



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

AGENDA: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024

AT CRANFIELD PAVILION STARTING AT 6.30 p.m.

MEMBERS: 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], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC]. **CO-OPTED MEMBER** S Dutton.

APOLOGIES: BT Watson [President], LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS R Simmonds, PJ Onion

A. NEW CLUB INTERVIEWS:

- ▶ 6.30pm: **AFC CLOPHILL** – represented by Jonathan Smith, Llywelyn Chester and Matt Doyle
- ▶ 6.45pm: **GREEN END ROVERS FC** – represented by John Parrott
- ▶ 7.00pm **DTCC FC** [Dunstable Town Cricket Club] – represented by Jonathan Bentley and Jim Bromhall
 - All three Clubs/Teams accepted for season 2024-2025. Membership to be reviewed in May 2025.

B. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- ❖ Mr A Young declared an interest in any matter concerning the Beds FA, and the Club Representatives declared an interest in any matter concerning their Club.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on **2nd May 2024** were signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ **ALL PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED:**
 - ▶ From **AFC OAKLEY**: Pitch barrier grant – no response from the Club. Grant expired but could be reconsidered if Club reappplies.
 - ▶ Review of the current sponsorship arrangements with the League. **SportsForm** confirm their continuing support, which is greatly appreciated. Contact **HyPro** to find out their intentions regarding the ball sponsorship – **contact in October 2024 when new supplies should be available.**
 - ▶ Members identified other possible sponsorship opportunities.
 - ▶ Original Premier Division Championship Cup. Recovery from Bedford Borough still to be arranged. Letter sent to the Mayor's Office – **awaiting formal response.**

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:**
 - NLS Club Allocations and Step 6 Relegations
 - Clubs Relegated from Regional NLS Feeder Leagues - Allocations
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:**
 - Open Age Affiliation and Safeguarding Requirements for 2024/ 2025 season
 - Open Age Safeguarding Requirements for the 2024/ 2025 season
- ❖ **Rhys Casey** – resignation from Committee.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS DUE.** The Treasurer provided copies of Bank Statements for the full season.
- ❖ **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS** to be available for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- ❖ **OFFICERS HONORARIA:** The Treasurer proposed a £200 increase in the honoraria for General Secretary [incl Fixtures], Registrations Secretary [incl Press and Media – post currently held by League Chair], and Referee/Assistant Referee Secretary [shared honorarium]. The increase took each honorarium to £1700.
 - These figures were agreed by the Management Committee members.
- ❖ General Secretary and Treasurer/Chair to discuss the award monies to be paid to Clubs for season 2023-2024.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ Possible new design for season 2024-2025.

6. TRANSFERS

- ❖ None

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ None.

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ **The Referee Secretary gave a forecast for the referee cover available for season 2024-2025, and proposed a late CHANGE OF RULE to increase referee fees by £5. This proposal will be put to the AGM.**

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **ABANDONED MATCH: 20th April Div 2S Caddington [BCFL] v Sporting Carpathians.**
 - Charge against Sporting Carpathians found proved by Beds FA.
 - Match awarded to Caddington [BCFL], score 0-0
 - Sporting Carpathians deducted two [2] penalty points

❖ UNPLAYED FIXTURES:

- ▶ Wednesday 1st May 2024. Harlington Juniors Reserves v Elstow Abbey Reserves. **Elstow Abbey Reserves** unable to raise a side [second occurrence].
 - Elstow Abbey Reserves fined as per rule and deducted two [2] penalty points
 - Points [3] awarded to **Harlington Juniors Reserves**, score 0-0
- ▶ Saturday 4th May 2024. Totternhoe Reserves v Bedford Albion. **Bedford Albion** unable to raise a side [second occurrence].
 - Bedford Albion fined as per rule and deducted two [2] penalty points
 - Points [3] awarded to **Totternhoe Reserves**, score 0-0

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ Clubs in breach of League rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time result sheet by the required deadline.
 - ▶ Saturday 27th April 2024. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers, Shefford Town & Campton Reserves, Westoning Recreation.**
 - ▶ Wednesday 1st May 2024. **Westoning Recreation.**
 - ▶ Saturday 4th May 2024. **FC Polonia (Luton), Luton Panthers.**
 - ▶ Saturday 11th May 2024. **Harlington Juniors Reserves.**
 - **All above Clubs fined as per rule.**
- ❖ 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.
 - ▶ Thursday 25th April 2024. **Dunstable Wanderers.**
 - ▶ Saturday 27th April 2024. **LU Donz, Sharnbrook Reserves, Sporting Carpathians.**
 - ▶ Wednesday 1st May 2024. **LU Donz.**
 - ▶ Saturday 4th May 2024. **FC Polonia (Luton)**
 - **All above Clubs fined as per rule.**

