



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024

AT CRANFIELD PAVILION STARTING AT 7 p.m.

MEMBERS: BT Watson [President], P Francis [Chair, Registration and Media Secretary], M Baxter, B Hallybone [Assistant Referee Secretary], R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman, GB Snelson [General and Fixture Secretary], A Young [Treasurer].

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES: K Poulton [Elstow Abbey FC], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC]. **INVITATION TO ATTEND:** R Simmonds, P Onion [Life Vice-Presidents] – not in attendance.

APOLOGIES: None

A. OBITUARY

- ❖ It is with great sadness to report that **Bob Andrews**, a long-serving member of Bedford Sports Athletic, passed away on Friday, 29th December 2023. The Management Committee stood in silence as a mark of respect.

B. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- ❖ Alan Young declared an interest in any matter affecting Bedfordshire County FA.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management sub-Committee meeting held on **29th November 2023** and the Management Committee meeting held on **7th December 2023** were agreed and signed as a true record.
- ❖ **Post meeting: The following correction was noted to Item 10 REPORT NOTICES in the 7th December minutes:**
 - **Clubs in breach of league rule 21C for failing to load onto Full Time the details of the Yellow/Red Cards issued to their players by the match day referee.**
 - **Saturdays in October 2023: should read Saturdays in November 2023:**
 - **Therefore the warning published in the minutes of 2nd November 'For additional breaches of this rule following all matches on Saturday 18th November 2023 and beyond, a fine of £15, as per rule 21C, will be levied' is amended to apply to all breaches from 2nd December 2023 onwards. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to know which of their players receives a RED or YELLOW card in a match, and then to record this on the online match notification.**

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ From **CADDINGTON FC**: email originally received 25th June – Treasurer noted re-imbursement to be arranged.
- ❖ From **WENDY NEWAY** [Peterborough/UCL leagues]: Liaison Meeting – P Francis and M Baxter to attend on 22nd January.
- ❖ From **AFC OAKLEY**: Pitch barrier grant – nothing further to report.
- ❖ Review of the current sponsorship arrangements with the League. On going.
- ❖ Original Premier Division Championship Cup. Recovery from Bedford Borough still to be arranged.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** Step 6 Promotions – details of applications received from The FA. **Stotfold FC Development** are the only team applying this time.
 - All other items covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** All covered elsewhere in the minutes.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS DUE.**
 - ▶ All outstanding payments from the **OCTOBER 2023** minutes have been fined a further £15 as per rule and given to 11th January to clear the debt or have a suspension of fixtures imposed.
 - ▶ All fines levied in the **NOVEMBER 2023** minutes have been covered by an invoice emailed to affected clubs/teams on 4th January 2024 with a payment due date of 18th January 2024.
 - ▶ All fines levied in the **DECEMBER 2023** minutes will be included in the fines levied at this January meeting.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ It was agreed to order in January 2024 from Sportsform. The General Secretary and Richard Horswell to arrange.

6. TRANSFERS

Oskar Kopanski.	AFC Kempston Town Hammers to Queens Park Crescents.
Michael Turner.	Ickwell & Old Warden to Sandy FC.
Kyerhuys Joseph.	Caddington to Shefford Town & Campton
Tyrell O'Connor.	Kempston United to Bedford Albion.
Ciaran McEvoy.	Cranfield United Reserves to Queens Park Crescents
Ryan Smith.	Crawley Green Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross.
Theo Kazanas.	Wilstead to AFC Kempston Town Hammers
Ayron Armstrong.	Shefford Town & Campton to Biggleswade United Reserves.

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ None

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ Referee cover at present is good. The number of referees available has increased thanks to the additional course arranged by Bedfordshire FA.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **FREE DATES PREVIOUSLY AGREED:**

- ▶ **STOPSLEY UNITED** [3rd February 2024]
- ❖ **NEW FREE DATE REQUESTS AGREED: DUNSTABLE WANDERERS** [27th January 2024]
- ❖ **FREE DATE REQUESTS NOT AGREED:** None
- ❖ **UNPLAYED/INCOMPLETED MATCHES:**
- ❖ Saturday 16th December 2023. Division One. Cranfield United Reserves v Milton Keynes Dons Set U19. **Milton Keynes Dons SET U19 unable to raise a side** (claiming safe guarding issues) (4th occasion this season)
 - **Fined as per rule.**
 - **No points deducted or awarded to opponents – see item 17 below.**
- ❖ Saturday 16th December 2023. Division Three. Harlington Juniors Reserves v CS Rovers. **CS Rovers unable to raise a side.** (3rd occasion this season)
 - **Club fined as per rule and deducted three [3] penalty points.**
 - **Match points [3] awarded to Harlington Juniors Reserves, score 0-0.**
- ❖ 21st October 2023: Division Two North: **Ickwell & Old Warden v Kempston United** – abandoned.
 - **Charges of causing match to be abandoned, levied against both Clubs, found proved by Bedfordshire FA.**
 - **Match declared VOID [not to be rearranged]. Fines levied by Bedfordshire FA.**
- ❖ 28th October 2023: Division 3: Elstow Abbey Reserves v Luton Panthers – abandoned. Matter continuing.

