

MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STROUD AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2020

01/0196 OPENING OF THE MEETING: The Chairman, Bob Warren, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02/0196 ATTENDEES: Bob Warren, Gary Chapman, Mark Cox, Derek Freebury, Jason Harries, Kenny Smith, Glynn Tandy, Colin Ward, Jeff Willerton

03/0196 APOLOGIES: Mike Smith, Steve Marshall, Keith Sparrow, Brian Stevens, Jamie Thomas, Mike Wheatley

04/0196 MINUTES:

- The Chairman signed the minutes of the Management Meeting held on 10th December as a true record.

05/0196 MATTERS ARISING:

- none

06/0196 HANDBOOK CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS:

- These are now on the League website, so please check there for the latest additions.

07/0196 CORRESPONDENCE:

- Various expressions of interest from new and existing clubs wanting to enter a new team next season. No formal applications so far, but have reminded those clubs that the deadline to apply is 30th April. Securing a pitch is obviously the key prior to applying.
- FA Cup Final ticket applications received from Charfield, Randwick and Life member Mike Flynn.
- Gary fed in several items from referee reports, which have all gone down to the GFA to deal with. Additionally, a referee has reported that the goalposts at Stratford Court are not upright and need to be corrected. The goalposts there two years ago were in dire need of a correction, and were eventually resolved and inspected. The teams using the pitch will be contacted and required to make sure that the posts are upright before any further matches can be played there.

08/0196 TREASURER:

- Mike had sent out invoices prior to Christmas, and despite some confusion over the receiving or not of the original emails, all clubs made the necessary payments in time.
- The 2019 set of accounts has also been completed and is ready to be audited. There was a surplus this season, Mike will expand on the various ups and downs at the AGM in May. Safe to say that over the past two years Mike has been able to turn around the worrying decline of the League's balance, due to measures taken and accepted by clubs, and by a series of cost cutting actions which leave us in a healthier and more efficient position.
- There have been a couple of payments of £100 made from the Benevolent Fund, these being to Nick Darkes of Stonehouse Town and a second payment to Rhys Lewis of Longlevens. A further claim is in progress for Dan Jeeves of Chalford.

09/0196 REFEREES SECRETARY:

- Despite the loss of a few referees during the period, several referees have returned to action, notably Terry Gladwin. Graham Pugh and Darren McMillan will be available for several games following their stepping down from Hellenic/Western League football. A new referee starts in February, James Curran.

10/0196 REGISTRATION SECRETARY:

- Keith returned to hospital prior to Christmas and remains there while various tests and procedures are being carried out to identify the nature of his health issues. He remains steadfast that he is able to carry on doing his Registration issues, and clubs should still send him new forms to his Dursley address. This paperwork is being taken in to Keith every few days. He still is able to communicate via mobile, and has access to complete the Whole Game process.

- If anyone wants or needs to carry out an urgent registration or more likely an urgent transfer, then please contact the League General Secretary who will process it if all the "paperwork" has been correctly done.
- A reminder that the registration and transfers process only goes up to the 1st March, thereafter, no registrations can be made, except by special permission of the Management Committee.

11/0196 RESULTS SECRETARY:

- Kenny has had unresolved ongoing issues involving Avonvale United and Painswick and continues to have to chase clubs who list less than 11 players on a team listing, whether because the registration of that player is being processed from the Saturday, or on occasions when a team genuinely have only been able to play 10 players or less. In both these scenarios, he needs clubs to communicate to him the issue before he has to chase the club for an explanation.

12/0196 DISCIPLINARY OFFICER:

- Jamie issued an email out to all clubs prior to the meeting as he was having to chase up clubs who were not completing the required League processes following GFA suspensions. The biggest challenge to Jamie and clubs is updating the records following postponed fixtures which mean a player then has to serve a later fixture. All clubs must notify Jamie asap following a sending off on a Saturday so that he can update Full-Time to identify players with forthcoming suspensions.

13/0196 GENERAL & FIXTURES SECRETARY:

- On 28th December Saintbridge had to postpone their League fixture due to insufficient players. They will have three points deducted and be fined as per the Fines Tariff. Rule 20.E.(i). Applies. Saintbridge only contacted the League at 12:35 and a message was passed at this stage to Bob Warren, who tried to contact the referee, John Marston. John comes from Evesham, so had already left, heading for Kingsway. On arrival he found out from Bob that the fixture had been postponed. Saintbridge are to be fined for the late call after 11am, and are required to pay the referees fee. The League have already reimbursed John and apologised on behalf of Saintbridge.
- Hardwicke Reserves vs Chalford Reserves was abandoned on 4th January due to a bad injury to Chalford player Dan Jeeves, who was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg. Fortunately the injury turned out to be not quite as severe, but Dan is unlikely to return to football this season. The match will be replayed.
- Regarding the League Cup tie, Tibberton vs Longford. The main pitch at Newent School was covered in mole-hills and so the "other" pitch at the school was to be used. However, the goals were around 15 cms too low, and whilst this pitch also had mole-hills, the ground was made safe to play the cup tie following both teams agreement for the match to go ahead. The issue caused the same problem the following week, a County Cup tie, which was postponed as both teams turned up but the referee would not permit a GFA County Cup match to be played there until the same issues were resolved. Tibberton have been informed that they will not be able to use either pitch from this point until the mole-hill problem has been resolved on the main pitch, or, more likely, that the heights of the goals on the second pitch are corrected. The ground will need to be inspected by a member of the Committee before their next home fixture (22-Feb) can be played.
- A long and detailed discussion was held due to the potential fixtures issues should there be more bad weather between now and the end of February. In short, if this was the case, the season may in theory have to be abandoned, and be null and void. In order to avoid having to take such an extraordinary decision, it may be necessary to call a Special General Meeting to agree a mechanism for determining a valid season ending. This may involve taking the points per gained (PPG) at a pre-determined date, and then playing a series of season-ending matches based upon a team's position in the division, eg splitting the division into two halves and then the top and bottom half teams play each other once more, with the end positions determined by PPG. Only a SGM would be able to sanction this, and it was agreed that should this need to be called, then it would have to be done by no later than 26th February. Other suggestions included abandoning the League Cup matches, playing games on Sundays and utilising 3G/4G pitches, although the latter is an expensive option which may not be feasible to most clubs. A decision will be made at the next Committee Management meeting on 13th February.
Let's hope that the weather abates and we get some football played in February.
- A reminder that any proposed Rule changes need to be submitted by 1st March.

- A new laptop and mobile phone was purchased for the General Secretary through the FA's IT scheme. The League have since been fully reimbursed, so there is no cost to the League.

14/0196 LEAGUE CUP:

- On 4th January, Uley 3rds played Jasper Stokes-Johnson in their cup tie vs Randwick 3rds. The player, who scored both of Uley's goals in their 2-1 win, is a First team regular and played for Uley 1sts in the cup on 30th November. As a result, Randwick 3rds are awarded a walkover win, and Uley 3rds are removed from the competition. Uley 3rds are to be fined as per the Fines Tariff for playing an ineligible player.

15/0196 CHAIRMAN & GFA REPORT:

- The League is well represented in three of the four Semi Finals of the County Cup sections, the Junior (Dursley Town and Sharpness Res), Intermediate (Chesterton and Horsley Utd) and the Minor (Kingsway Res, Chalford 3rds and Longlevens 4ths). The matches take place on 7th March.

16/0196 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:33pm.

17/0196 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

- The next Management Committee Meeting is Thursday 13th February 2020.