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Pitch Barrier supplies- post and rail. Cost quotation requested.
- ❖ Pitch Barrier supplies- post and rope. Small supply in stock.
- ❖ Team Shelters – no current activity

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

- ❖ **For the 2024/25 season, there will be mandatory changes to the safeguarding affiliation requirements for Open-Age Football.**
 - ▶ The Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) and **all** team officials (excluding the Team Secretary) will now be required to undertake the **Player Welfare in Open-Age Football Course** in order to affiliate.
 - ▶ This is a **FREE**, 45-minute eLearning course covering general welfare concerns which are relevant across the whole Open-Age game as well as more specific safeguarding considerations, including those related to U18s within the Open-Age football.
 - ▶ This course has been created to empower those working in Open-Age Football and enhance understanding, so that together we can continue to support those involved and create positive environments.

16. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS for MAY/JUNE 2024

CLUB	DATE	DESCRIPTION	FINE/ cost	PTS	RULE
AFC Kempston Town Hammers	27/04/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]
Bedford Albion	04/05/2024	FAILURE TO PLAY A FIXTURE - OTHER DIVISIONS [SECOND OCCURRENCE]	£40	-2	20[Ei]
Dunstable Wanderers	25/04/2024	INCOMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION - R/Y CARDS	£15		21[C]
Elstow Abbey Reserves	01/05/2024	FAILURE TO PLAY A FIXTURE - OTHER DIVISIONS [SECOND OCCURRENCE]	£40	-2	20[Ei]
FC Polonia [Luton]	04/05/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]
FC Polonia [Luton]	04/05/2024	INCOMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION - R/Y CARDS	£15		21[C]
Harlington Juniors Reserves	11/05/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]
Lu Donz	27/04/2024	INCOMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION - R/Y CARDS	£15		21[C]
Lu Donz	01/05/2024	INCOMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION - R/Y CARDS	£15		21[C]
Luton Panthers	04/05/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15		21[C]

Sharnbrook Reserves	27/04/2024	INCOMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION - R/Y CARDS	£15	21[C]
Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	27/04/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15	21[C]
Sporting Carpathians	20/04/2024	CAUSING MATCH TO BE ABANDONED - BEDS FA CHARGE	-2	20[Ei]
Sporting Carpathians	27/04/2024	INCOMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION - R/Y CARDS	£15	21[C]
Westoning Recreation	27/04/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15	21[C]
Westoning Recreation	01/05/2024	FAILURE TO COMPLETE ONLINE MATCH NOTIFICATION WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£15	21[C]
ALL ABOVE FINES NOW INCLUDED IN THE CLUB INVOICE 2024-2025				

17. APPLICATIONS & WITHDRAWALS

❖ APPLICATIONS:

- ▶ **GREEN END ROVERS FC, AFC CLOPHILL** [playing at Stewartby], **DTCC FC** [Dunstable Town Cricket Club], **HENLOW HURRICANES FC, TATERNHOE FC GREENS** plus additional teams from **WOOTTON BLUE CROSS FC, AFC BEDFORD UNITED, EVERTON ATHLETIC** [formerly **GS Athletic**] and **STOPSLEY UNITED FC**

❖ WITHDRAWALS: **deposits to be returned:**

- ▶ **LIDLINGTON UNITED SPORTS CLUB COLTS** Club has completed season 2023-2024.
- ▶ **LUTON PANTHERS** Club has completed season 2023-2024.
- ▶ **STOTFOLD DEVELOPMENT** promoted to SSMFL Div 1 [Step6] Club has completed season 2023-2024.
- ▶ **LEIGHTON WOODSIDE** both teams looking for less travelling. Club has completed season 2023-2024.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ **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.

❖ LEAGUE AGM

- ▶ **2024 on WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE at 7.30pm [earlier because of hall availability]**
 - RULE CHANGES
 - ARRANGEMENTS to be confirmed

- ▶ **2025 on WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE at 7.30pm [booked]**

- ❖ **DRAFT CONSTITUTION** for season 2024-2025 to be completed once club membership has been confirmed following AGM.

❖ **Electronic communication – extract from the Laws of the Game:**

- Players (including substitutes/substituted and sent-off players) are not permitted to wear or use any form of electronic communication equipment (except where EPTS is allowed).

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- ❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary

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