

MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STROUD AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE HELD ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2020

01/0198 OPENING OF THE MEETING: Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman, Bob Warren, welcomed Dolores Merrett who was attending to present a cheque donation to the League. For those not aware, Dolores' dad, Fred Gardiner, one of the League's Vice-Presidents, passed away late last year, and the family wanted to make a donation to the Stroud League in Fred's honour. It had already been agreed for the League to purchase a Memorial Shield in Fred's honour, to be presented annually to the winners of the (current) Section A Plate, and this money will therefore be used to fund this. The Committee thanked Dolores for this kind act, and hopefully Dolores will be able to present the trophy come the final.

Bob then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02/0198 ATTENDEES: Bob Warren, Gary Chapman, Mark Cox, Jason Harries, Kenny Smith, Brian Stevens, Glynn Tandy, Colin Ward, Mike Wheatley, Jeff Willerton

03/0198 APOLOGIES: Steve Marshall, Mike Smith, Keith Sparrow, Jamie Thomas

04/0198 MINUTES:

- The Chairman signed the minutes of the Management Meeting held on 13th February 2020 as a true record.

05/0198 MATTERS ARISING:

- The goal at Stratford Court is now upright and secure, and has been inspected by the League.
- Kenny Smith reported that the pitch at Tibberton was playable, but still poor, but was unable to advise on the other issue, the height of the goals, so this will still need to be checked by the match referee at their next home fixture on 21st March to verify that these are at regulation height.

06/0198 HANDBOOK CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS:

- These are now on the League website, so please check there for the latest additions, including a ground change for Cam Everside, a change of Secretary for Abbeymead Rovers, and a correction to the mobile number used by the Trident Secretary.

07/0198 CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chalford applauded the actions and performance of referee Natalie Poolton following an "unpleasant incident" and the sending off of a Rodborough Old Boys player in their fixture on 8th February. The matter is being dealt with by the GFA. It is understood that Rodborough have dismissed the player from their club as a result.
- Two reports on different dates for low referee marks for the same referee from Chalford. Colin Ward is aware of these and will be addressing this in due course.
- A positive report from Gary Chapman for Old Richians Res and North Nibley, a) for getting the game played by reversing to be played at Nibley, and b) their general attitude and sportsmanship.

08/0198 TREASURER:

- We have now received a letter of thanks from Rhys Lewis of Longlevens, in respect to a second Benevolent Fund donation made in January.
- Three referees were not informed of their postponement on 22nd February, and are to be paid their match fee as a result, however, Mike has only heard back from one of the three when he contacted them with regard to arranging to make a bank transfer to their accounts. The one, Steve Bluck has been paid, Mike awaits to hear from Greg Penrith and Joe Riley, both of whom contacted the League on the day to inform that they had turned up at the ground, only to find no-one there.
- Mike summarised the outcome of the sub-committee meeting held last month, regarding a review of the structure of the League Officers fixed expenses. The overall cost to the League is a small increase to the current amount, so will not represent a significant increase on the League's expenditure. This has now been approved by the Committee and requires approval at the AGM.

09/0198 REFEREES SECRETARY:

- Nothing significant to report

10/0198 REGISTRATION SECRETARY:

- Keith was back home until last weekend, but had a fall and is back in hospital again. The Registration duties are all up to date, and for any emergency registration issue to the end of the season, please contact the General Secretary who will deal with.

11/0198 RESULTS SECRETARY:

- Very quiet month due to the lack of games. A reminder that a team listing and the normal markings still needs to be completed on Full-Time for abandoned games.

12/0198 DISCIPLINARY OFFICER:

- Nothing to report in Jamie's absence.

