



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2023

AT RED LION, ELSTOW at 6.45 p.m.

MEMBERS: BT Watson [President], P Francis [Chair, Registration and Media Secretary], M Baxter, R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman, GB Snelson [General and Fixture Secretary], R Simmonds [Life Vice-President].

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

INVITATION TO ATTEND: P Onion [Life Vice-President] – not in attendance.

APOLOGIES: A Young [Treasurer], B Hallybone [Assistant Referee Secretary], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC], R Casey.

A. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- ❖ None declared.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 2nd November 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ From CADDINGTON FC: email originally received 25th June – Re-imburement to be arranged.
- ❖ From WENDY NEWAY [Peterborough/UCL leagues]: Liaison Meeting – P Francis and M Baxter to attend.
- ❖ From AFC OAKLEY: Pitch barrier grant – nothing further to report.
- ❖ Review of the current sponsorship arrangements with the League. On going.
- ❖ Original Premier Division Championship Cup. Recovery from Bedford Borough still to be arranged.
- ❖ Format to decide Division Two Champions to be agreed at December 2023 meeting.
 - It was agreed that the two winners of the North and South Divisions play off on a neutral ground for the overall Division Two Championship. Both winners will be awarded £100 in the form of entry to the Competition for season 2024-2025. Winners and Runners up medals will be presented.
 - The two runners-up in the North and South Divisions will be presented with medals.
- ❖ **ABANDONED MATCHES**
 - ▶ 9th September 2023: Division 1: Wootton Blue Cross v **BEDFORD SA**
 - **BEDFORD SA** attended a meeting with a Management Sub-Committee on 29th November. Details covered in separate minutes.
 - ▶ 23rd September 2023: Division 2 South: **SPORTING CARPATHIANS** v Stopsley United
 - **SPORTING CARPATHIANS** attended a meeting with a Management Sub-Committee on 29th November. Details covered in separate minutes.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** Step 6 Promotions – details forwarded to all Premier Division Clubs.
 - All other items covered elsewhere in the minutes.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** All covered elsewhere in the minutes.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS DUE.** In the absence of the Treasurer, an Appendix to these minutes will be issued before the end of the year.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ It was agreed to order in January 2024 from Sportsform.

6. TRANSFERS

Tau Roberts.	Luton Panthers to Caddington.
Martell Brome.	Kempston United to Ickwell & Old Warden.
Ben Frusciante.	FC Haynes to Harlington Juniors.
Kane Dempsey	Totternhoe Reserves to KU Donz
Adam Ahmad-Pearce.	Renhold to Clifton.
Jake Renney.	FC Haynes to Henlow.
Damon Hazelwood.	Elstow Abbey to AFC Bedford United.
Roland Ashby.	Biggleswade United Reserves to Elstow Abbey.
Marko Tobdzic.	Queens Park Crescents to Renhold.
Wayne O'Connor.	Lewsey Park to Totternhoe Reserves.
Joshua Griggs.	Shefford Town & Campton to Sharnbrook
Ryan Dobson.	Sandy to Caldecote.
Naron Cheema.	AFC Kempston Town Hammers to Bedford Albion.
Michael Stephenson.	AFC Kempston Town Hammers to Bedford Albion.
Owen Hubbard.	Meltis Rangers to Turvey.
John Cartwright.	Caddington to Wootton Blue Cross
Luke Wain.	Kempston Athletic to Flitwick Town.
Adam Sweeney	Elstow Abbey to AFC Kempston Town Hammers.
Oskar Kopanski.	Queens Park Crescents to AFC Kempston Town Hammers .
Harry Roberts.	Biggleswade FC Reserves to Cranfield United Reserves

