



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2026

7pm ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD PAVILION

LEAGUE SUPPORTERS: SPORTSFORM and HBC LOGISTICS



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MEMBERS: P Francis [Chair with Registration and Fixture responsibilities], M Baxter, B Hallybone, R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman, GB Snelson [General Secretary/Treasurer].

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE: K Poulton [Elstow Abbey]. **LIFE-VICE PRESIDENT:** R Simmonds.

APOLOGIES: BT Watson [President], PJ Onion [Life-Vice President]. S Dutton, A Anderson [Kempston Athletic], R Everitt [61FC [Luton], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC].

A. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- ▶ Club Representatives declared an interest in any matter concerning their Club.

B. NEW CLUB INTERVIEWS

- ▶ **OLLIE UNITED FC:** Represented by **RYAN GOWANS** [Secretary] and **GRAEME WHITE** [Chair] playing at **CRAWLEY GREEN SPORTS CLUB 3G, LUTON LU2 9AG**
 - Following the interview, the Representatives were told their application had been accepted.
- ▶ At the May meeting: **BUFFS UNITED FC** playing at **THE PAVILION CLOTHALL ROAD BALDOCK SG7 6PE**

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on **5th March 2026** were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- None.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** League Development Plan template and required submission date. General Secretary to complete initial draft. No progress to date.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** Changes to the structure of Council: Not yet confirmed by the publication of the meeting minutes, but the General Secretary gave a brief outline of the changes.
- ❖ **Touchline**, a coaching aid. The Committee did not wish to pursue this AI programme.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **LEAGUE BANK COMMUNITY ACCOUNT:** Opening Balance on 1st June 2025 = **£59,191.68**
 - ▶ **LEAGUE BANK ACCOUNT** – new account: **£30,000** has been transferred into a 182-day fixed term deposit with a maturity date of **3rd August 2026** and an expected interest receipt of **£305.16**
 - ▶ Closing Balance on 31st March 2026 = **£17, 276.72**, a **LOSS** over the period of **£11,914.96**.
 - ▶ **Review of payments due 27th MARCH 2026: The following were not paid by the deadline with reminders sent out on 28th March, and are still unpaid. A standard £15 to be added, see item 15 below.**

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
Atletic FC	£25	2026.03-02
Clifton	£55	2026.03-08

- ❖ **Brache Phoenix:** Club debt currently in the hands of Bedfordshire FA. Update required from BFA. On going.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ All cups will need to be recovered from Bedfordshire FA HQ in readiness for presentations in April/May 2026. General Secretary to arrange. Medals are available for the earliest finals.
- ❖ Presentations to be made by Committee Members.

6. TRANSFERS

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| ○ Ashley Gardner. | Westoning FC to Stopsley United. |
| ○ Samuel Kwane Oppong. | Shefford Town & Campton to Elstow Abbey. |
| ○ Jack Jones. | Westoning FC to The 61 FC Luton Reserves. |
| ○ Oscar Stubbs. | Bedford Albion to AFC Cloughill. |
| ○ Joshua Griggs. | Shefford & Campton Town Reserves to Thurleigh. |
| ○ Monzour Ahmed. | Stopsley United to Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. |
| ○ Faz Hassen. | Lu Donz to Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. |
| ○ Jake Esposito. | Biggleswade FC Reserves to Bedford Albion. |
| ○ Sam Hazel. | Totternhoe Reserves to Stopsley United. |
| ○ Dale Goldie. | Westoning FC to Flitwick Town. |
| ○ Matthew O'Dell | Stotfold Junior to Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. |
| ○ Oliver Hibbitt. | Caddington Reserves to DTCC FC. |
| ○ Jake Esposito. | Bedford Albion to Biggleswade FC Reserves. |
| ○ Nabeez Turgel. | The 61 FC Luton Reserves to Totternhoe Reserves. |

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ All Club details are included in the revised 2025-2026 Directory. Contact the General Secretary /Treasurer by email if further changes are required.

