



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024

AT CRANFIELD PAVILION STARTING AT 7 p.m.

MEMBERS: P Francis [Chair, Registration and Media Secretary], M Baxter, B Hallybone [Assistant Referee Secretary], R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman. **CLUB REPRESENTATIVES:** D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC], K Poulton [Elstow Abbey FC], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC]. **INVITATION TO ATTEND:** R Simmonds [Life Vice-President]. **APOLOGIES:** BT Watson [President], GB Snelson [General and Fixture Secretary], A Young [Treasurer], 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 **1st February 2024** were agreed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- ❖ **ALL PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED:**
 - ▶ From **AFC OAKLEY**: Pitch barrier grant – still 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.
 - ▶ 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**: Notice of Bedford Albion appeal decision – appeal upheld. The League is disappointed by this decision when, in the opinion of the League, the Club had clearly breached rules 7F and 23D. The review of the League Rules will note this decision.
- ❖ **From CLIFTON**: proposed rule change: **NOTED**
 - *Proposed rule change for next season regarding the use of a maximum of 3 ‘first team players being used in a game in a side below)*
- reason being - you could get a div 4 side with a 3rd team with their reserves in div 1 and firsts in premier - but at the moment it’s ok to play an entire set of reserve players from Div 1 standard in a div 4 game verses div 4 standard players. It protects the fairness and ethics of the game. We propose it should be a standard rule if max of 3 players that can be used in a 3rd team from EITHER the teams reserve side and/or first team side.
- ❖ **Also from CLIFTON**: **NOTED**
 - *When a game is switched to an opponent’s due to weather etc, and the away team change it to a MUGA with cost sometimes of £100-£150 to hire then the extra cost is paid in full by the new home team. So the original home team pays say £50 to the new MUGA fee and rest by the new home team.*
- ❖ **Turvey FC** complaint noted. No further action.
- ❖ **Wootton Blue Cross Reserves** re match on 2nd March v Wilstead. Request for away walkover denied. Match to be rearranged.

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.*
 - ▶ In the absence of The Treasurer, no report was available.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

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

6. TRANSFERS

Mason Watson Clarke.	Biggleswade United to Elstow Abbey
James Watkinson.	Sharnbrook to Kempston Athletic.
Sheldon Washington.	Queens Park Crescents to Renhold.
Luke Freeman.	Clifton to Henlow.
Cameron Browne.	Ickwell & Old Warden to Sandy.
Sonny Foulkes.	Harlington Junior to New Bradwell St Peter Development.
Jordan Farmer.	Sharnbrook to Bedford Albion.
Charlie Norman.	Sharnbrook to Cranfield United.
Bradley Raines.	Sharnbrook to Riseley Sports
Andre Reece -Brown.	Sharnbrook to Queens Park Crescents.
Charlie Corcoran.	Sharnbrook to Bedford Albion.
Finlay Box.	Sharnbrook to Bedford SA
James Box.	Sharnbrook to Biggleswade United Reserves

Harry Chinn.
Edward Tubridy.
Gianni Battezzato.
Sam Moore.
Collins Mensah.
Reece Burton.
James Taylor.
Jordan Cobb.
Reece Williams.
Andrew Massy.
Aaron Cheema.
Demario Legister.
Edrine Kisakye.
Tarik Dallas.
Aaron Dennie.
Harry Roberts

Sharnbrook to Biggleswade United Reserves
Caldecote to Shefford Town & Campton.
Sharnbrook to Bedford Albion.
Biggleswade United Reserves to Blunham
Sandy to AFC Oakley
Caddington to Lewsey Park.
Blunham to Clifton.
Sandy to Blunham
Sharnbrook to Riseley Sports.
Biggleswade FC Reserves to AFC Oakley.
Bedford Albion to AFC Kempston Town Hammers.
Lea Sports PSG to LU Donz.
Kempston Athletic to Queens Park Crescents
Sharnbrook to Riseley Sports.
CS Rovers to LU Donz
Cranfield United Reserves to Caldecote

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ None. League Directory revision 3 now online but AFC KEMPSTON TOWN HAMMERS RESERVES now withdrawn.
- ❖ An error to the League rules was noted: page 17 fee for appointed assistant referees [other than Premier] should read **£30**.

