



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 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], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC].

INVITATION TO ATTEND: R Simmonds, P Onion [Life Vice-Presidents] – not in attendance

APOLOGIES: D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC], R Casey

A. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- ❖ Alan Young declared an interest in any matter affecting Bedfordshire County FA. The Club Representatives declared an interest in any matter concerning their Club.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on **4th January 2024** were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ **LIAISON MEETING** [Peterborough, Northants Combination & BCFL] – P Francis and M Baxter attended on 22nd January.
 - ▶ **Governance and Licences** : It was reported that the FA have now completed the G&L down to step 5 leagues and clubs and are now turning their attention to leagues and clubs at step 6 and feeder league level. BCFL has work to do on succession planning, particularly in the case of League Officers.
 - ▶ **League Mergers**: It appears the FA are keen on the merge of leagues in their neighbourhood at any given level to overcome the apparent lack of new volunteers to help/ replace ageing committee members. No plans at present.
 - ▶ **Limited Company**: BCFL is not intending to move in this direction.
 - ▶ **Remunerations Paid to League Officials**: Arrangements to remain unchanged.
 - ▶ **Checking of Full Time Result Sheets** : The policy of both the other leagues is not to undertake checks like BCFL, leaving the matter of players playing whilst under suspension in the hands of the County FA and rely on the opposition team to pick up and report any breach of player rules. At present, BCFL will continue to make these checks.
- ❖ From **AFC OAKLEY**: Pitch barrier grant – nothing further to report. The grant is in danger of being ‘timed out’, and the Club is requested to reconsider their options if it speeds up the work. **See also ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**
- ❖ 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**: All items covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA**: All covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **To CALDECOTE FC** regards ‘A’ team indiscipline.
- ❖ **REPORTS received** regards spectator indiscipline and threatening behaviour. League to ensure Bedfordshire FA are aware.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS DUE.**
 - ▶ The policy of not demanding payment within 14 days of notification of the decision in the minutes, followed by the formal invoice, will continue for the time being. However, Clubs failing to pay in accordance with the terms detailed in the request-for-payment invoice will be liable to Rule 6[J] being applied in full.
 - **RULE 6[J]** *Subject to a Club’s right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, 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.*
 - ▶ The League bank account currently stands at £54,543.44

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ The purchase of mementoes from Sportsform for this season was left with Rich Horswell, assisted by Life-Vice President Roland Simmonds.

6. TRANSFERS

Travis Joseph.	Elstow Abbey to Kempston United.
Ude Osim.	Crawley Green Reserves to Renhold.
Samir Dima.	AFC Bedford United to Sandy
Max Marsh.	Cranfield United Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross.
Ryan Smith.	Wootton Blue Cross to Crawley Green Reserves.
Tyler Hart.	Elstow Abbey to Kempston Athletic.
Laurence McHugh.	AFC Bedford United to Kempston Athletic.
Ryan Hawkes.	Lewsey Park to LU Donz.
George Bird.	M&DH Clapham Sports to Flitwick Town
William Buckland.	M&DH Clapham Sports to Flitwick Town.
Connor Kavanagh.	Biggleswade FC Reserves to Wootton Blue Cross.
Ashley Ingham.	Shefford Town & Campton to Harlington Juniors.
Oscar Smith.	Cranfield United Reserves to Caldecote
Reece Kennington.	AFC Kempston Town Hammers to Marston Shelton Rovers.
Patrick Aduaye-Odieta.	Bedford Albion to Elstow Abbey.

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ None. League Directory revision 3 will be submitted for online release by 9th February.

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ Referee coverage for January 2024 was good, with February looking even better.
- ❖ Britannia and Centenary League Cup semi-Finals will have three officials, as will the other League Cup semi-finals if availability allows.
- ❖ The League is committed to appoint three officials to all Premier Division matches in season 2024-2025. The committee agreed this may be at the expense of a full programme of appointments in the lower divisions, where the lower annual subscription will continue to apply.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **FREE DATES PREVIOUSLY AGREED: STOPSLEY UNITED** [3rd February 2024]
- ❖ **NEW FREE DATE REQUESTS AGREED: AFC BEDFORD UNITED** [27th April 2024], **WILSTEAD** [24th February 2024]
- ❖ **FREE DATE REQUESTS NOT AGREED:** None
- ❖ **FIXTURE BREAK AGREED: AFC KEMPSTON TOWN HAMMERS RESERVES** – no fixtures 3rd and 10th February 2024
- ❖ **UNPLAYED/INCOMPLETED MATCHES:**
 - ▶ Saturday 27th January 2024. **Watson Shield**. CS Rovers v Warden AFC U18. **CS Rovers unable to raise a side.**
 - Tie awarded to **Warden AFC u18**, score 0-0
 - **SEE ALSO ITEM 17 BELOW.**
 - ❖ **LEAGUE CUP FINALS: Britannia or Centenary @ Stotfold Friday 26th April 2024 kick off 7.30pm**
 - ❖ 28th October 2023: Division 3: Elstow Abbey Reserves v Luton Panthers – abandoned.
 - Matter concluded by Bedfordshire FA.
 - **Match awarded to Elstow Abbey Reserves score 0-0**

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ Registrations at Saturday Midday 27th January 2024: **3067**
- ❖ **CHARGES NOTICES**

GS Athletic : In breach of league rule 18M that in their game played on Saturday 6th January 2024 against Flitwick Town A they played one Lewis Thompson- Davis who at the time of the game was serving a Beds FA suspension. (game lost 5-2 and matter reported to the Beds FA on 10th January 2024)

 - Case now proven by Beds FA, under league rules, result to stand and **GS Athletic deducted one penalty point.**
- ❖ **REPORT NOTICES**

Club in breach of Cup Rule 3:

 - ▶ Saturday 27th January 2024. **Kempston Athletic**. having played Laurence McHugh in their Watson Shield game against Elstow Abbey Reserves (won 4-0) who had played for AFC Bedford United in this season's Bedfordshire FA Intermediate Cup thus was not eligible to play in this season's Watson Shield.
 - **Kempston Athletic** removed from the competition.
 - **Elstow Abbey Reserves** re-instated
 - Both decisions subject to the right of appeal.

