday 12th April 2025 due to a potential serious injury to an Annfield Plain player who needed hospital treatment and being advised by the Ambulance Service not to move him and that there is around a 2 and a half hour wait for an Ambulance. They had given it 45 minutes and the player was still being attended to on the pitch.

1. **Consett Blackfyne - failing to field a team away to Ferryhill Town Youth on Wednesday 16th April 2025.**

A letter in mitigation was received from Club Secretary Scott Kelly informing that due to a number of injuries, the game being in the Easter holiday period and players unable to make the kick-off time through work commitments, they were unable to field a team.

The decision of the management committee was that League Rules be applied resulting in the

club being fined **£50**, as per the Fines Tariff relating to League Rule 20.E.1.

1. **Annfield Plain AFC - failing to field a team at home to Farringdon Detached on Saturday**

**19th April 2025.**

Club Chairman Derek Kemp together with team representative Stephen Laws attended the meeting and explained that they did not have enough fit players available following a number of them playing for a Sunday league team in a rearranged semi-final days a couple of days before.

Following lengthy discussion, the decision of the management committee was that League Rules be applied resulting in the club being 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 points total in addition to any other penalties deemed necessary.

The fixture has now been rearranged to be played on Wednesday 14th May 2025.

1. **Farringdon Detached - failing to field a team at home to South Moor AFC on Saturday 26th April 2025.**

Club Chairman/Secretary Ian Stewart addressed the meeting informing that the club was unable to field a team against South Moor due to having no-one in management available to run the team as they were away on holiday abroad and there was no-one able to step in. He was unable to be there also as he was looking after his wife who had just come out of hospital and he had no-one else to look after her.

The decision of the management committee was that League Rules be applied resulting in the club being 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 the clubs points total in addition to any other penalties deemed necessary. The game was rearranged and played on Saturday 3rd May 2025.

1. **i2i Soccer Academy v New Durham AFC - match abandoned on Saturday 26th April 2025.**

Correspondence received from the referee informing that he was delayed following taking an earlier game and it was agreed with i2i Secretary Thomas Butler that the kick-off time would be pushed back to 12.45pm. Due to the referee being delayed by traffic, the game actually kicked off at 12.55pm. With added time to the first half as well as a 15-minute interval, come the 75th minute in the game the pitch booking had expired and Northumbria University kicked everyone off the pitch. The game was abandoned at 2.30pm. Kevin informed the club that in accordance with league rules, with no team deemed to be directly at fault for the abandonment, the game will have to be replayed. The game will now be played on Saturday 10th May 2025.

The management committee declined New Durham AFC’s request for travel expenses for the re-arranged fixture.

1. **Rule Change.**

The committee discussed possible changes to a number of rules and were in agreement that Clubs who have made efforts to improve their own ground should not be disadvantaged in seeking promotion. It was agreed that League Rule 22. **DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP** be amended to include;

***“Ground sharing to gain promotion from Division 1 to the Premier league will not be allowed”.***

It also brings directly in to line the same criteria for promotion to Level 6 from the Premier division.

1. **Kitlocker Voucher Award.**

Kevin informed the meeting that based on the agreed criteria to decide who was the most eligible club, the award went to Wolviston FC. Club representative Keith Simpson thanked the league.

1. **New Teams / Proposed constitution.**

Kevin reported that he had received enquiries from 12 teams looking to join the league. As part of the requirements to join, clubs have been requested to provide photos of their changing facilities to ensure there is adequate provision for players and referees. A minimum of 8 new teams could constitute a 4th division. All will be decided at the AGM based on applications.

1. **Fines update.**

League Treasurer Sean Rooks reported that he is currently chasing up 3 clubs for late payment; Easington Lane Reserves, Richmond Town and Darlington RA. Other than fines issued at tonight’s meeting all others have been paid.

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

* **Potential League Sponsor.**

Carl Sweeting and Adam Fordy of DCD Teamwear attended the meeting and discussed the proposed idea of possible provision of Bench Jackets for Managers, initially for the Premier Division, promoting their company. Kevin stated that, with a financial input from the league, he would like this to be extended to all clubs in the league. It was agreed that they would go away and put a package together and attend the AGM in June to give a presentation to all the clubs. Keith Simpson informed the meeting that Wolviston FC currently deal with DCD Teamwear and have received excellent customer service from them.

* **League Reward Scheme.**

Kevin informed the meeting that there are currently 13 Teams on ZERO penalty points and each will have a share of the £1,000 prize.

* **Cup Final Receipts.**

League Treasurer Sean Rooks reported that total Gate receipts from the league’s 4 Cup Finals this season exceeded £4,100.

* **League - Limited Company.**

Sean advised the committee that with the league being a Limited Company, to continue to submit the League’s financial statements etc to HMRC required using a different accounting package to what is currently being used by the league. This would cost £30.00 per month. Should the league relinquish the ‘Limited Company’ status, its current accounting format is acceptable. He asked the committee if the league would change to a non-Limited Company. It was decided that the league would remain a Limited Company. Sean informed the meeting that due to work commitments he would not have the time to train in the HMRC required accounts package software and would probably stand down as Treasurer at the forthcoming AGM.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.07pm.