



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2021

AT ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD PAVILION, STARTING AT 7pm

MEMBERS: Messrs BT Watson [President], P Francis [Chair, Registration and Media Secretary], M Baxter, B Hallybone [Assistant Referee Secretary], R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman, G Sales, GB Snelson [General and Fixture Secretary], A Young [Treasurer]. **CLUB REPRESENTATIVES:** R Simmonds [Elstow Abbey FC & League Charter Standard Coordinator], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC], P Smailes [co-opted] [Biggleswade FC].

APOLOGIES: None

A. OBITUARY Mr Peter Bygraves [Ickwell & Old Warden FC] who died on 13th October 2021.
Members of the Management Committee stood in silence as a mark of respect.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 7th October 2021 were signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ Various items of correspondence were received by the General Secretary. All those requiring action or for information are recorded elsewhere in these minutes. These included various minutes and notices from The FA and Bedfordshire FA. Again, those requiring action by, or special information to, the League are covered elsewhere in these minutes. Otherwise correspondence is available on request to the General Secretary.
- ❖ **The Football Association** Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA**
 - ▶ **SAFEGUARDING:** u18 players in adult football- Bedfordshire County Football League
 - **Harlington Juniors** and **Shefford Town & Campton** both have large numbers of u18 players and the matter of DBS compliancy and relevant training requirements is being addressed by the County FA
 - There are numerous Clubs having u18 players and are DBS compliant, but a slightly larger number with small numbers of u18 players who have no DBS compliant Child Welfare Officer [CWO].
 - ▶ The requirement to have a DBS compliant CWO[s] for any Club with any number of u18 players may well become a mandatory FA requirement in the near future. For best practice, and also to prevent any future registration problems, all BCFL Clubs should address the need for CWO's at adult clubs. If necessary, the League will help Clubs achieve compliancy.
- ❖ Sensible Soccer Introduction – **Gary Sales to explore any opportunities for the League.**
- ❖ From a parent regarding safety measures at a forthcoming match. **Richard Horswell explained the actions taken.**

4. FINANCE

- ❖ Alan Young, as League Treasurer, reported on current balances of the League Accounts.
- ❖ Luton Borough Council pitch invoice for April-May 2021 – **invoice paid.**
- ❖ **INVOICE UPDATE:**
 - ▶ **2021.10C-updated:** Fines relating to October minutes.
 - Clubs/Teams with new unpaid debts are fined as per rule, see invoice **2021.10C-updated 6th Nov 2021**
 - All other Clubs/Teams to be given a few days to pay or have their fixtures suspended. Clubs/Teams will only be given a few days grace to pay once. Repeated non-payment will result in the immediate suspension of fixtures, see invoice **2021.10C-updated 6th Nov 2021**
 - ▶ **2021.11-01:** Luton Borough Council pitch fees 23rd October-27th November 2021. Review at December meeting.
- ❖ New banking arrangements – update. New signatories agreed: Messrs Young, Snelson, Francis and Simmonds.
- ❖ Outstanding honoraria payments. **Delay until December.**
- ❖ Outstanding payments to neutral assistants. **Paid.**

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ Nothing to report

6. TRANSFERS

Marcin Bator.	Bedford Albion to FC Polonia (Luton)
Nathan Larrier.	Bedford Albion to AFC Oakley
Jay Sharpe.	61 FC Luton Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross
Patrick Daly.	61FC Luton Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross.
Cullam Hollingsworth.	Bedford Albion to Biggleswade United U23.
Aaron Hannigan.	M&DH Clapham Sports to Elstow Abbey
Craig McCann.	61 FC Luton Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross.
Delroy Phillips.	Renhold to AFC Oakley
David Richards.	Soccerlise to Sandy
Shane Scott.	61 FC Luton Reserves to Stopsley United.
Sean Kinsella.	61 FC Luton Reserves to Stopsley United.
Ibrahim Nasim.	Crawley Green Reserves to Potton United Reserves.
Lee Hunt.	Ickwell & Old Warden to Caldecote .
Ash Boness.	Soccerlise to Ickwell & Old Walden.
Liam Tommey.	61 FC Luton Reserves to St Josephs (Saturday)
Harry Gray.	AFC Oakley to Sharnbrook
Will Robinson.	Soccerlise to Potton United Reserves

Glenn Tumulty.
Santino Diniro.
Errol Cornwell.
Ashley Coleman.
Taylor Rhiney.
Alec Greene.
Sol Smith.
Brandon Hung.
Arman Lall.