Club in breach of league rule 20E (ii):

 - ▶ Saturday 27th January 2024. **Sharnbrook**. Having failed to play their 1st team game in the Britannia Cup away at Stotfold Development then played their Reserve Team game away at Bande Rouge in the Jubilee Cup (won 5-0)
 - **Britannia Cup: Sharnbrook** unable to raise a team and are removed from the competition.
 - **Stotfold Development** progress to the semi-finals.
 - **Jubilee Cup: Sharnbrook Reserves** removed from the competition.
 - **Bande Rouge** reinstated. **SEE ALSO ITEM 17 BELOW.**

Clubs in breach of league rule 21B in failing to submit, or submitting an entry with errors, into the SMS text system by the required deadline:

 - ▶ Saturday 6th January 2024. **Catsbrook Wanderers** (entry with errors) **Renhold United** (entry with errors) **Sharnbrook** (comments in mitigation)
 - ▶ Saturday 13th January 2024. **Bedford SA. FC Polonia (Luton)**
 - ▶ Saturday 20th January 2024. All failing to report notice of postponed games. **M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves** (away team) **Westoning Recreation** (entry with errors)
 - ▶ Saturday 27th January 2024. **Caldecote** (reported with errors) **Catsbrook Wanderers** (reported with errors) **FC Polonia (Luton), Lewsey Park** (reported incorrect score) **Lu Donz** (reported incorrect score) **Renhold United.**
 - **All above highlighted Clubs are fined, or 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 6th January 2024. **Catsbrook Wanderers. Elstow Abbey and Reserves. Westoning Recreation.**
 - ▶ Saturday 13th January 2024. **Sharnbrook**
 - **All above highlighted Clubs are fined, or warned, as per rule.**

Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load onto their Full Time result sheet details of the red and yellow cards issued to their players:

 - ▶ Saturday 6th January 2024. **Dunstable Wanderers. Lidlington United Sports Club Colts, Renhold United, Sharnbrook, Shefford Town & Campton U23.**
 - ▶ Saturday 13th January 2024. **Kempston Athletic, M&DH Clapham Sports, Queens Park Development.**
 - ▶ Saturday 20th January 2024. **Henlow, Sharnbrook.**
 - ❖ **The Committee agreed to revise the match day arrangements for the notification of red and yellow cards issued by the referee. However it is the responsibility of all teams to check, if necessary, with the referee to confirm the cards issued and then to report correctly when loading the Full Time result sheet.**
 - ❖ **All above highlighted Clubs are fined, or warned, as per rule.**

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Nothing new to report. **See also ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- ❖ 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 has been informed to ensure training is arranged as required.

16. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for FEBRUARY 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

- ❖ APPLICATIONS: Forms sent to two new enquirers
- ❖ WITHDRAWALS:
 - ▶ **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.**
 - ▶ **CS Rovers** withdrawn from the League [dated Monday 29th January 2024]. Played 10/20 = 50%
 - **CS Rovers fined £75 as per rule – deposit forfeited to pay fine.**
 - ▶ **Bande Rouge** withdrawn from the League [dated Monday 29th January 2024]. Played 15/24 = 62.5%
 - **Bande Rouge fined £75 as per rule – deposit forfeited to pay fine.**

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ **LEAGUE RULE CHANGES** for season 2024-2025 must be submitted to Bedfordshire FA by 1st April 2024. The Management Committee will review all proposed changes at their March 2024 meeting. A sub-committee may then be appointed to finalise the proposals and submit them to Beds FA.
- ❖ **CONSTITUTION** for season 2024-2025 was briefly discussed. It was agreed that insufficient checks have been made in the past when accepting new Clubs.
- ❖ **FACILITY GRANTS** for member clubs will be considered, particularly for improvements to pitch barriers and changing facilities to meet Premier Division standards. Apply by email to The General Secretary.
- ❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.
- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary

<https://twitter.com/bedscountylge>



MENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN www.friendsmusttalk.co.uk

PLEASE LOOK AT THIS WEBSITE and support the campaign
Facebook page friendsmusttalk

PLEASE BE AWARE OF ALL THESE CAMPAIGNS and
SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS



sportsform
we bring the 'personal' into 'personalisation'!

GREAT DEALS, GREAT SERVICE

- PRINT • EMBROIDERY
- ENGRAVING • TROPHIES
- TRAINING WEAR • KITS



We are official suppliers of
Acerbis Football UK

Proud supporters of



Units 1 & 6, Fenlake Road Industrial Estate, Bedford, MK42 0HB
shop@sportsform.co.uk, tel; 01234 210005
www.sportsform.biz

FREE PARKING