8. REFEREE SECRETARY REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ The Secretary informed the meeting of the appointments to the League Cup Finals, which were approved.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **FREE DATES PREVIOUSLY AGREED: AFC BEDFORD UNITED** [27th April 2024]
- ❖ **NEW FREE DATE REQUESTS AGREED: LU DONZ** [20th April 2024]
- ❖ **FREE DATE REQUESTS NOT AGREED:** None
- ❖ **UNPLAYED/INCOMPLETED MATCHES:**
- ❖ Division Two North. 24th February 2024. Blunham v AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves. **AFC KEMPSTON TOWN HAMMERS RESERVES** unable to raise a side. (2nd occasion)
 - ▶ **DECISION:** **AFC Kempston Town Hammers fined as per rule**. No points deducted as team now withdrawn, see item 1 below.
- ❖ Division Two South. 24th February 2024. Stotfold Juniors v Stopsley United. **STOTFOLD JUNIORS** unable to raise a side (1st occasion)
 - ▶ **DECISION:** **Stotfold Juniors** fined as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point. Match points [3] awarded to Stopsley United, score 0-0.
- ❖ Division Two South. 3rd February 2024. Flitwick Town Reserves v Sporting Carpathians. **Abandoned**. Bedfordshire FA now found proven **FLITWICK TOWN RESERVES** caused the game to be Abandoned.
 - ▶ **DECISION:** Match points [3] awarded to Sporting Carpathians, score 0-0.
- ❖ **BEDS FA COUNTY CUP FINALS:**
 - ▶ **Stotfold FC Wednesday 3rd April 2024 kick off 7.30pm**
 - **SENIOR TROPHY FINAL**
 - **TOTTERNHOE v ELSTOW ABBEY**
 - ▶ **Biggleswade United FC Tuesday 23rd April 2024 kick off 7.30pm**
 - **INTERMEDIATE CUP FINAL**
 - **WOOTTON BLUE CROSS or CRANFIELD UNITED RESERVES v WESTONING RECREATION**
 - ▶ **Potton United FC Friday 26th April 2024 kick off 7.30pm**
 - **JUNIOR CUP FINAL**
 - **LEIGHTON WOODSIDE ROVERS or SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON u23 v KEMPSTON ATHLETIC or WOBURN & WAVENDON**
- ❖ **LEAGUE CUP FINALS:**
 - ▶ **Kempston Rovers FC Monday 6th May 2024 kick off 6.30pm**
 - **BRITANNIA CUP FINAL**
 - **ELSTOW ABBEY v STOTFOLD DEVELOPMENT**
 - ▶ **Biggleswade United FC Wednesday 17th April 2024 kick off 7.30 pm**
 - **CENTENARY CUP FINAL**
 - **CRANFIELD UNITED RESERVES v WOOTTON BLUE CROSS or BUFFS FC**
 - ▶ **Cranfield United FC Saturday 4th May 2024 kck off 3pm**
 - **JUBILEE CUP FINAL**
 - **LU DONZ or FC POLONIA (LUTON) v STOPSLEY UNITED or ICKWELL & OLD WARDEN**
 - ▶ **Stotfold FC Friday 26th April 2024 kick off 7.30pm**
 - **Either WATSON SHIELD FINAL or DIVISION TWO PLAY OFF FINAL**
 - With the County Junior Cup Final on the same day, if **Shefford Town & Campton u23** reach the County Final, then the Division Two Play Off Final will be played on this day. A new date and venue will be required for whichever match is not played.

