



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023

AT ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD PAVILION STARTING AT 7pm

MEMBERS: P Francis [Chair, Registration and Media Secretary], M Baxter, R Casey, B Hallybone [Assistant Referee Secretary], R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman, GB Snelson [General and Fixture Secretary],

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES: K Poulton [Elstow Abbey FC], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC],

INVITATION TO ATTEND: Messrs P Onion [Life Vice-President], R Simmonds [Life Vice-President] – not in attendance. **APOLOGIES:** BT Watson [President], A Young [Treasurer], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC].

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 1st June 2023 were agreed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** All covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** All covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **Roland Simmonds** – letter of thanks for Vice-Presidency
- ❖ **Barry Watson** – thanks for his long service award at the AGM.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ The General Secretary gave a brief account of the current financial situation. Further details will be available at the next meeting.
- ❖ The following Clubs were not in attendance at the Annual General Meeting, where those in attendance agreed each be fined as per rule: **Cambridge FC, CS Rovers FC, Sporting Carpathians FC and Leighton Woodside FC each fined £50**, See item 15 below.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ Premier Division Trophy has been repaired and returned to the Beds FA display cabinet. Engraving to be arranged.
- ❖ All cups now engraved and will also be returned to the Beds FA display cabinet in the near future.

6. TRANSFERS

- ❖ None.

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ League Directory Revision 2 now released on website

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ Full coverage on the 2nd and 9th this month - 16th also looks good at the moment - 23rd & 30th still a couple short at the moment.
- ❖ **REF SEC:** Beds FA is setting up a referee appointments page for all Referees and Referee Secretaries in the county.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ All released to 14th October. Some changes required as SSMFL new Fixture Secretary **Chris Hartley did not allow for Reserve teams. Should be okay from now on.**
- ❖ Teams were allowed to enter the Anagram Records Trophy, with Riseley Sports, AFC Oakley and Flitwick Town all playing on 21st October. Premier Division fixtures are affected.
- ❖ The first round of league cup ties are scheduled for 11th November. This will include ties from Rounds 1 and 2.
- ❖ **FREE DATES AGREED:**
 - ▶ SHARNBROOK FIRST, CALDECOTE RESERVES [2nd September], RENHOLD UNITED [16th September], WOOTTON BLUE CROSS FIRST, THE 61FC RESERVES [30th September], QUEENS PARK CRESCENTS FIRST and DEVELOPMENT, FC POLONIA LUTON [14th October], BLETCHLEY SCOT [16th December]

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

Registrations & Transfers

- ▶ Having issued a Pre-Season information Bulletin to all clubs on July 28th 2023 and thereafter being very pro-active with reminders it's pleasing to report that all clubs/teams complied with league rule 8 and had registered at least 11 players per team by the deadline of Saturday 19th August 2023. **A cluster of clubs needed five reminders.**
- ▶ Again we had the usual annual problems with clubs making double registrations and adopted our previous policy of allowing clubs to cancel registrations prior to the seasons start without the necessity of making a transfer. However, we started the season with 13 still in the pending box.
- ▶ Registrations made at Midday Saturday 2nd September. **2402 (1897 last season)**

Match Day Reporting SMS Texts / Full Time Result Sheets

- ▶ Again following the information Bulletin was pro-active in obtaining who teams wished to have set up to receive the SMS text reminders. However at the deadline date set at Saturday 26th August 2023 some 16 teams **following 4 reminders** had failed to reply. These teams were then advised that should the information not be forthcoming by Wednesday 30th August 2023 I would set these texts to go to the person set up in WGS as their Primary contact.
- ▶ Five teams, **LU Donz, Sporting Carpathians, Westoning Recreation, Sharnbrook Reserves and Kempston Athletic** were thus duly set up to go to their Primary contact. on Thursday 31st August 2023.
- ▶ In the said information bulletin I made clarification that both clubs rather than just the home side as in the past needed to reply to these reminders and that the deadline for such to comply with league rule 21B would be set at 3 hours and 15

minutes from the kick off time of their games with an addition 15 minutes allowed for cup games that went to a penalty shoot-out.

- ▶ This being based on 90 minutes play, 15 minutes half-time plus another 90 minutes being the 75 minutes from the end of the game and an addition 15 minutes to allow for late kick offs and time added on etc.

