



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 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, GB Snelson [General Secretary/Treasurer], S Dutton, B Hallybone, R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman.

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES: R Everitt [61FC [Luton], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton], K Poulton [Elstow Abbey], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC]. **LIFE VICE PRESIDENT:** Mr R Simmonds.

APOLOGIES: Messrs A Anderson [Kempston Athletic], BT Watson [President], PJ Onion [Life-Vice President].

A. CLUB APPEAL – WESTONING CLUB FC

- ▶ Represented by Steve Gibson and Alan Penman. Having detailed the reasons for the appeal, the Committee decided as follows:
 - The costs for the referee fee [£45] to remain the responsibility of Westoning Club FC to pay the League.
 - The decision to award the match to their opponents, together with a point deduction, will be review again at the February 2026 meeting following further investigation.

B. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on **4th DECEMBER 2025** were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ **Premier Division entry requirements:** see item 11 below.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:**
 - ▶ Step 6 promotion – confirmation of application from Wootton Blue Cross.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** General Correspondence only.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **LEAGUE BANK ACCOUNT:** Opening Balance on 1st June 2025 = **£59,191.68** Closing Balance on 31st December 2025 = **£48,981.97, a LOSS over the period of £10,209.71**
- ❖ **Review of payments due 31st December 2025:**

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
Westoning Club FC [Reds]	£40	2025.12-09- review in February
Westoning Club FC [Reds]	£45	2015.12-09-costs - £10 ONLY PAID: £35 TO PAY

- ▶ **SEE ITEM 'A' above – Club appeal, and Item 15 below.**

- ❖ **Brache Phoenix:** Club debt currently in the hands of Bedfordshire FA.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ Nothing to report

6. TRANSFERS

- Courtney Bridgett. AFC Clophill to Queens Park Crescents.
- David Cullip. Elstow Abbey to Meltis Rangers.
- Jamie Traynor. Totternhoe Reserves to DTCC FC
- Lawrence McHuge. Kempston Athletic to AFC Bedford United

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|-------------------------|---|
| ○ Ellis Sharp. | Kempston Athletic to AFC Bedford United. |
| ○ Charlie Thompson. | AFC Oakley to AFC Bedford United. |
| ○ Jack Perry. | Marston Shelton Rovers to Green End Rovers |
| ○ Christopher Faulkner. | Caldecote to Blunham |
| ○ Ryan Aka. | Shefford Town & Campton Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross. |
| ○ Jay Sharpe. | Westoning FC to Lu Donz. |
| ○ Archie Turner. | Clifton to Biggleswade FC Reserves. |
| ○ Luke Pursey. | Wilstead to Bedford Albion |
| ○ Alessandro Guarino. | Elstow Abbey to AFC Kempston Town Hammers |
| ○ Harry Murray. | Marston Shelton Rovers to Green End Rovers. |
| ○ Max Marsh. | Bedford Albion to Green End Rovers. |
| ○ Lewis Cooksley. | Harlington Juniors to Westoning FC |
| ○ Daniel Jump. | Harlington Juniors to Westoning FC |

