



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

MINUTES: 7TH JULY 2021 STARTING AT 6.30PM
AT GREAT BARFORD VILLAGE HALL [SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT COVID RESTRICTIONS]

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

- The Chair gave a general welcome to all attendees including, without naming, all the new Clubs and Teams joining for the coming season.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

- Acceptance proposed by Management Committee – seconded by Sporting Lewsey Park FC.
- **Minutes accepted unanimously.** *Please note that voting was by a show of hands, ONLY IF NOT IN FAVOUR. In every case below the vote was judged to be unanimously, or by a majority, in favour. Only if the number of hands raised made a judgement difficult would an actual count be made.*

3. MATTERS ARISING None

4. REPORT from INDEPENDENT EXAMINER [LEAGUE ACCOUNTS] and ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

- The adoption was not proposed by the League as, with changes to the financial administration of the league accounts under review, the accounts had not been Independently Verified.
- Draft copies of the final year end accounts had been published with the agenda. No questions were asked, with the Clubs accepting that final verified accounts would be published as soon as possible.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, INDEPENDENT MEMBERS and CLUB REPRESENTATIVES TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- ▶ OFFICE of President **Mr B T Watson**
- Proposed by Clifton FC, seconded by The 61FC Reserves, and **elected unanimously.**
- ▶ To record the list of Life Vice-Presidents: Messrs **T M Sadler**, P J Onion, J Warner, R W Curtis, D Cousens.
- ▶ OFFICE of Chairman **Mr P Francis**
- Including Registrations, Press and Media
- Proposed by Lea Sports PSG FC, seconded by Bedford Sports Athletic FC, and **elected unanimously.**
- ▶ OFFICE of Treasurer
- Alternative Arrangements were made known to the Clubs in attendance.
- ▶ OFFICE of Vice Chairman **Mr R Simmonds [Elstow Abbey FC]**
- Including Charter Standard matters.
- Mr Simmonds is also a Club Representative for Elstow Abbey FC.
- Proposed by Square FC, seconded by Riseley Sports FC, and **elected unanimously.**
- ▶ OFFICE of Referees Secretary Mr R Horswell
- ▶ OFFICE of General Secretary Mr G B Snelson
- Including Fixtures
- ▶ Management Committee Members Messrs K Redman, B Hallybone, M Baxter
- Messrs Horswell, Snelson, Redman, Hallybone and Baxter were proposed en bloc: Proposed by Lea Sports PSG FC, seconded by Barton Rovers FC Reserves, and **re-elected unanimously.**
- ▶ Co-option initially for one year Mr G Sales
- Proposed by Lea Sports PSG FC, seconded by Barton Rovers FC Reserves, and **co-opted unanimously.**
- ▶ Club Representatives ** Mr D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC]
- Proposed by Ickwell & Old Warden FC, seconded by Wilstead FC, and **elected unanimously.**
- No further nominations were made.

6. ELECTION OF LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE ON BEDFORDSHIRE FA

- ▶ Mr D Gauntlett was proposed by Ickwell & Old Warden FC, seconded by Wilstead FC, and **re-elected unanimously.**



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7. ALTERATION TO RULES SEASON 2021-2022

➤ Full details of all rule changes, including Mandatory Rule Changes in accordance with The FA Standard Code of Rules [SCOR] will be published in the on-line league handbook for 2021-2022.

➤ ~~**Rule 4[E] DELETE:** Clubs must be able to provide its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season, if requested. **ADD:** Clubs must advise the Secretary **annually** in writing by **the date of the AGM** of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season.~~

▶ Rule change not required – already covered by existing rule.

➤ **Rule 22[B] DELETE:** Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first two Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last two Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rules 2[G] and 2[L]. **ADD:** Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first two Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last two Teams in each division except as provided for **below**, subject to the provisions of Rules 2[G] and 2[L]. **Where the League Constitution allows for a pyramid structure, promotion and relegation numbers may be varied but must be agreed by a majority of votes at an Annual General Meeting.**

▶ Proposed by Management Committee, seconded by Ickwell & Old Warden FC and Marston Shelton Rovers FC, and **adopted unanimously**.

➤ **Rule 23[D] DELETE:** The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Representative of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

ADD: Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions". Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately comply with Rule 20[E]iii to switch the fixture to the opponents ground if possible, and advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials.

For those leagues which are not NLS Regional Feeder Leagues: The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Representative of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted. *Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately comply with Rule 20[E]iii to switch the fixture to the opponents ground if possible, and advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials.*

▶ Proposed by Management Committee, seconded by Square FC and Marston Shelton Rovers FC, and **adopted unanimously**.

➤ **Rule 23[H] CONFIRMATION:** *Referee marks of sixty [60] or less* must be accompanied by a report to the Referees Secretary.

▶ Proposed by Management Committee, seconded by Brickhill Wanderers FC and Sporting Lewsey Park FC, and **adopted unanimously**.

➤ **Rule 23[K] ADD:** **Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with an online copy of the Competition Rules free of charge, to be found in the League Handbook on the League website.**

▶ Proposed by Management Committee, seconded by Lea Sports PSG FC and Brickhill Wanderers FC, and **adopted unanimously**.



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8. ADOPTION OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020-2021

- Proposed by Caldecote FC, seconded by The 61 FC Reserves, and **adopted unanimously**.

9. LEAGUE CONSTITUTION SEASON 2021-2022

► A constitution of six divisions was proposed by Management Committee, seconded by Barton Rovers FC Reserves and Square FC, and **accepted unanimously**. Every effort will be made to retain 16 teams in each of the top three divisions with an equal spread of teams in the lower divisions.

10. ROLL CALL OF CLUBS IN ATTENDANCE

► A roll call was made, with any Club listed as not attending the meeting in the Hall given the opportunity to correct the record. The Clubs in attendance voted that all Clubs not in attendance be fined as per rule.

11. INFORMATION FOR SEASON 2021-2022

➤ SEASON and FIXTURE DATES

- Target date for commencement of fixtures: Saturday 4th September 2021
- Final Constitution to be agreed by the Management Committee and published following this AGM, and no later than ~~14th July 2021~~ – amended to 21st July 2021 as a result of additional late withdrawals and entries.
- Fixtures to be available 7th August 2021, subject to availability of SSMFL and UCL fixtures.
- Season dates: 1st August 2021 to 14th May 2022. Note: Premier [NLS Feeder League] end date determined by The FA.

➤ MANDATORY TRAINING FOR CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES IN PREMIER DIVISION

- The longer term intention is to appoint neutral assistant referees to all Premier Division matches. Currently this depends upon a significant increase in the number of referees available to the League, and a levelling out of, and a consistent approach to, the appointment of Assistant Referees to all Regional NLS Feeder Leagues. The training of Club Assistant Referees will be discussed with the County FA.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELEVANT TO THE A.G.M. None.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.07pm.

GB Snelson, General Secretary