



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2023

AT CRANFIELD PAVILION STARTING AT 7pm

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: D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC], K Poulton [Elstow Abbey FC].

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

APOLOGIES: R Casey, P Smailes [Biggleswade FC].

A. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- ❖ Alan Young declared an interest in any item that would need investigation/adjudication by Bedfordshire FA.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 5th October 2023 were signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** Confirmation of the Administration Award of £3000. Thanks are sent to The FA for this support which helps the League maintain the current levels of the Club Annual Subscription.
 - o All other items covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** All covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ From **CADDINGTON FC:** email originally received 25th June:
 - ▶ Whilst completing our financial statement for last season I have discovered that we paid an entrance fee of £100 and this was reduced to £50 at the AGM to which we have not been reimbursed.
 - ▶ **The Treasurer to investigate and reimburse.**
- ❖ From **WENDY NEWWEY [Peterborough/UCL leagues]:** In January we held a Liaison Meeting to discuss Step 7 and League issues etc, just wondering if everyone would like to get together again in January. I would suggest 22nd January 7pm in our new office. Ground Floor Unit 7, Flag Business Exchange, Vicarage Farm Road, Peterborough PE1 5TX.
 - ▶ Messrs Francis and Baxter to attend.
- ❖ From **AFC OAKLEY:** Requesting confirmation of pitch barrier grant awarded last season. The Club has obtained a revised, higher quotation for a stronger goal line barrier close to the changing rooms. The grant of £1000 was confirmed and will be paid, with conditions ensuring the League benefits, following completion of the work.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER PAYMENTS DUE. The procedure for issuing and publishing the list of fines levied at Committee meetings was agreed, and the Treasurer will follow these procedures for fines levied at this meeting, and for those outstanding from September and October. Any fine, stating only the applicable rule, will be highlighted in YELLOW, together with any other item requiring action by the Treasurer. The email invoices published by the Treasurer, to individual Clubs only, will show the amount of the fine.**
- ❖ Dan Gauntlett requested a review of the current sponsorship arrangements with the League, with a view to increase the number of agreements. The General Secretary will report back in December.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ All cups now engraved and returned to the Beds FA display cabinet.
- ❖ Efforts will be made to recover the original Premier Division Championship Cup, currently held somewhere in the Bedford Borough offices, for permanent display at Beds FA.

6. TRANSFERS

Josh Thomas.	Cranfield United to Biggleswade FC Reserves
Ben Luke-Hall.	M&DH Clapham Sports to Queens Park Crescents
Adam Drakulic.	Sharnbrook to Shefford Town & Campton.
Joshua Roberts.	Biggleswade FC Reserves to Caldecote.
Christopher Richardson.	Biggleswade FC Reserves to Caldecote.
Liam Hyland-Knight.	Bande Rouge to Flitwick Town.
Ian Singa.	Kempston United to Elstow Abbey.
Alfie Tester.	Blunham to Buffs FC
Josh Edwards.	Caddington to Lewsey Park.
Kyle Andrews.	Queens Park Crescents to Elstow Abbey.
Daniel Page.	Elstow Abbey to AFC Kempston Town Hammers .
Melvin Whalley.	Elstow Abbey to AFC Kempston Town Hammers.
Tom Adams.	Elstow Abbey to M&DH Clapham Sports.
George Burden.	Caddington to Shefford Town & Campton .
Ryan Sheridan.	Luton Panthers to Stopsley United.
Try Birch.	Caddington to Shefford Town & Campton .
Kwane Richards.	Caddington to Shefford Town & Campton.
Faz Hassan.	The 61 FC Luton Reserves to Brache Phoenix.

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ **CLIFTON FC:** Secretary: Toby Gibbs [toby1234gibbs@icloud.com] 07817 515752

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ 100% coverage in October. November looking good with referees availability
- ❖ **CLUB CHARGE NOTICES**
 - ▶ 14-10-23 Div 1: Lewsey Park v **BEDFORD ALBION**. No low mark referees report form from Bedford Albion
 - ▶ 21-10-23 Div 2 South: FC Polonia v **STOPSLEY UNITED**. No low mark referees report form Stopsley United
 - **Fined as per rule 23[H]**
 - ▶ 21-10-23 Div 1: **MK DONS SET** v Lewsey Park. Failure to pay referee as per rule. **Fined as per rule 23[E]**