8. REFEREE REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ Still maintaining 100% coverage with difficulties.
- ❖ Cup Final match official appointments were confirmed.
- ❖ For season 2026-2027, the **Requirements for entry into the Premier Division:** Rule changes will be proposed to re-introduce the requirement for teams to provide a trained Assistant Referee, clearly identified and not a substitute who plays on the day or team manager acting in that capacity on the day. The fine for non-compliance will also be reviewed.
- ❖ With immediate effect, the Committee agreed to a budget of £1000 to enable the League to pay the fees of Registered Referees when appointed by the League as Assistant Referees. **This will not include matches covered by League Cup Rules 7 and 8.** The budget will be reviewed for season 2026-2027.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **Free Weekend Granted:** Saturday 18th April 2026. **St Joseph's (Saturday)**
- ❖ **Free Weekend Refused:**
 - ▶ Saturday 4th April 2026. **Flitwick Eagles.** Only requested on 12th March 2026 plus they had already been granted one on 3rd January 2026.
 - ▶ Saturday 11th April 2026. **DU Donz & Lu Donz Development.** Only requested on 16th March 2026.
- ❖ **Unplayed Matches**
 - ▶ Saturday 7th March 2026. Watson Shield Round Three. Westoning Blues v Ampthill Town Colts. **Westoning Club under league suspension.**
 - Match awarded to **Ampthill Town Colts.**
 - ▶ Saturday 7th March 2026. Watson Shield Round Three. Bedford Albion Development v Wilstead. **Wilstead unable to raise a team [First Occurrence].**
 - Match awarded to **Bedford Albion Development**
 - **Wilstead** fined **£25** as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - ▶ Saturday 7th March 2026. Division Four. Wootton Blue Cross A v Catsbrook Wanderers. **Wootton Blue Cross 'A' unable to raise a side [Second Occurrence].**
 - Match awarded to **Catsbrook Wanderers**, score 0-0
 - **Wootton Blue Cross 'A'** deducted two penalty points and fined **£40** as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - ▶ Saturday 14th March 2026. Division One. Clifton v Lea Sports PSG. **Lea Sports PSG unable to raise a team [First Occurrence].**
 - Match awarded to **Clifton**, score 0-0
 - **Lea Sports PSG** deducted one penalty point and fined **£25** as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - ▶ Saturday 14th March 2026. Division Four. Flitwick Town Eagles v Wootton Blue Cross 'A'. **Wootton Blue Cross 'A' unable to raise a team [Third Occurrence].**
 - Match awarded to **Flitwick Eagles**, score 0-0.
 - **Wootton Blue Cross 'A'** deducted three penalty points and fined **£50** as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - ▶ Saturday 21st March 2026. Division Two. Bedford SA v Stotfold Junior. **Stotfold Juniors unable to raise a team [First Occurrence].**
 - Match awarded to **Bedford SA**, score 0-0
 - Stotfold Juniors deducted one penalty point and fined **£25** as per rule, see item 15 below.

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA REPORT

❖ Charge Notices

- ▶ **The 61 FC Luton Reserves;** In breach of league rules 20E/23D in that when their home pitch was deemed unplayable for their home match with Turvey on Saturday 7th February 2026 they failed to establish if a switch of venues was possible with their opposition.
 - Whilst a breach of rule was probable, the Committee considered the practicalities of the rule, and this case in particular involving a 28-mile journey to be arranged late in the morning. The Committee decided the only action was for the match to be replayed.
 - Mr Francis requested his disagreement with this decision be recorded.
- ▶ **Wilstead FC:** In breach of league rule 18M in that in their match with LU Donz Development on Saturday 28th March 2026 they named on their exchanged teamsheet Joe Sullivan who took no part in the match, his place being taken by Myles Hutton who at the time of the match was not a registered member of Wilstead FC. Post match, Wilstead breached league rule 21C by deliberately falsifying their loaded Full Time Result Sheet.
 - Match result [3-1 LU Donz Dev] to stand.
 - Wilstead fined £150 as per rule, see item 15 below, and deducted three [3] penalty points.

