



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2025

AT CRANFIELD PAVILION, STARTING AT 7 p.m.

**LEAGUE
SUPPORTERS:
HBC
LOGISTICS and
SPORTSFORM**



MEMBERS: P Francis [Chair, Registration and Media Secretary], M Baxter, S Dutton, R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman], GB Snelson [General and Fixture Secretary – Acting Treasurer].

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

LIFE VICE PRESIDENT: Mr, R Simmonds.

APOLOGIES: BT Watson [President], B Hallybone [Assistant Referee Secretary], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton].

A. 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 **5th December 2024** were signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ Pay referee Tony Beal - £60 to cover his parking fine picked up on his recent visit to M&DH Clapham Sports. **COMPLETED.**
- ❖ **AFC CLOPHILL** - request for reconsideration of fine for breaching league rules 18M/21C in their game played on Saturday 2nd November 2024 against Everton Athletic Reserves.
 - Club represented by David Mitchell.
 - CHARGE PROVED: no change.
 - Match result to stand: no change.
 - **AFC Clophill fined £50** as per rule: fine reduced from £150 based upon the evidence presented, and Club deducted three [3] penalty points: no change.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** General correspondence only.
- ❖ **LEA SPORTS PSG** – request for grant funding. The Committee agreed a £500 grant. Payment arrangements to be agreed with the Club
- ❖ **Football Sponsor** season 2025-2026 **SPIRIT SPORTS EQUIPMENT**. Discussion regarding the supply of footballs for season 2025-2026. Ball provided for evaluation.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS DUE by 22 December 2024:**
 - All payments completed.
- ❖ **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS DUE by 31 December 2024:**
 - All except the following payments have been completed: **AFC Clophill**, **Everton Athletic** and **FC Polonia** [all subject to reconsideration] and **Luton Panthers**, fined £10 plus additional fine of £15, see item 15 below.
- ❖ **See item 15 below for the FINES INVOICE for JANUARY 2025.**
- ❖ Banking arrangements season 2024-2025: The Acting Treasurer, GB Snelson, now has control of the account. A visit to the bank by Messrs Snelson and Young to be arranged for January 2025 to finalise transfer.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ The return of the 1904 Jubilee Cup, currently in the safe keeping of Bedford Borough Council, a request has been sent to Bedfordshire FA for the Board of Directors to act for the League in the recovery process.
 - **Beds FA Football Operations Committee agreed to proceed with this request. Nothing new to report.**

6. TRANSFERS

Jack Cunningham.	Green End Rovers to AFC Oakley.
Bailey Mapletoft.	Biggleswade United Reserves to Biggleswade FC Reserves.
Ronnie Burden.	Caddington to Wixams Wanderers.
Ronnie Burden.	Wixams Wanderers to Caddington.
Joshua Griggs.	Shefford Town & Campton to Thurleigh.

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ REVISION 3 ready for release.

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ **COVERAGE:** good for January 2025.

- ❖ **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INSTRUCTION: To referees and all Clubs: Effective from Saturday 4th January 2025.**

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
REFEREE MATCH REPORT FORM

Home	Score	Away	Score

Referee: _____ Date: _____

Division: _____

CAUTIONS / SENDINGS OFF

CLUB	PLAYER NAME	CAUTION / SENDINGS OFF CODE

BREACH OF LEAGUE RULES

CLUB	BREACH OF LEAGUE RULE

Following any match the referee should only be paid his or her fee in exchange for the completed REFEREE MATCH REPORT FORM. All Clubs were issued a pack of these forms at the Annual General Meeting. Contact Referee Secretary Richard Horswell if you have any questions.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **AGREED FREE WEEKS:**
 - ▶ 11th January - Turvey
- ❖ **UNPLAYED FIXTURES:**
 - Saturday 6th December 2024. Division Four. Catsbrook Wanderers v Henlow Hurricanes. **Henlow Hurricanes unable to raise a side [second occurrence].**
 - ▶ **Henlow Hurricanes fined £40** and deducted two [2] penalty points.
- ❖ The next round of League Cups, and completion of January fixtures, is scheduled for Sunday 5th January 2025.

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ Registration made at midday **28th December 2024: 2908** [2973 last season]

❖ Charge Notices

- None.