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ Format to decide Division Two Champions to be agreed at November 2023 meeting.
- ❖ **FREE DATES PREVIOUSLY AGREED:**
 - ▶ **TURVEY** [4th November], **BEDFORD ALBION FIRST** and **BEDFORD ALBION DEVELOPMENT** [2nd December], **BLETCHLEY SCOT** [16th December],
- ❖ **NEW FREE DATE REQUESTS AGREED:**
 - ▶ **LUTON PANTHERS** [2nd December], **STOPSLEY UNITED** [3rd February 2024]
- ❖ **FREE DATE REQUESTS NOT AGREED:** None
- ❖ **UNPLAYED MATCHES:**
 - ▶ Division One. 7th October 2023. Bedford Albion v Henlow. **HENLOW** unable to raise a side.
 - **Fined as per rule 20[Ei]** and deducted **ONE** penalty point.
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to Bedford Albion, score 0-0.**
 - ▶ Division Two North. 7th October 2023. M&DH Clapham Sports v AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves. **AFC KEMPSTON TOWN HAMMERS RESERVES** unable to raise a side.
 - **Fined as per rule 20[Ei]** and deducted **ONE** penalty point.
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to M&DH Clapham Sports, score 0-0.**
 - ▶ Division Four. 14th October 2023. Lidlington Colts v Leighton Woodside Athletic. **LEIGHTON WOODSIDE ATHLETIC** unable to raise a side [**SECOND OCCURRENCE**]
 - **Fined as per rule 20[Ei]** and deducted **TWO** penalty points.
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to Lidlington Colts, score 0-0.**
 - ▶ Division Two South. 21st October 2023. Sporting Carpathians v Caddington. No referee and no agreement reached by the two clubs. It appears there was a referee change on the Wednesday previous after Sporting Carpathians had confirmed the fixture with the original referee but the Full Time system notice does not appear to have reached Sporting Carpathians or the new referee.
 - **DECISION AT DECEMBER MEETING.**
 - ▶ Division Four. 21st October 2023. Kempston Athletic v Leighton Woodside Athletic. **LEIGHTON WOODSIDE ATHLETIC** unable to raise a side [**THIRD OCCURRENCE**]
 - **Fined as per rule 20[Ei]** and deducted **THREE** penalty points.
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to Kempston Athletic, score 0-0.**
 - ▶ Division One. 28th October 2023. Wootton Blue Cross v MK Dons SET. **MK DONS SET** failed to fulfil a fixture.
 - **Fined as per rule 20[Ei]** and deducted **ONE** penalty point.
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to Wootton Blue Cross, score 0-0.**
- ❖ **ABANDONED MATCHES:**
- ❖ The following abandoned matches have now been considered by Bedfordshire FA, and the charges against the teams [highlighted **BOLD** below] have been **PROVED**. The BCFL Committee decisions are as follows:
 - ▶ 9th September 2023: Division 1: Wootton Blue Cross v **BEDFORD SA**
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to Wootton Blue Cross, score 0-0.**
 - **BEDFORD SA are required to attend a meeting with a Management Sub-Committee.**
 - ▶ 23rd September 2023: Division 2 South: **SPORTING CARPATHIANS** v Stopsley United
 - **Match and match points [3] awarded to Stopsley United, score 0-0.**
 - **SPORTING CARPATHIANS are required to attend a meeting with a Management Sub-Committee.**
- ❖ The following match will be rearranged:
 - ▶ 28th October 2023: Division 3: CS Rovers v Bedford Albion Development. [serious injury to Bedford Albion player]
- ❖ The following abandoned matches await to be considered by Bedfordshire FA:
 - ▶ 21st October 2023: Division Two North: Ickwell & Old Warden v Kempston United
 - ▶ 28th October 2023: Division 3: Elstow Abbey Reserves v Luton Panthers

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ Registrations at Saturday Midday 28th October 2023: **2763** (2660 season 2022-23)
- ❖ **CHARGE NOTICES**
 - ▶ **SPORTING CARPATHIANS** : In breach of League Rule 18M having played Valentin Aganenci in their game against **Lu Donz** on Saturday 30th September 2023 whilst he was serving a Bedfordshire FA suspension. (game lost 4-2 and matter reported to the Beds FA on 4th October 2023)
 - **Charge accepted. Match result to stand.**
 - **SPORTING CARPATHIANS deducted ONE penalty point. Fine imposed by Beds FA.**
 - ▶ **M&DH CLAPHAM SPORTS RESERVES**. In breach of league rules 18L/18M that in their game against Athletic FC on Saturday 7th October 2023 they played four first team players when the maximum allowed is three. (game won 2-1)
 - **Charge accepted. Match and match points [3] awarded to Athletic FC, score 0-0.**
 - **Fined as per rule 18[M]** and deducted **ONE** penalty point.
 - ▶ **LEWSEY PARK**: In breach of league rules 18M/21C that in their game played on Saturday 14th October 2023 against Bedford Albion (game 1-1 draw) they named on their team sheet exchanged with Bedford Albion and the match day referee one Ash Carrier who at the time of the games was not a registered member of Lewsey Park and then when loading their Full Time result sheet replaced him by naming Ashley Gardner.
 - **Explanation accepted: charge found not proved.**
 - ▶ **FC HAYNES** :In breach of league rule 18M that in their game against **New Bradwell St Peter Development** they played one Gavin Sneddon who at the time of the game was not a registered member of FC Haynes for season 2023-24.
 - **Charge accepted. Match result to stand.**
 - **Fined as per rule 18[M]** and deducted **ONE** penalty point.
- ❖ **REPORT NOTICES**
- ❖ **Clubs in breach of League rule 20[C] in failing to confirm details of their fixture by the required deadline.**
 - ▶ **WESTONING RECREATION**. Failure to confirm fixture against Lea Sports PSG on Sat 28th October 2023 as per rule 20C
 - Club **WARNED** as per rule.

