

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE STROUD AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE HELD AT FRAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST 2021

01/0214 OPENING OF THE MEETING – the meeting started at 8:05pm

02/0214 APOLOGIES: Mike Wheatley, Gary Chapman, Mike Smith, Tom Tidy (Oxstalls) Martin Lee (Tetbury), Will Cronshaw (Tuffley), Mike Bolland (Barnwood), Ben Foxwell (Kingswood)

03/0214 ROLL CALL:

- The following clubs were not represented at the meeting and will be fined under Rule 5.C as per the Fines Tariff: Chalford , Gloster Rovers , South Cerney , Wickwar Wanderers

04/0214 CHAIRMAN:

- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first General Meeting held not in a virtual world since August 2019.
- He also welcomed Kevin Smith, manager of Bateman's Sports to the meeting as the newly agreed League Sponsor. We look forward to working with Bateman's and Kappa going forward, and hope that they benefit out of the association with the Stroud & District League.

05/0214 TREASURER:

- The Treasurer was unable to attend but asked for the following points to be made:
 - (a) My thanks for prompt payment of recent Club Statements – all paid by the due date
 - (b) Clubs (new & old) do not have to pay fines at the time they are levied. They only need to pay when they receive a Statement from me. The "Club Deposit" makes this possible.
 - (c) A reminder that the criteria for "Benevolent Fund Claims" is published in the inside back page of the handbook. Additionally, claims will only be considered for Stroud League (incl cup) matches, and for County Cup matches. Outside of this remit, other claims should be made to the GFA Benevolent Fund.
 - (d) It is expected that successful claimants acknowledge receipt of payments by mail to the Treasurer.
 - (e) Current Cash Balances available are Current Account £1,225 Deposit Account £30,275. At this moment in time, the total for Club Deposits stands at £6,555.
 - (f) Have a good and hopefully uninterrupted 2021-22 season.

06/0214 GENERAL SECRETARY, incl FIXTURES

- Several matters raised in the Management Committee meeting held the week before were advised to the member clubs, please refer to those minutes.
- Wotton Rovers queried a matter discussed in the meeting the week before, the matter is now subject to a possible GFA appeal and therefore it was not appropriate to discuss the matter in this forum.
- Handbooks and new Matchday Teamsheets were distributed at the meeting. Please do not use old teamsheets anymore as the white top copy must now be provided to the opposition.
- Updated Full-Time login and access documentation will be provided early next week.
- The same goes for SMS contact details.
- The Fees & Fines tariff list has been omitted from the handbook by mistake. A copy of these are available from the handbook tab on the website.

07/0214 REFEREES SECRETARY:

- A reminder that Referees fee remain as £25 plus travel costs, upto a maximum of £40
- Referees should now revert to providing their own Assistant Referee flags, but it is advised early on in the season for teams to still bring a flag just in case. Teams can still provide their own if they prefer to.

08/0214 REGISTRATION SECRETARY:

- As all will know and realise, there have been major issues in the use of the newly updated Player Registration System. As frustrating as it may have been to date, Jamie is on your side and working extremely hard to progress these, and to deal with individual issues. We have been advised that recently, the ticket count of issues registered with the FA's IT team dealing with this is over 8,000.

We therefore have little or no confidence that they will be able to progress any of the several tickets that we have raised in the near future. It seems to have been left to Jamie to workaround the problems, and he has been assisted by the GFA and in particular Jeremy Lewis of the GNSL (and Charfield), so a big thanks to Jeremy on this. We also recognise the hard work that most clubs are having to put into this, hopefully your hard work will pay off this and in future seasons as issues get resolved and ironed out.