AFC Bedford United to Elstow Abbey.
Kempston Rovers BCFL to Elstow Abbey.
AFC Bedford United to Bedford Albion.
Bedford Santos to Queens Park Crescents
Crawley Green Reserves to Biggleswade United U23.
Wootton Blue Cross to Bedford Albion
Wootton Blue Cross to Bedford Albion.
Bedford Albion to Elstow Abbey.
Bedford Albion to Elstow Abbey

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ **BRACHE PHOENIX FC**: Secretary Richard Leets telephone number updated to **07474 757376**
- ❖ **BLUNHAM FC**: replace all details for George Hutson with **Dominic Higgins** telephone **07908 654704** email: **domhiggins@live.co.uk**

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ **Bedford Santos**: late low referee report form sent on the 9th October received back on the 19th October after being informed they would be reported.
 - Bedford Santos fined as per rule, **see 14 below, reference 2021.11-01**
- ❖ **Newman United**: No confirmation of game with referee Kelvin Thompson 30th October.
 - Newman United fined as per rule, **see 14 below, reference 2021.11-02**
- ❖ **Luton Panthers**: No confirmation of game with referee Peter Kwak 30th October. Also failure to pay referee fee of £35.
 - Luton Panthers fined as per rule, **see 14 below, reference 2021.11-03 and -04**
- ❖ Coverage for October was very good with just one [premier] league game without a referee [Bedford Albion v Riseley Sports after the referee had to pull out at 1-30pm for personal reasons.
- ❖ Two neutral assistants [junior referees Furqan Miah & Jacob Taylor] were used in the fixture between Crawley Green Res v Flitwick Town on the 16th October, with good feedback from clubs & the referees.

FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **Free dates** have previously been agreed for the following teams: **AFC Oakley First** [6 Nov], **Blunham First** [11 December], **Wootton Blue Cross u23** [Div.5] [8 January 2022]. **New requests AGREED: FC Polonia** [Luton] [18 December], Shefford Town & Campton u23 [18 December 2021]. **New requests DENIED [insufficient notice given]: Crawley Green Reserves** [27 November 2021], **Square FC** [27 November 2021].
 - ▶ *RULE 20[B] Following the publication of a season's fixtures, each team shall be allowed to apply for ONE free date per season but the request must be received by the General Secretary giving one calendar month's notice.*
- ❖ **Unplayed Matches:**
 - ▶ 9th October 2021. Premier Division supported by Sportsform. **Stevington v Bedford Albion**. Covid issues at Stevington.
 - Match to be rearranged on this occasion.
 - **There is no set criteria for postponing a match because of Covid outbreak in a Club. It is expected that the Covid Officers at each Club will discuss the situation and, based upon the facts, make a unanimous decision.**
 - ▶ 9th October 2021. Division One. **Ickwell & Old Warden v Henlow**. Ickwell & Old Warden unable to raise a team
 - Ickwell & Old Warden fined as per rule, **see 14 below, reference 2021.11-05 and deducted one [1] match point.** Match points [3] awarded to Henlow, score 0-0.
 - Ickwell & Old Warden FC requested a fixture break until Saturday 6th November, This was agreed.
 - ▶ 23th October 2021. Division Four. **Catsbrook Wanderers v Bedford Santos**. Catsbrook Wanderers unable to raise a team.
 - Catsbrook Wanderers fined as per rule, **see 14 below, reference 2021.11-06 and deducted one [1] match point.** Match points [3] awarded to Bedford Santos, score 0-0.
 - ▶ 30th October 2021. Division Four. **Catsbrook Wanderers v Kempston Rovers BCFL**. Catsbrook Wanderers unable to raise a side.
 - Catsbrook Wanderers fined as per rule, **see 14 below, reference 2021.11-07 and deducted two [2] match points.** Match points [3] awarded to Kempston Rovers BCFL, score 0-0.
- ❖ **ALL CLUBS ARE REMINDED THAT CHANGING ROOMS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO ALL PLAYERS AND MATCH OFFICIALS AT LEAST ONE HOUR PRIOR TO KICK OFF.**
- ❖ **WATSON SHIELD 2021-2022**
 - ▶ The **Group Stage** of this season's competition will start on 27th November and continue for consecutive weeks until this stage is over. During the **Group Stage**, league rules will apply and not cup rules. At the end of the Group Stage, the top two teams in each group [16 teams in total] will enter the **Knockout Stage, in which KO Cup Rules will apply.**

9. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ **Registrations Season 2021-22**: Total at Midday Saturday 31st October 2021 : **2700**
- ❖ **Charge Notices**
- ❖ Issued by email Saturday 30th October 2021: **Sharnbrook Reserves**: In breach of League Rule 18M/21C in that in their game against CS Rovers on Saturday 23rd October 2021 they named on their team sheet, exchanged with CS Rovers and the match day referee prior to kick off, Liam Prince who at the time of the game was not a registered member of their club. Post match they then, when loading their Full Time result sheet, replaced him with Liam Richardson whose name does not appear on the team sheet exchanged with CS Rovers and the referee prior to kick off. Game won 7-2
 - **Matter continuing.**
- ❖ **Report Notices**
- ❖ Issued by email Sunday 10th October 2021: Clubs/ teams in breach of league rule 21B in having failed to report the result of your game on Saturday 9th October 2021 by the deadline of 5.30pm.
 - **Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves** (text received 5.50pm) **Totternhoe Reserves** (text received 5.51pm) **Tunisian Community** (text received 8.14pm) (email reminder sent to club regarding rule 21B)
- ❖ Issued by email Thursday 14th October 2021: Clubs/teams in breach of league rule 21C in having failed to load their Full Time result sheet for their game played on Saturday 9th October 2021 by the deadline of Midnight Tuesday 12th October 2021.
 - **Biggleswade FC Reserves** (result sheet loaded Wednesday 13th October 2021) **Catsbrook Wanderers**. (result sheet loaded Thursday 14th October 2021) **Elstow Abbey Reserves** (result sheet loaded Wednesday 13th October 2021) **Sandy Reserves**. (result sheet loaded Saturday 16th October 2021) **Totternhoe Reserves** (result sheets loaded Wednesday 13th October 2021)

- ❖ Issued by email Sunday 17th October 2021: Clubs/ teams in breach of league rule 21B in having failed to report the result of your game on Saturday 16th October 2021 by the deadline of 5.30pm.
 - **AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves.** (no result received) **M&DH Clapham Sports** (text received 5.51pm) **Stopsley United.** (text received 6.08pm)
- ❖ Issued by email Wednesday 20th October 2021: Clubs/teams in breach of league rule 21C in having failed to load their Full Time Result sheet for their game played on Saturday 16th October 2021 by the deadline of Midnight Tuesday 19th October 2021.
 - **Catsbrook Wanderers.**(result sheet loaded Thursday 21st October 2021) **Elstow Abbey** [and **Elstow Abbey Reserves** (result sheet loaded Wednesday 20th October 2021) **Sharnbrook Reserves** (result sheet loaded Wednesday 20th October 2021) **Totternhoe Reserves.** (result sheet loaded Wednesday 20th October 2021)
- ❖ Issued by email Sunday 24th October 2021: Clubs/ teams in breach of league rule 21B in having failed to report the result of your game on Saturday 23rd October 2021 by the deadline of 5.30pm.
 - **Pitstone & Ivinghoe Reserves.** (text received 5.48pm)
- ❖ Issued by email Wednesday 27th October 2021: Clubs/teams in breach of league rule 21C in having failed to load their Full Time Result sheet for their game played on Saturday 23rd October 2021 by the deadline of Midnight Tuesday 26th October 2021.
 - **Totternhoe Reserves.** (result sheet loaded Wednesday 27th October 2021) **Tunisian Community.** (result sheet loaded Saturday 30th October 2021)
- ❖ Issued by email Sunday 31st October 2021: Clubs/ teams in breach of league rule 21B in having failed to report the result of your game on Saturday 30th October 2021 by the deadline of 5.30pm.
 - **Totternhoe Reserves** (text received 6.17pm) **Tunisian Community** (no result received)
- ❖ **All above named Clubs/Teams fined or warned as per rule, see Item 14 below references 2021-11-08 to -27**
- ❖ **SEE ALSO ANY OTHER BUSINESS BELOW.**
- ❖ **Other Matters**
 - ▶ **Update on collection of outstanding debt from St Johns (Luton) and Sundon Park Rangers**
 - A small number of player have paid their share of the club debts and have been released to play. All other former players of these two clubs, registered at the completion of fixtures, are placed under a league suspension and Clubs have been advised that any use of these players would be treated as being in breach of league rule 18M.

10. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

Team Shelters to be purchased and loaned to the above clubs first: **MARSTON SHELTON ROVERS** and **FLITWICK TOWN** to be followed by **SHARNBROOK, AFC KEMPSTON TOWN & BEDFORD COLLEGE** [at Kempston Hammers], **STEVINGTON** [at Pavenham]. **Committee Member Gary Sales is leading this matter.**

- ❖ **New and updated facility checks to be made for all Premier Division and potential Premier Division Clubs/Teams before the end of the season. Match day checks will also be made on compliance with the Premier Division entry requirements.**

11. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- ❖ Nothing to report.

12. ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

- ❖ A Charter Standard League is now known as an Accredited League. Clubs should work towards accreditation whilst awaiting, from The FA, the date from which applications will again be accepted. **Roland Simmonds update the Committee on the latest situation.** Currently only a dozen Clubs are not Charter Standard.