- ❖ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 21A in failing to exchange a team sheet with the match day referee prior to kick off.**
 - ▶ Saturday 21st October 2023. Division Two North. **BLUNHAM v CALDECOTE RESERVES**
 - **Explanation accepted: no further action..**
- ❖ **Clubs in Breach of league rule 21B in failing to submit their result in the SMS text system by the required deadline.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 7th October 2023: **SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON RESERVES, SHARNBROOK RESERVES, LEA SPORTS PSG, FC POLONIA [LUTON]**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 14th October 2023: **SHARNBROOK RESERVES: Fined as per rule 21[B].**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 21st October 2023: **AFC KEMPSTON TOWN HAMMERS, QUEENS PARK CRESCENTS FIRST & DEVELOPMENT.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 28th October 2023: **SHARNBROOK RESERVES, CS ROVERS: Fined as per rule 21[B].**
 - **All above Clubs fined as per rule 21[B]**
 - **BIGGLESWADE FC, AMPHILL TOWN COLTS, BEDFORD SA Warned**
- ❖ **Clubs in breach of league Rule 21C in failing to load their completed FT Result sheet by the required deadline.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 30th September 2023: **CATSBROOK WANDERERS, LEA SPORTS PSG** (player data incomplete), **MK DONS SET.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 7th October 2023: **SHARNBROOK & SHARNBROOK RESERVES** (incomplete, goalscorer data missing).
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 14th October 2023: **SHARNBROOK & SHARNBROOK RESERVES.**
 - **All above Clubs fined as per rule 21[C]**
- ❖ **Clubs in breach of league Rule 21C for failing to load onto Full Time the details of the Yellow/Red Cards.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 30th September 2023: **HARLINGTON JUNIORS, LU DONZ, LUTON PANTHERS, M&DH CLAPHAM SPORTS, MK DONS SET, SHARNBROOK & SHARNBROOK RESERVES, SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON RESERVES & DEVELOPMENT, WOOTTON BLUE CROSS RESERVES.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 7th October 2023: **BRACHE PHOENIX, CALDECOTE 'A', KEMPSTON ATHLETIC, LEWSEY PARK, NEW BRADWELL ST PETER DEVELOPMENT,**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 14th October 2023: **CS ROVERS, RENHOLD, SHARNBROOK & SHARNBROOK RESERVES.**
 - ▶ For games played on Saturday 21st October 2023: **ATHLETIC FC, BIGGLESWADE FC RESERVES, WOOTTON BLUE CROSS RESERVES.**
 - **For additional breaches of this rule following all matches on Saturday 18th November 2023 and beyond, a fine of £15, as per rule 21C, will be levied.**
- ❖ **OTHER MATTERS**
 - ▶ To consider the correspondence from Clifton FC regarding their fixture with Caldecote 'A' on Saturday 7th October 2023.
 - The Committee decided there was insufficient evidence to prove an ineligible player took part in the match.

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Nothing new to report

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. The accreditation window is now open and a report specific to BCFL will be available for the December meeting.

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:**
 - **Lewsey Park**
- ▶ 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

- ❖ **THIS ITEM WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING BUT, FROM A LEAGUE REQUIREMENT, WILL BE ADDRESSED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE BY JANUARY 1st.**
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Leagues should also ensure that Safeguarding is an agenda item for all Committee Meetings and the AGM.
- ▶ Finally each league is to ensure that they are aware of the clubs who have registered 16 & 17 year old players and record this. This can be reported by the League's Player Registration Officer once that process is underway and updated at each committee meeting.

16. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for NOVEMBER 2023

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

- ❖ No further withdrawals. One enquiry received for next season.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ None
- ❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57 p.m.

G. B. Snelson, General Secretary

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