Whole Game System

- ▶ Again as in previous seasons WGS failed to carry forward from last season Primary contact data and just randomly selected a person per team. (being the person who receives the Full Time emails of fixtures/ referee appointments)
- ▶ All clubs were advised in the Pre-Season information bulletin to check this matter out plus on all five reminders sent but based on the number of clubs who came on moaning in the week leading up to the start of the season this had clearly not be done.

Weekly News Bulletin

- ▶ Following requests from numerous clubs I still intend to publish our Weekly News Bulletin (a situation to be reviewed at the end of September) and have requested clubs to load their Full Time result sheets earlier than normal or text me their goal scorers as in previous seasons.

Notes

- ▶ By close of play on Saturday 2nd September 2023, 24 teams had texted me their goal scorers as in previous seasons plus already 43 teams had loaded their Full Time result sheets.

Report Notice

- ▶ Clubs in breach of league rule 21B in failing to submit their Result into the SMS text system by the required deadline for their games played on Saturday 2nd September 2023.
 - **Bufs FC, Renhold United** (text received 8.24pm) **Wilstead, Stotfold Juniors**. (text received 7.36pm) **Luton Panthers**. (text received 9.36pm) **Kempston Athletic**.
 - **All these Clubs WARNED** [first occurrence], see item 15 below.
 - **RULE 21[B] Both Clubs shall SMS the result of each Competition Match within 75 minutes of the end of the match in response to an SMS text prompt. Failure to comply will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Nothing new to report

12. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- ❖ The League Management Committee has decided not to enter the FA National League System Cup for season 2023-2024, which has been extended to include Leagues at Steps 5 and 6m as well as Step 7 [NLS Feeder Leagues]. Previously only Step 7.

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]

- Nothing new to report

15. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for SEPTEMBER 2023

CLUB	DATE	DESCRIPTION	FINE/ cost	PTS	RULE	NOTES
Cambridge FC	14/06/2023	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£62.25		8[H]	POSTAGE ADDED FOR PAPERS DISTRIBUTED AT AGM
CS Rovers	14/06/2023	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£50		8[H]	
Leighton Woodside	14/06/2023	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£53.30		8[H]	POSTAGE ADDED FOR PAPERS DISTRIBUTED AT AGM
Sporting Carpathians	14/06/2023	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£53.30		8[H]	POSTAGE ADDED FOR PAPERS DISTRIBUTED AT AGM
Bufs FC	02/09/2023	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	WARN		21[B]	
Kempston Athletic	02/09/2023	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	WARN		21[B]	
Luton Panthers	02/09/2023	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	WARN		21[B]	
Renhold United	02/09/2023	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	WARN		21[B]	
Stotfold Juniors	02/09/2023	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	WARN		21[B]	
Wilstead	02/09/2023	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT BY DEADLINE	WARN		21[B]	
Bedford Town [Youth Development]	01/09/2023	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£0		11[B]	CLUB DEPOSIT USED IN PAYMENT
Bedford Wanderers	01/09/2023	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£0		11[B]	CLUB DEPOSIT USED IN PAYMENT
Biggleswade FC Development	01/09/2023	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£75		11[B]	
FC Haynes Reserves	04/09/2023	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£75		11[B]	
Sporting Carpathians Reserves	01/09/2023	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£75		11[B]	

TREASURER to raise invoices with payment details

16. APPLICATIONS & WITHDRAWALS

- ❖ **WITHDRAWALS: Biggleswade FC Development, Bedford Wanderers, Sporting Carpathians Reserves, Bedford Town [Youth Development], FC Haynes Reserves.**
 - All these Clubs fined £75 as per rule, see item 15 above.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ The Management Committee were saddened to hear of the death of 'Mr Kempston Rovers' Andy Kirby, and send their condolences to Andy's family and the Club.
- ❖ Rhys Casey raised the matter of referee abuse and was assured that all reported incidents will be fully supported by the League, with action taken by the relevant County FA.
- ❖ Kevin Poulton raised the question of the financial awards for divisional winners, This will be addressed at the end of the season when deciding the amount of money to be set aside for all 2023-2024 awards.
- ❖
- ❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.23 p.m.

- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary

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FREE PARKING