- Jamie has however managed to progress the majority of registrations now, the biggest issue that seems to remain is the inability of some clubs to submit some registrations due to issues relating to player email addresses. This obviously means that some clubs cannot even submit the registrations to Jamie, and we recognise that if this continues, then we will need to set up some form of manual system so that those players can be legally registered. Clubs will find that it is their own interests to still try to progress these matters, with Jamie or the GFA, as the manual system will have an impact upon the Results process too, and possibly create even more work for Secretaries.
- It is what it is though, and we have come too far to abandon the current system in favour of a completely manual one, which would be incredibly time consuming all round. Jamie will send details of the manual system early next week, please use this only if necessary.
- There has been some confusion in the past with clubs thinking that they have registered a player, only to find out that they have not. This season, we insist that you check Full-Time (for all your teams) to make sure that the players listed on your squad, match up with the players that you believe that you have registered. Once Jamie has approved a registration, this gets "migrated" to Full-time, sometimes within seconds, and sometimes taking several hours (and even overnight). It is your responsibility to check that your players are listed and can be selected when you need to upload your team details following a match.
- Finally, please have a read through Rule 18 prior to the start of the season to make sure that your club complies with the registration rules.

09/0214 RESULTS SECRETARY:

- A reminder that results must be uploaded and completed by 9pm Wednesday. Any clubs not doing this should expect to be fined. Further delays may end up in a club being suspended.
- Any issues in not being able to upload the full list of players that played, including due to manual registrations, then please notify Kenny by email, do not leave it until he has to chase you for them.
- Please respond to the SMS contact email that Jeff will send out over this coming weekend. Kenny is your point of contact in updating the contact details. And please educate those who have to sms the result in, there is a defined format that needs to be followed. Kenny will advise early on if individuals are not entering it correctly, resulting in the score not being registered.

10/0214 DISCIPLINARY OFFICER:

- There are obviously still some suspensions that are hanging over from last season, you need to make sure that any players that you register that have a current suspension (and these will be clearly marked as "suspended" on the Player Registration System), are made aware of the matches that they must still serve.
- There are some players that have a historical suspension that appears to be still be on the system. You need to contact the GFA if this is the case to find out why this is still the case (some records just have not been updated correctly).
- Jamie will go through the list of suspended players that he receives weekly from the GFA and try to update the Full-Time pages accordingly, however, it is not his responsibility if any are missed, and you as a club play a suspended player. Therefore, if in any doubt, contact Jamie and or the GFA to check.
- A reminder that the GFA are responsible for disciplinary matters, Jamie acts on behalf of the league to monitor disciplinary issues, and therefore acts as an intermediary, to assist clubs and the league.

11/0214 LEAGUE CUP:

- League Cups for this season will start for all teams during November. If the league schedule is severely disrupted before this period, then we will have the option of not holding the competitions and look to plough on, and possibly look to hold something at the end of the season as a backup.

12/0214 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- COVID-related issues:
- The aim of the league is, within current Government and FA guidelines, to play matches, to progress through the fixture schedule as much as possible, or until we are directed otherwise.
- A summary of the current guidelines was listed in last weeks Management Committee minutes, please refer to this.
- Clubs/teams who have individual confirmed cases will still be expected to play matches, unless several other players/officials are instructed to self isolate due to the Government's Track & Trace official system (not through the app!). In these cases, you must contact the League Secretary to discuss the situation. We will postpone games where necessary, however, this should not be used as an excuse to postpone a game because of other issues, including general player availability.
- Do not contact opposition teams at this stage as they may be able to play another team who is also subject of a postponement. Please take your direction only from the League Secretary on this, and of course, dont leave it to the last minute.
- We expect all changing rooms (incl toilets) to be available now, but please be aware that there are some clubs who have certain restrictions placed upon their usage by eg Parish Councils. Any club who has such restrictions should contact their opposition to advise at least two days prior to the match. Any club not able to use changing rooms or showers need to inform the General Secretary immediately.
- We as a league will review the overall situation on a weekly and then monthly basis.

13/0214 DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday 5th January 2022

- It is likely that this meeting will be held "online" via MS Teams or Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:10pm