❖ Report Notices

- ❖ Clubs in breach of league rule 21B in failing to submit the correct result of their game into the SMS text system by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 7th December 2024. **Thurleigh**
 - Saturday 14th December 2024. **Queens Park Crescents Development. The 61 FC Luton Reserves [warning]**
 - ▶ **All clubs/teams fined £15 as per rule** or **WARNED** for a first offence in the £15 category, see item 15 below.
- ❖ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time Result Sheet by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 30th November 2024. **Bletchley Scot. Dunstable Wanderers [warning]. FC Polonia (Luton)**
 - Saturday 14th December 2024. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers [warning]. AFC Oakley. Bletchley Scot. Queens Park Crescents. Queens Park Crescents Development.**
 - Saturday 21st December 2024. **Wilstead.**
 - ▶ **All clubs/teams fined £15 as per rule** or **WARNED** for a first offence in the £15 category, see item 15 below.
- ❖ Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load onto their Full Time Result Sheet details of the Yellow/Red Cards issued to their players.
 - Saturday 16th November 2024. **Bletchley Scot. EB Lions U21.**
 - Saturday 14th December 2024. **Dunstable Wanderers. Henlow Hurricanes. Thurleigh. Turvey.**
 - ▶ **All clubs/teams fined £10 as per rule**, see item 15 below.
- ❖ Clubs in breach of league rule 20E(iii) and 21B in failing to give notice of their postponed game without delay to the Competition Results Secretary.
- ❖ Saturday 7th December 2024. **Dunstable Wanderers. EB Lions U21. Thurleigh**
 - ▶ **All clubs/teams fined £15 as per rules**

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Pitch Barrier supplies- post and rail. Cost quotation requested. On going.
- ❖ Pitch Barrier supplies- post and rope. Small supply in stock.

THE NEW PROCESS

- Removal of the **RESPECT** Sanctioning System
- Cumulative misconduct now addressed using only the Discipline Penalty Points System
- Focuses on behavioural offences rather than technical offences (Dissent, Violent Conduct, Offensive Language, Proven Misconduct)
- Revised thresholds which provide opportunity for proactive County FA involvement with the Regulations
- Provides for suspension or cancellation of England Football Accreditation status and/or Affiliation

- ❖ Team Shelters – no current activity

12. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- ❖ Nothing new to report

13. ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

- ❖ Non-accredited clubs continuing into season 2024-2025 will not be eligible for support [financial or goods] from the League until accredited.
- ❖ The FA is to introduce a new process for addressing continued [cumulative] misconduct using the Discipline Penalty Points System. Continued misconduct by Clubs will result in financial penalties [yet to be published]. Additionally, the new process allows for a Club suspension, the cancellation of the Club's England Football Accreditation and, ultimately, the cancellation of the Club's affiliation.
- ❖ The clear message to Clubs is to take measures now to minimise continual discipline offences.

14. SAFEGUARDING

► Nothing to report.

15. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for JANUARY 2025

The following fines are for non-payment of fines levied in DECEMBER 2024. The figures below are either new figures resulting from a reconsideration, or include the original and additional fine:

CLUB	FINE	REFERENCE
AFC Clophill	£50	2024.12-02: revised following reconsideration.
Luton Panthers	£25	2024.12-13: additional fine for non-payment

ALL PAYMENTS DUE on Friday 24th JANUARY 2025

The following fines levied in 2024 are still under review and will be finalised at the FEBRUARY 2025 meeting, to be held at ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD PAVILION. If a Club wishes to be represented to answer the charge, then contact the General Secretary by email, giving the names of the representatives – two maximum.

CLUB	FINE	REFERENCE
Everton Athletic	£150	2024.12-10: final review February 2025
FC Polonia [Luton]	£150	2024.11-12: final review February 2025

The following fines have been levied in JANUARY 2025.

CLUB	FINE	REFERENCE
AFC Oakley	£15	2025.01-01
Bletchley Scot	£40	2025.01-02
Dunstable Wanderers	£25	2025.01-03
EB Lions AFC u21	£25	2025.01-04
FC Polonia [Luton]	£15	2025.01-05
Henlow Hurricanes	£50	2025.01-06
Queens Park Crescents First & Development	£30	2025.01-07
Thurleigh	£40	2025.01-08
Turvey	£10	2025.01-09
Wilstead	£15	2025.01-10

ALL PAYMENTS DUE on Friday 31st JANUARY 2025

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 & WITHDRAWALS

❖ None.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

❖ **Sporting Carpathians FC:** A decision on the current withdrawal of fixtures is still unresolved, awaiting Bedfordshire FA to conclude the charge against the Club for an abandoned match. There has been no communication from the Club to enquire about the current situation.

❖ The Committee decided that future committee meetings be held in the newly refurbished **Elstow Playing Field Pavilion**.

❖ **Suggested rule changes for 2025 AGM:**

- **Rule 7A (i)** Add the wording: no complaint will be accepted unless accompanied by photographic evidence.
- **Rule 21B** Insert the word **correct** in front of the word **result**: Not a week has gone by this season when one or more of the following has not happened.
 - Results reported incorrectly in reverse manner i.e. 4-3 rather than 3-4 etc.
 - Clubs with two teams reporting results down into the wrong game.
 - SML clubs report their SML result rather than their BCFL result.
 - In higher scoring games clubs report the wrong scoreline. 6-1 has 7-1 etc.

❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

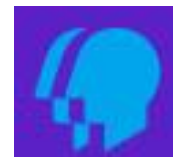
❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary



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