13. RESPECT and COUNTY FA DISCIPLINE

- ❖ 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 penalties. Get your players to understand the seriousness of being cautioned or sent off for dissent.**
- ▶ The following teams have reached stage R6 [6 cautions] and has received a warning from Bedfordshire FA. The warning requires payment of a Discipline Administration fee of £15.
 - **PREMIER DIVISION: No teams**
 - **OTHER DIVISIONS: No teams**
- ▶ The following teams have reached stage R10 [10 cautions] Fine plus admin fee applicable:
 - **PREMIER DIVISION: No teams**
 - **OTHER DIVISIONS: No teams**

14. CURRENT FINES

- ❖ **ALL PAYMENTS TO LEAGUE ARE LISTED IN DOCUMENT No. 2021.11A, DISTRIBUTED WITH THE NOVEMBER MINUTES.**

REF	CLUB	DATE	DESCRIPTION	FINE+ cost	PTS	RULE	DUE DATE
2021.11-01	Bedford Santos	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£15		20 [C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-02	Newman United	30/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£15		20 [C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-03	Luton Panthers	30/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£15		20 [C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-04	Luton Panthers	30/10/2021	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES	£15		23[E]	29 November 2021
2021.11-05	Ickwell & Old Warden	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE - FIRST OCCURRENCE	£25	-1	20[Ei]	29 November 2021
2021.11-06	Catsbrook Wanderers	23/10/2021	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE - FIRST OCCURRENCE	£25	-1	20[Ei]	29 November 2021

2021.11-07	Catsbrook Wanderers	30/10/2021	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE - SECOND OCCURRENCE	£40	-2	20[Ei]	29 November 2021
2021.11-08	Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021
2021.11-09	Totternhoe Reserves	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021
2021.11-10	Tunisian Community	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021
2021.11-11	Biggleswade FC Reserves	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-12	Catsbrook Wanderers	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-13	Elstow Abbey Reserves	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£0		21[C]	WARNING
2021.11-14	Sandy Reserves	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£0		21[C]	WARNING
2021.11-15	Totternhoe Reserves	09/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-16	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£0		21[B]	WARNING
2021.11-17	M&DH Clapham Sports	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021
2021.11-18	Stopsley United	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021
2021.11-19	Catsbrook Wanderers	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-20	Elstow Abbey & Elstow Abbey Reserves	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-21	Sharnbrook Reserves	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-22	Totternhoe Reserves	16/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-23	Pitstone & Ivinghoe Reserves	23/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£0		21[B]	WARNING
2021.11-24	Totternhoe Reserves	23/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-25	Tunisian Community	23/10/2021	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]	29 November 2021
2021.11-26	Totternhoe Reserves	30/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021
2021.11-27	Tunisian Community	30/10/2021	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	£15		21[B]	29 November 2021

15. APPLICATIONS & WITHDRAWALS

- ❖ NEW APPLICATIONS: None.
- ❖ WITHDRAWALS: None

16. LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

- ❖ Nothing further to report.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

❖ ****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

- ▶ The Chairman and General Secretary are very concerned about the extremely poor administration and discipline record of certain Clubs/Teams in the League this season. Approximately 90% of the Officers time needed to administer the League is demanded by just 10% of Clubs/Teams. This situation cannot continue. Although the league has seen high numbers of new applications, it has also seen very high numbers of withdrawals. Add to this the carelessness of Clubs/Teams to omit to report a result or complete an online result sheet; the large number of matches not played and therefore awarded, including the playing of ineligible players, and the amount of wasted time and unnecessary fines levied is out of all proportion.
- ▶ Over the next few months, the Management Committee will debate a possible constitution for season 2022-2023 based on a much smaller number of Clubs/Teams, possibly as few as 48, and those with high levels of fines may not be invited to join next season.
- ▶ The integrity of the Competition is at stake here.
- ❖ Over the coming months the Committee will discuss introducing new awards/competitions following the generous approaches of the families of Dennis Martin and Paul Souter, both of whom wish to denote a trophy in their memory.
- ❖ **DEFIBRILLATORS: EVERY CLUB IS TO MAKE THE GENERAL SECRETARY AWARE IF ONE IS ACCESSIBLE ON MATCH DAYS.**
 - Positive responses received from Riseley Sports FC, Clifton, Ickwell & Old Warden, Sandy, Elstow Abbey and Biggleswade United.
- ❖ **ALL PREMIER CLUBS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, MUST PROVIDE AFTER-MATCH REFRESHMENTS FOR THEIR OPPONENTS AND MATCH OFFICIAL[S]. It is therefore the responsibility of the away team to support the efforts of the host club, or be liable to cover any costs incurred.**
- ❖ **The date of the next Management Committee meeting has been changed to Thursday 9th December 2021**
- ❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m.

- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary
- ❖ <https://twitter.com/bedscountylge>



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