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

- ❖ Maintaining 100% coverage. Recently, a few additional referees have offered dates.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **Lea Sports PSG :** Have requested that they are given Away fixtures on Saturday 7th & 14th March 2025 due to the planned demolition of their old clubhouse etc. Whilst this is no problem for the 14th, the 7th is the planned date for the second round of the Centenary Cup and should they be successful in round one on 31st January 2026 and do not wish to concede home advantage if given a home draw that they apply for a provisional free weekend for the date. Advice taken and provisional free date applied for and agreed.
- ❖ **Fixture Release:** Now made up to and including Saturday 28th February 2026. The Quarter-Final ties in this season's Beds FA Intermediate and Junior Cups are scheduled for Saturday 24th January 2026, and if these are disrupted by the weather, this will cause problems with the opening round games in our own cup competitions planned for the following weekend Saturday 31st January 2026.
- ❖ **Free Weekends Granted:** None requested since the December 2025 meeting.
- ❖ **Free Weekends Rejected:** None since the December 2025 meeting.
- ❖ **Unfulfilled Matches.**
 - ▶ Saturday 13th December 2025. Division Three. Dunstable Wanderers v **Caldecote 'A'**. Caldecote 'A' unable to raise a side.
 - Match and match points [3] awarded to **Dunstable Wanderers**, score 0-0.
 - **Caldecote 'A'** fined £25 as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point.
 - **Caldecote 'A'** request to postpone their fixtures until 10th January 2026 was not granted. (since the deadline to be granted a free weekend for the 20th December 2025 and 3rd January 2026 had passed plus the club had 102 players registered at the time of the request)
 - ▶ Saturday 13th December 2025. Division One. Clifton v **Lea Sports PSG**. Car accident on the way to the game at about 12.30pm. Full details were available for the Committee. Match to be rearranged for later in the season.
 - ▶ Saturday 20th December 2025. Premier Division. Stopsley United v **Biggleswade United Reserves**. Biggleswade United Reserves unable to raise a side.
 - Match and match points [3] awarded to **Stopsley United**, score 0-0.
 - **Biggleswade United Reserves** fined £40 as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point.
 - ▶ Saturday 3rd January 2026. Division Three. Turvey v **LU Donz Development**. Lu Donz Development. withdrew from the fixture on Friday 2nd January 2026. Full details were available for the Committee.
 - Match and match points [3] awarded to **Turvey**, score 0-0.
 - **LU Donz** fined £25 as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point.
- ❖ **Abandoned Games :**
 - ▶ Saturday 3rd January 2026. Division One. Thurleigh v Blatchley Scot. 15 minutes only played. Unplayable pitch. Match to be rearranged.

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA REPORT

CHARGE NOTICES

- ❖ **Westoning Blues :** Being in breach of league rule 20E that they failed to give notice to the league on Friday 12th December 2025 of the postponement of their home game against Flitwick Town Eagles on Saturday 13th December 2025.
 - Charge found proved. Westoning Blues warned, as per rule.

- ❖ Relating to the same fixture, **Westoning Blues** then breached league rule 23D in failing to establish if Flitwick Town Eagles had an available pitch for the fixture to be switched venues. (Flitwick Town Eagles confirming they had two such pitches)
 - Charge found proved. Match points [3] awarded to **Flitwick Eagles**, score 0-0
 - Westoning Blues fined £25 and deducted one [1] penalty point.
- ❖ **Wootton Blue Cross Reserves:** In breach of league rules 18L/18M that in their game against Bedford Albion on Saturday 20th December 2025 they played five players who had appeared in their last first team game played on Saturday 6th December 2025 against Caldecote. (Match lost 1-2)
 - Charge found proved. Match result to stand.
 - Wootton Blue Cross Reserves fined £20 as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point.

