

MINUTES OF THE (ONLINE) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STROUD AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE HELD ON THURSDAY 6 JANUARY 2022

OPENING OF THE MEETING: Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was conducted "online" via MS Teams video.

01/0219 ATTENDEES: Bob Warren, Gary Chapman, Brian Cooper, Mark Cox, Jason Harries, Steve Marshall, Kenny Smith, Mike Smith, Keith Sparrow, Brian Stevens, Glynn Tandy, Jamie Thomas, Colin Ward, Mike Wheatley, Jeff Willerton.

02/0219 APOLOGIES: None.

03/0219 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The Management Committee meeting minutes from 16th December were agreed upon as a correct record.

04/0219 MATTERS ARISING: None

05/0219 CHAIRMAN: Bob is now back home and on "light duties", he thanks everyone for their kind wishes during his recent hospitalisation.

06/0219 TREASURER:

- Four clubs failed to settle their end of November invoices by 18th December as required, these being Chalford, Gloster Rovers, Wickwar Wanderers and Wotton Rovers. All four have been fined as per the Fines Tariff.
- The 2021 accounts will now be sent for audit.
- The League is in a solid financial position at the moment, and with costs being kept as low as possible, it should be possible to invest in some small projects on behalf of the clubs. One of these is to spend some of the surplus money on the recruitment and retention of referees.

07/0219 CORRESPONDENCE RELEVANT TO THE MEETING:

- Five teams were charged and found guilty of failing to fulfil a fixture during December: Chalford 4ths (04-Dec), Quedgeley Wanderers 3rds (11-Dec), Trident (11-Dec), Kingshill Sports (11-Dec), Cotswold Rangers Res (11-Dec), All teams will have 3 points deducted from their team totals and be fined as per the Fines Tariff.
- Cotswold Rangers Reserves withdrew from the league on 3rd January due to a lack of player commitment. Cotswold will be fined as per the Fines Tariff and their record will be expunged as per Rules 11.B and 22.D.
- Stonehouse (4ths) reported a low sportsmanship mark for Woodchester on 4th December. Woodchester had no match balls, and so Stonehouse permitted them to use their 'practice balls', of which two became lost. Woodchester were unwilling to provide a club official to referee the match, despite being the home club, and having several club members on the sideline.
- Minety (Res) reported a low sportsmanship mark for Stroud United Res on 11th December. Stroud United Res have not had any other low marks from other clubs, and having had some issues in a match last season, there is obviously an issue between the two teams. It was therefore noted and will be kept in mind in future seasons, if the two teams are in the same division or cup.
- Woodchester reported a low sportsmanship mark for Stratton United Res on 18th December. The compliant referenced particular actions and behaviour on the touchlines. The referee was contacted, but he advised that there was no problems from his view, and was not brought to his attention during or after the match either by Woodchester.

- The issues above relating to Woodchester were discussed further, and it was advised that the club was close to folding as many of their players had also recently sought to transfer en bloc to another club. This was not permitted under FA Rules, and Woodchester had been granted a 14 day period to resolve their issues, on and off the field.
- On 3rd January, the Div-6 match between Uley Res and Tetbury Town Res was abandoned in the 65th minute, due to a serious injury to a Tetbury player. The score at the time was 0-4. It was discussed at length, and agreed that the result at the time of the abandonment should stand.
- Following a series of complaints received from four Div-7 teams regarding the strength of the Ramblers team in that division, the Committee looked at what further measures it could take to prevent further ex Ramblers First team players from now playing for them in Div-7. Earlier in the season when Ramblers were permitted to withdraw their First team, they were prevented from using more than two of these players in the Div-7 team. Over time, three Ramblers First team regulars became qualified for their Reserves, and this has meant that two further players could be used. Having seen the two unusually big victories for the Ramblers team on 11th December and 3rd January, it was agreed that the League needed to take some action. It was agreed to issue the following directive to Ramblers, which would result in a cancellation of 14 Ramblers registered players who have not currently played at least five matches for their Div-7 team. Ramblers were also informed that if they did not accept this directive, then they may be subject to exclusion from the League at the end of the season, under Rule 12.:

“The Committee discussed the matter and were very concerned that the decision to permit the withdrawing of your Firsts, rather than your Reserves, along with the conditions placed upon this, appeared to have been taken advantage of in recent matches. It has been noted that no actual rules have been broken, but it is perceived that the spirit by which the Committee approved your request to withdraw your First team only, has been stretched, to say the least. As a result, the Committee have agreed that the following players, who have not played five matches for your current team, but played for your First team prior to their withdrawal should be re-registered from Ramblers. These players become "free agents" and are permitted to re-sign for any other SDFL club without the need for a transfer. None of these players will be permitted to re-register with Ramblers this season.”

- AFC Renegades will continue to use the All Blues RFC ground.
- Minety continue to use the ground at Badminton.
- Chalford 4ths are now using Eastcombe’s ground.

08/0219 REFEREES SECRETARY:

- Keith Sparrow has taken over the role as Assistant Referees Secretary due to Bob’s ill health and absence until at least the end of the season. The Committee thanked Bob for all the years service that he gave to the role.
- Colin was thanked for all his efforts in making sure that the 3rd January fixtures all had a referee on them. This involved a good number of referees whose primary leagues are not the SDFL.

09/0219 ASSISTANT SECRETARY, including REFEREES SUPPORT OFFICER

- Gary raised a matter about a series of incidents in the Div-6 match, Leonard Stanley Res v Longlevens 5ths. The Referee reported two sending offs, one each side, both for violent conduct. The report appeared to indicate that possible misconducts would be raised against both players. The GFA would be responsible for any disciplinary actions, but it was agreed, that should misconduct charges be raised, and then proved, the Stroud League would seek to cancel the players registrations for a period of at least 12 months. Normally, a suspension kicks-in the following Saturday, but as the match was played on Mon 3rd January, the players were technically eligible to play on Sat 8th January. In view of this, it was agreed that the players registrations would be temporarily suspended pending the

possible misconduct charges. The clubs involved would therefore be instructed, and told to not play the players on 8th January.

- There are two Referees courses running in late January (Oxstalls) and early February (Almondsbury). We're hopeful that at least five potential (SDFL) referees will be attending this time, hopefully more to come over the next couple of weeks and months.

10/0219 REGISTRATION SECRETARY:

- Jamie will inform clubs in due course as to the updated Transfer Process that he needs to implement for the rest of the season.

11/0219 RESULTS SECRETARY:

- Nothing significant to report

12/0219 DISCIPLINARY OFFICER:

- Nothing significant to report

13/0219 LEAGUE CUP:

- Nothing significant to report

14/0219 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- There was a short discussion regarding the ongoing Covid situation. The general message was that we carry on as best as possible, unless otherwise instructed to stop. The clubs have been reminded of the League's Postponement Protocol in relation to Covid for a second and then a third time this season.

15/0219 DATE OF NEXT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 10th February 2022