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

- ❖ Registrations at Saturday Midday 2nd March 2024: **3184**
- ❖ **CHARGE NOTICES**
- ❖ **Clubs in breach of League rule 20E(iii) / 23D in failing to switch their home game to that of their opponents.**
 - ▶ Saturday 10th February 2024. **Blunham** v Kempston United.
 - Away pitch unavailable at normal kick off time. Match to be rearranged.
 - ▶ Saturday 10th February 2024. **Bedford SA** v Buffs FC
 - **Bedford SA** fined as per rule and deducted one [1] penalty point.
 - Match and match points [3] awarded to Buffs FC, score 0-0.
- ❖ **Clubs in breach of League rule 18L(b)**
 - ▶ Saturday 17th February 2024 **New Bradwell St Peter Development** in their game against Caddington they played four players who had played in their last first team game on Saturday 3rd February 2024 when the maximum allowed is only three players. (game drawn 1-1)

- **New Bradwell St. Peter Development** fined as per rule, deducted the one point won and deducted a further one [1] penalty point.
- Match and additional two [2] match points awarded to Caddington, score 0-0

❖ **REPORT NOTICES**

❖ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 21B in failing to report the result of their game by SMS text by the required deadline.**

- ▶ Saturday 3rd February 2024. **Crawley Green Reserves, Lidlington United Sports Club Colts, Sporting Carpathians.** (incorrect return)
- ▶ Saturday 10th February 2024. **Leighton Woodside Rovers** (incorrect result) **Renhold United** (incorrect result)
- ▶ Saturday 17th February 2024. **Bufs FC** (incorrect result) **Clifton** (incorrect result) **Bedford SA.** (reported with errors) **Sandy Reserves** (incorrect result) **Sporting Carpathians** (reported late)
- ▶ Saturday 24th February 2024. **FC Polonia (Luton)** (incorrect result)
- ▶ Saturday 2nd March 2024. **Caldecote Reserves.** (incorrect result) **GS Athletic** (incorrect result)

○ **All above named clubs 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 27th January 2024. **Westoning Recreation.**
- ▶ Saturday 3rd February 2024. **Lea Sports PSG, Queens Park Crescents and Development, Westoning Recreation.**
- ▶ Saturday 17th February 2024. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers, Bufs FC, Luton Panthers, Shefford Town & Campton Reserves.**
- ▶ Saturday 24th February 2024. **GS Athletic. Luton Panthers.**

○ **All above named clubs fined, or warned, as per rule.**

❖ **Clubs in breach of league rule 21C in failing to load onto their Full Time result sheet the details of the red/yellow cards issued to their players.**

- ▶ Saturday 27th January 2024. **LU Donz.**
- ▶ Saturday 3rd February 2024. **Meltis Rangers. Queens Park Crescents. Sharnbrook Reserves. Westoning Recreation. Wootton Blue Cross.**
- ▶ Saturday 10th February 2024. **Turvey.**
- ▶ Saturday 17th February 2024. **AFC Kempston Town Hammers. AFC Oakley . Harlington Juniors Reserves. LU Donz**
- ▶ Saturday 24th February 2024. **Catsbrook Wanderers. Sharnbrook Reserves.**

○ **All above named clubs fined, or warned, as per rule.**

❖ **OTHERS MATTERS**

- ▶ **Clifton Reserves** lodged a complaint that Ampthill Town Colts had played an ineligible player against them in their Watson Shied game played on Saturday 24th February 2024. **Found to be unproven.**
- ▶ **Leighton Woodside Rovers..** Lodged a complaint that Caldecote A had breached rule 18L (B) in playing four first team players in their game played against them on Saturday 24th February 2024. **Found to be unproven**

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 MARCH 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. Possible third team from WBX
- ❖ **WITHDRAWALS:**
 - ▶ **SHARNBROOK FIRST** withdrawn from the League [dated Tuesday 6th February 2024]
 - **SHARNBROOK FIRST** fined £75 as per rule [Note: deposit cannot be used to pay fine]
 - **NOTE: this fine has already been invoiced.**
 - ▶ **AFC KEMPSTON HAMMERS RESERVES** withdrawn from the League [dated Friday 1st March 2024]
 - **AFC KEMPSTON TOWN HAMMERS RESERVES** fined £75 as per rule [Note: deposit cannot be used 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 were requested to submit their proposed changes to the Chair.
- ❖ **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 7pm [earlier because of hall availability]**
- ▶ **2025 on WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE at 7pm [booked]**

❖ There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.14 p.m.

❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary

<https://twitter.com/bedscountylge>



Signed.....
P Francis, Chair
4th April 2024

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