13/0198 GENERAL & FIXTURES SECRETARY:

- Courtney Hamilton of Tredworth Tigers was sent off on 18th January and should have been suspended for their next fixture, however, Tredworth played him the next week away to Tetbury Town. The GFA were informed by Jamie Thomas, and they charged the player with misconduct. Despite an appeal by Tredworth, he was found guilty of playing whilst being suspended. As a result, the League can now act as Tredworth have transgressed Rule 18.N. The Committee decided that as Tetbury Town lost the match, under Rule 18.N.iii, that this should therefore be replayed. The result of the original match will be voided. Also, under Rule 18.N.ii, the League can levy a further penalty points deduction against the team, however, on this occasion, it was decided that this was an administrative error on the part of Tredworth, and not an attempt to deceive the League, therefore there will not be any further deduction of points.
- On 15th February, two games were abandoned due to the weather and state of the pitches: Cashes Green Res v Dursley 3rds - after 60 minutes – the score was 3-3 at the time Painswick Res v Cam Everside - after 45 minutes – the score was 1-1 at the time Both are to be replayed.
- On 22nd February, the match Chalford 3rds v Randwick Res was abandoned after 70 mins due to a severe injury to a Chalford player. The score was 0-0 at the time, and the match is to be replayed Both clubs praised the young referee, Kyle McMillan, who officiated the game for his actions and handling of the situation. The Chalford player is recovering and should hopefully be back next season.
- On 29th February, only one game went ahead due to the weather, and this was abandoned following possible misconduct from off-field Abbeymead personnel. The matter is being dealt with by the GFA and we await their decision before we can decide on what to do regarding the outcome of the game. Painswick were winning 3-0 at the time.
- Both Saintbridge and Tetbury Town 3rds were unable to field a team on 7th March. They will both have three points deducted and be fined as per the Fines Tariff. Rule 20.E.(i). applies. This is the third occasion that Saintbridge have had to call a game off due to player numbers, and should this occur again this season, then we will have to consider using Rule 11.D.
- Wickwar Wanderers postponed their fixture on the morning of 22nd February and the referee was informed of the game being off by Bob Warren. The referee works near to the ground and happened to take a look himself at 10:30am. He reported to the League that the pitch at that time was very playable and provided a series of photographs which backed this up. Wickwar were contacted and provided a photo taken some two hours earlier that showed the pitch not to be playable, hence why it was called off around 9:30am. There was no date stamp on the photo, and the League only have the word of the club that this photo was taken the same day. We know from experience over many years that the pitch at Wickwar drains very quickly, and is nearly bullet-proof to the weather, however, in view of the uncertainty of the matter, and the fact that clubs were requested to postpone games early if they felt that the pitch would not be playable, the Committee deemed that the evidence was inconclusive, and no further action would be taken in this instance.
- There were no Alteration to Rules proposals from anyone outside of the Management Committee, and the few that are to be proposed by the Committee were not discussed on the evening due to other priorities, ie the SGM discussion. The proposals will however accompany these minutes, and any proposed amendments must be sent to the League Secretary by 21st April.

14/0198 LEAGUE CUP:

- These matters were to be dealt with under the Pre-SGM meeting discussion

15/0198 CHAIRMAN & GFA REPORT:

- We have four of the eight spots in the GFA County Cup Finals, so congratulations go to Dursley Town, Wickwar Wanderers, Horsley United and Chalford (3rds). It was also noted that Brockworth Albion and Charfield First teams will contest the Senior Amateur Cup too. The dates have been confirmed although the League has not been informed of these again.
- Bob once again thanked everyone for all the extra work they have had to endure due to the bad weather over the past month, as well as the longer four plus months period.

16/0198 PRE-SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING DISCUSSION:

- A 40 minute discussion with the "nuclear option" being presented, ie should we have to consider abandoning the season, can we amend the schedule in order to play a series of fixtures to determine final standings. This option was approved and will be presented at the SGM two days later.
- It then moved onto discuss all the various options within the Rules should we not have to abandon, but to plough on with the remainder of the season, these will also be advised to clubs at the SGM.

17/0198 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

18/0198 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

- The next Management Committee Meeting is Thursday 9th April 2020.