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ None

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ▶ 11th November: Jubilee cup: Wootton Res v **Caddington** - late kick off.
 - **Caddington** fined as per rule.
- ▶ 11th November: Jubilee cup: Stopsley v **The 61FC [Luton] Reserves** - late team sheet.
 - **The 61FC [Luton] Reserves** fined as per rule.
- ▶ 17th November: Div 3: **Queens Park Crescents Development** v Luton Panthers - late team sheet.
 - **Queens Park Crescents Development** fined as per rule.
- ▶ 25th November: Div 2 South: New Bradwell St Peter Development v **Sporting Carpathians** - no low referee mark report form
 - **Sporting Carpathians** fined as per rule.
- ▶ 25th November: Div 4: Athletic FC v **Turvey** - no low referee mark report form
 - **Turvey** fined as per rule.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **FREE DATES PREVIOUSLY AGREED:**
 - ▶ **BLETCHLEY SCOT** [16th December], **STOPSLEY UNITED** [3rd February 2024]
 - ▶ **MARSTON SHELTON ROVERS** [9th December], **WESTONING RECREATION** [16th December]
- ❖ **NEW FREE DATE REQUESTS AGREED:**
- ❖ **TOTTERNHOE RESERVES** [16th December]
- ❖ **FREE DATE REQUESTS NOT AGREED:** None
- ❖ **UNPLAYED MATCHES:**
 - ▶ Division Two South. 21st October 2023. **Sporting Carpathians v Caddington**. No referee and no agreement reached by the two clubs.
 - Explanation accepted – match to be rearranged..
 - ▶ Saturday 11th November 2023. Jubilee Cup. Caldecote Reserves v AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves** unable to raise a team.
 - **AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves** fined as per rule.
 - ▶ Saturday 11th November 2023. Division Three supported by Hy-Pro. Elstow Abbey Reserves v **CS Rovers**. CS Rovers unable to raise a team. (2nd occasion season 2023-24)
 - **CS Rovers** fined as per rule.
 - ▶ Saturday 25th November 2023. Division One. **Milton Keynes Dons Set U19** v Bufts FC . Milton Keynes Dons Set U19 unable to raise a side. (2nd occasion season 2023-24)
 - **Milton Keynes Dons Set U19** fined as per rule.
 - ▶ Saturday 2nd December 2023. Division One. Henlow v **Milton Keynes Dons Set U19**. Milton Keynes Dons Set U19 unable to raise a side. (3rd occasion season 2023-24)
 - **Milton Keynes Dons Set U19** fined as per rule.
 - ▶ Saturday 2nd December 2023. Division Two North. Sandy v **Bande Rouge**. Bande Rouge unable to raise a side.
 - **Bande Rouge** fined as per rule.
- ❖ Match Referee reports to be requested for the following abandoned matches once they have been considered by Bedfordshire FA. This to determine the follow-up action to be taken by the League:
 - ▶ 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 2nd December 2023: 2928**
- ❖ **CHARGES NOTICES**
 - ▶ **Leighton Woodside Athletic**. In breach of league rule 18M in that in their game played on Saturday 11th November 2023 against Catsbrook Wanderers (won 4-3) they played one Jacob Gibb who at the time of the game was serving a Beds FA suspension.
 - Having accepted the charge: match awarded to **Catsbrook Wanderers**, score 0-0.
 - **Leighton Woodside Athletic** fined as per rule and deducted two [2] penalty points [second occurrence]
 - ▶ **Bedford SA** : In breach of league rule 18M in that in their game against Bedford Albion on Saturday 18th November 2023 (won 4-2 on pens after 2-2 draw in Centenary Cup) they played Andrew Latimer whose name does not appear on their team sheet exchanged with the match day referee and Bedford Albion prior to kick off.
 - Explanation accepted. Result to stand.
 - ▶ **Meltis Rangers.** In breach of league rule 18M that in their games played on Saturday 11th November 2023 against Shefford Town & Campton U23 (lost 1-2) and on Saturday 18th November 2023 against Catsbrook Wanderers (won 6-2) they played Gavin Matthews who at the time of the games was serving an all football suspension imposed by the Beds FA under case 11426517M which covered the period 31st October 2023 to 19th November 2023 whilst playing for AFC Bedford United (Sunday)
 - For the 11th November match [first occurrence]: **Meltis Rangers** deducted one [1] penalty point. Result to stand. No fine applied.
 - For the 18th November match [second occurrence]: **Meltis Rangers** fined as per rule and deducted two [2] penalty points. Match points awarded to **Catsbrook Wanderers**, score 0-0.
- ❖ **REPORT NOTICES**
 - ▶ Clubs in breach of league rule 21B in failing to submit their result into the SMS text system by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 4th November 2023: **Wilstead** fined as per rule.
 - Saturday 11th November 2024: **Lewsey Park** fined as per rule.
 - Saturday 18th November 2024: **Biggleswade FC Reserves, CS Rovers, Luton Panthers, Queens Park Crescents Development** all fined as per rule.
 - Wednesday 22nd November 2023: **Cranfield United Reserves, Wootton Blue Cross**. both fined as per rule.
 - Saturday 2nd December 2023: **Clifton Reserves** fined as per rule.
 - ▶ Clubs in breach of league rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time Result sheet by the required deadline.
 - Saturday 4th November 2023: **Catsbrook Wanderers** fined as per rule.
 - Saturday 18th November 2023: **Catsbrook Wanderers. CS Rovers. Kempston United. Riseley Sports** all fined as per rule.
 - Saturday 25th November. 2023: **Sharnbrook** fined as per rule.
 - ▶ Clubs in breach of league rule 21C for failing to load onto Full Time the details of the Yellow/Red Cards issued to their players by the match day referee.
 - Saturdays in October 2023: **Bedford SA, FC Haynes, FC Polonia (Luton), Harlington Juniors Reserves, Lea Sports PSG, Lewsey Park, LU Donz, Queens Park Crescents, Sharnbrook Reserves, M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves,**

Stotfold Juniors, Ampthill Town Colts, Catsbrook Wanderers, Wilstead, Flitwick Town 'A', Kempston Athletic, Luton Panthers, Marston Shelton Rovers, Sandy, Cranfield United Reserves, Bedford Albion Development, Sandy FC, Sharnbrook, Sporting Carpathians – all teams are reminded of the requirement to add details of the red and yellow cards issued to their players by the Match Day Referee.

- ▶ Clubs in breach of League Rule 23D in failing to switch their home fixture to that of their opponents following the postponement of the original match.
 - Saturday 18th November 2023: Division One: **Bedford Albion**.v Renhold United
 - Bedford Albion fined as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point
 - Match points awarded to Renhold United, score 0-0.
- ❖ **OTHER MATTERS :**
 - ▶ Saturday 18th November : Leighton Woodside Rovers 3 Bedford Albion Development 2
 - Match Day Referee consulted regarding missing player on exchanged Team Sheet. Explanation accepted – no further action.
 - ▶ Saturday 25th November 2023: AFC Kempston Town Hammers reported a possible Safeguarding issue versus Biggleswade United Reserves. League investigation concluded there was no Safeguarding breach. Matter closed.

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. A report specific to BCFL will be available for the January 2024 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:**
- ▶ 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

- ❖ **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.
 - Matter in hand – to be resolved by the end of the year.
 - ▶ Leagues should also ensure that Safeguarding is an agenda item for all Committee Meetings and the AGM.
 - In place – completed.
 - ▶ 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.
 - Already recorded – completed.

16. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for DECEMBER 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 8.05 p.m.
- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary
- ❖

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**SEASON'S
GREETINGS**

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New
Year to all Players, Referees and Club
Officials



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