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ Registrations at Saturday Midday 30th December 2023. **2973**
- ❖ **CHARGES NOTICES**
- ▶ **Clifton FC** : In breach of league rule 23D in failing to switch their home game on Saturday 16th December 2023 against Buffs FC to that of their opposition following their home pitch being declared unplayable by the local council.
 - **Charge withdrawn – rule review required for season 2024-2025**
- ❖ **REPORT NOTICES**
- ▶ Clubs/teams in breach of League Rule 21B in failing to submit their result into the SMS text system by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 9th December 2023. **Sharnbrook Reserves** (no SMS return of postponed game plus notification of postponement (**breach of rule 23D**))
 - **Sharnbrook Reserves fined as per rule.**
- Notes:** The following clubs submitted entries with errors. **Catsbrook Wanderers, Renhold, Lidlington United Sports Clubs Colts, and Sharnbrook.**
 - Saturday 16th December 2023. **Caldecote 'A'** (reported their result via the Reserves team reminder thus over writing that submitted result which then required a manual adjustment) **Renhold** (processed with errors, email reminder of correct format sent)
- ▶ Clubs/teams in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time Result sheet by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 2nd December 2023. **Catsbrook Wanderers, Sharnbrook.**
 - Saturday 9th December 2023. **GS Athletic.**
 - Saturday 16th December 2023. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves, Sandy, Turvey.**
 - **The above highlighted Clubs/teams are fined/warned as per rule.**
- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load onto Full Time the details of the yellow/Red Cards issued to their players.
 - Saturday 2nd December 2023: **Harlington Juniors Reserves, Kempston United, Sharnbrook, Stopsley United, Wootton Blue Cross Reserves.**
 - Saturday 9th December 2023: **Bedford Albion, Buffs FC, Caddington, Catsbrook Wanderers, Flitwick Town Reserves, GS Athletic.**
 - Saturday 16th December 2023. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves, Blunham, Dunstable Wanderers, Wootton Blue Cross Reserves.**
 - **The above highlighted Clubs/teams are fined as per rule.**
- ▶ The Committee agreed to revise the Team/Result Sheet to simplify the recording of red and yellow cards.

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Nothing new to report

12. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- ❖ Nothing new to report

13. ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

- ❖ Non-accredited clubs continuing into season 2023-2024 will not be eligible for support [financial or goods] from the League until accredited.
- ❖



14. RESPECT and COUNTY FA DISCIPLINE [Bedfordshire Clubs]

- ❖ Please be aware that Respect Sanctions [C2 Cautions for showing dissent by word or action and S6 Sending off for using offensive, insulting or abusive language] **carry very heavy automatic financial penalties. Get your players to understand the seriousness of being cautioned or sent off for dissent.**
- ▶ For reaching stage R6 [6 cautions/E3 misconduct] **Bedfordshire FA warning.** The warning requires payment of a **Discipline Administration fee of £15:**
- ▶ For reaching stage R10 [10 cautions/E3 misconduct]: The **heavy automatic financial penalties** are applied from this level, which are especially heavy for NLS Feeder League teams [Premier Division].

15. SAFEGUARDING

- ❖ **TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE BY JANUARY 1st – not achieved.**
- ▶ As of the 2023-2024 season, Bedfordshire FA recommends that **all Leagues** either appoint a **League Safeguarding Advocate** (LSA - who will complete some Safeguarding Training) or a **League Welfare Officer** (LWO - who will have full Welfare Officer Training in place) to ensure that the league are up to date with all Safeguarding requirements for players that are 16 or 17 years old playing within the league.
 - **Mr Dan Gauntlett** volunteered for the role of League Welfare Officer. Bedfordshire FA to be informed to ensure training is arranged as required.
- ▶ Leagues should also ensure that Safeguarding is an agenda item for all Committee Meetings and the AGM.
 - In place – completed.

- Finally each league is to ensure that they are aware of the clubs who have registered 16 & 17 year old players and record this. This can be reported by the League's Player Registration Officer once that process is underway and updated at each committee meeting.
 - Already recorded – completed.

16. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for JANUARY 2024

A FULL AND DETAILED LIST OF ALL FINES LEVIED AT THIS MEETING HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE LEAGUE TREASURER, WHO WILL RAISE INVOICES WITH PAYMENT DETAILS.

17. APPLICATIONS & WITHDRAWALS

- ❖ Post meeting: **Milton Keynes Dons SET u19 Development** withdrawn from the League [dated Friday 5th January 2024]
 - MK Dons SET u19 Development fined £75 as per rule – deposit forfeited to pay fine.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ None
- ❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26 p.m.
- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary

<https://twitter.com/bedscountylge>



Signed.....
P Francis, Chair
1st February 2024



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