REPORT NOTICES

- ❖ Clubs in breach of League Rule 20C in failing to give notice confirmation of their fixture by the required deadline.
 - ▶ Saturday 6th December 2025. **Clifton v FC Haynes.**
 - Clifton warned as per rule.
- ❖ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21B in failing to submit into the SMS text system the correct result of their game by the required deadline.
 - ▶ Saturday 13th December 2025. **Everton Athletic. The 61 FC Luton Reserves.**
 - Both teams warned as per rule.
- ❖ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time Result Sheet by the required Deadline.
 - ▶ Saturday 26th November 2025. **Leighton Woodside Athletic.**
 - ▶ Saturday 6th December 2025. **Bletchley Scot.**
 - ▶ Saturday 13th December 2025. **Caldecote Reserves. Westoning Reds.**
 - ▶ Saturday 20th December 2025. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves [warning]. Caldecote. Everton Athletic. Everton Athletic Reserves. Leighton Woodside Athletic. Queens Park Crescents. Queens Park Crescents Reserves. Stopsley United Reserves.**
 - All teams warned or fined £15 as per rule.
- ❖ Registrations made at midday 3rd January 2026: **2651** [2908 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 will be carried out at **Harlington Juniors** and **Stotfold Juniors.**
- ❖ **PREMIER DIVISION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** The following proposed changes were discussed with any final changes to be presented at the 2026 Annual General Meeting:
 - ▶ **APPENDIX 'A'** The Football Association has reviewed the requirements for the grounds of Clubs in the National League System. The Football Association has placed the Bedfordshire County Football League as a **REGIONAL NLS FEEDER LEAGUE** to the National System. This placement may be reviewed annually, and Clubs have until 31st December in any year to meet the requirements in full **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PROMOTION BY THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.** The following is a summary of the main points of the Ground Grading document, available on the League website www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk:
 - ▶ To provide good sized, separate dressing rooms for each team, **WITH A** minimum size 12 sq.m. excluding shower/toilet area **REQUIRED FOR PROMOTION**] and separate accommodation for the match officials [**WITH A** minimum size 4 sq.m. excluding shower/toilet area **REQUIRED FOR PROMOTION**]. Please note these sizes are minimum and larger areas are required for new builds – the Ground Grading document provides details of the requirements for new buildings. **THE LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL HAVE THE FINAL ACCEPTANCE DECISION IF FACILITIES DO NOT MEET THE FULL REQUIREMENTS.**
 - No further changes were discussed.
 - ▶ **PREMIER DIVISION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**
 - ▶ **APPENDIX 'B'**
 - ▶ In addition to any requirements of The Football Association, the following are League requirements:
 - ▶ The Standard Match Ball, as specified and provided by the Management Committee, or one to a compatible standard, must be used in all Premier Division matches.
 - ▶ ~~Wherever possible, Registered Referees shall be appointed to all matches as Assistants.~~
 - ▶ **AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LEAGUE REFEREE SECRETARY, REGISTERED REFEREES MAY BE APPOINTED TO MATCHES AS ASSISTANTS.**
 - No further changes were discussed.

12. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- ❖ Nothing to report.

13. ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

- ❖ Non-accredited clubs continuing into season 2025-2026 will not be eligible for support [financial or goods] from the League until accredited.

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 carried over from December 2026:

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
Westoning Club FC [Reds]	£40	2025.12-09- review in February
Westoning Club FC [Reds]	£45	2015.12-09-costs - £10 ONLY PAID: £35 TO PAY

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

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
Biggleswade United Reserves	£40	2026.01-01
Bletchley Scot	£15	2026.01-02
Caldecote	£55	2026.01-03
Everton Athletic	£15	2026.01-04
Leighton Woodside Athletic	£30	2026.01-05
LU Donz Development	£25	2026.01-06
Queens Park Crescents	£15	2026.01-07
Stopsley United Reserves	£15	2026.01-08
Westoning Club FC	£40	2026.01-09
Wootton Blue Cross Res	£20	2026.01-10

ALL PAYMENTS DUE WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY 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

- ❖ Nothing to report.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



- ❖ Footballs for season 2026-2027: The Committee decided to buy another 150 footballs from SPIRIT, the Company having quoted the same price as for the current season. The footballs will be given to all clubs at the 2026 AGM. The distribution numbers to be decided by the Management Committee prior to the meeting.
- ❖ From the small stock still held, the League will sell to Clubs footballs at the cost price of £18.75 per ball. There are approximately 25 balls for sale on a first come-first served basis. ONLY email requests to the General Secretary/Treasurer will be acceptable.
- ❖ The Committee was made aware of the current health of referee Shabz Hussain, and send their best wishes to Shabz for a speedy recovery.

- ❖ There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary/Treasurer

❖

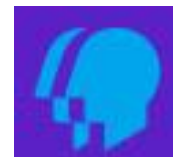
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