❖ Report Notices

- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 20C in failing to give notice confirmation of their fixture by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 14th March 2026. **Clifton v Lea Sports PSG.**
 - Club fined £15 as per rule, see item 15 below.
- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 20E in failing to notify the match referee of their postponed game without delay.
 - None
- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21B in failing to report the result of their game into the SMS text system by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 7th March 2026. **Flitwick Town. Turvey [WARNING].**
 - Saturday 28th March 2026. **Cranfield United Development**
 - Clubs warned or fined £15 as per rule, see item 15 below.
- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time Result Sheet by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 28th February 2026. **Biggleswade FC Reserves. Queens Park Crescents.**
 - Saturday 14th March 2026. **AFC Bedford United. Kempston United. Kempston Town Hammers Reserves [WARNING]. Queens Park Crescents and Reserves.**
 - Saturday 21st March 2026. **Cranfield United Reserves. Everton Athletic and Reserves.**
 - Wednesday 25th March 2026. **Elstow Abbey.**
 - Clubs warned or fined £15 as per rule, see item 15 below
- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 23E in failing to pay the Match Day Referee.
 - Saturday 28th February 2026. **Catsbrook Wanderers [v Everton Athletic Reserves.]**
 - Club fined £15 as per rule, see item 15 below

❖ FA Competitions Portal

- ▶ Numerous reports highlighted showing BCFL Clubs under Bedfordshire FA suspension for non-payments of fines. Emails sent to all affected Clubs, sometimes with reminders, to pay the fines and prevent further problems and fines through unplayed fixtures. In all cases the fines were paid because of the league action, all suspensions were lifted by Beds FA and all matches played.

❖ Registrations made at midday 28th March 2026 **2929** (3211 season 2024-25)

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

❖ Pitch Barrier supplies- post and rope. Small supply in stock.

❖ Team Shelters – no current activity.

❖ FACILITY CHECKS:

- **Harlington Juniors:** No changes made to the current dressing rooms. The Club is aware of the Premier Division requirement for changing facilities but cannot currently progress this because of financial restraints – possibly resulting from the extensive house building in the village – and the need to liaise with the local council and the cricket club. The Club is also aware that, if improvements are not made, the team may be relegated or be required to move to an alternative venue. All aspects of the pitch requirements are good.
- **Stotfold Juniors:** to be completed.

12. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

❖ Nothing to report.

13. ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

❖ Non-accredited **clubs** with teams continuing into season 2026-2027 will be charged the £125 annual subscription, as per rule 4[b], and, in addition, not be eligible for support [financial or goods, e.g. footballs] from the League until accredited. The following **Teams** are not accredited: **Baldock Victoria, Catsbrook**

Wanderers, Dunstable Town CC, Dunstable Wanderers, Everton Athletic x2, Green End Rovers, Luton Phoenix, St. Josephs [Saturday], Westoning Blues.

14. SAFEGUARDING

- ❖ **MATTERS ARISING:** Dan Gauntlett reported his concern over the personnel in the technical areas being DBS compliant. Arrangements were made for a copy of the team sheets to be sent to him by Richard Horswell for checking [Premier League Only]; matter continuing.

15. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS

- ❖ Summary of fines levied at the **APRIL 2026** meeting:

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
Athletic FC [+ add £15 fine]	£40	2026.03-02
Clifton [+ add £15 fine]	£70	2026.03-08
AFC Bedford United	£15	2026.04-01
Biggleswade FC Reserves	£15	2026.04-02
Catsbrook Wanderers	£15	2026.04-03
Clifton	£15	2026.04-04
Cranfield United Res/Dev	£30	2026.04-05
Elstow Abbey	£15	2026.04-06
Everton Athletic & Reserves	£15	2026.04-07
Fliwick Town	£15	2026.04-08
Kempston United	£15	2026.04-09
Lea Sports PSG	£25	2026.04-10
Queens Park Crescents	£30	2026.04-11
Stotfold Juniors	£25	2026.04-12
Wilstead	£175	2026.04-13
Wootton Blue Cross 'A'	£90	2026.04-14

ALL PAYMENTS DUE 30TH APRIL 2026

Payment by Bank Transfer [BACS] - **use relevant reference shown.**

Account Name: Bedfordshire County Football League

ACCOUNT: 44053660 SORT CODE: 30-90-90 [Lloyds]

RULE 6[J] Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

16. APPLICATIONS and WITHDRAWALS

- ❖ APPLICATIONS: Ollie United FC and Buffs United FC
- ❖ WITHDRAWALS: None

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ From the small stock of Match Footballs still held, the League will sell these to Clubs at the cost price of £18.75 per ball. There are approximately 15 balls for sale on a first come-first served basis. Requests to the General Secretary/Treasurer.
- ❖ **RULE CHANGES** were discussed and will be submitted for approval by Bedfordshire FA by the end of April and published to member Clubs in accordance with rule 14.
- ❖ There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.52 p.m.
- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary/Treasurer

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