



THE CHILTERN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
(Affiliated to The Bedfordshire FA)



MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28th JANUARY 2019 AT THE COUNTY LOUNGE, BEDFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, SKIMPOT ROAD, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU5 4JU

Before the business of the meeting commenced, those in attendance stood for a moments silence in memory of Mrs Jane Wooding (Wilstead Harriers / Wilstead FC) who had recently passed following a short illness. Mrs. Wooding had been a club secretary for many years and a supporter of the CYFL and will be sadly missed. Thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

Prior to the meeting, Bedford Santos and Lea Sports PSG were proposed, seconded and accepted in to the CYFL as new clubs (joined the league after the commencement of the playing season).

1. Roll Call and Apologies for Absence

Mr. P. Brown (Patron and Chairman) welcomed all the club representatives to the meeting.

Apologies were received from committee members – Mr. C. Davison (President), Mr. P. Roberts (Vice-President), Mr T. Gee (illness), Mrs. P. Johnson, Mr. V. Shekle (illness) and Mr. B. Leonard

Astral Park Ballers recorded their apologies for not attending the meeting, while the following clubs were recorded as absent:- Atletico Europa, Bedford Park Rangers, Bedford Santos, Blunham Youth, Inspire Athletic, Lea Sports PSG, Leighton Town Youth, Luton Nations Community, M&DH Clapham Sports, MK Wanderers, Real Luton, Smart FC, Someries Youth, St Joseph's Youth, Stony Stratford Town, Tattenhoe FC and Wilstead Harriers.

Retrospective apologies were received from the following clubs – Bedford Park Rangers, Luton Nations Community and St Joseph's Youth.

Explanations were received from Lea Sports PSG and Real Luton regarding their non-attendance and following investigation these were accepted and no fine issued for non-attendance.

2. Minutes of previous Full Council Meeting (Pre-Season Full Council Meeting) held on Monday, 3rd September 2018

The minutes were approved by the floor and seconded as a true record of the last Full Council Meeting.

3. Matters Arising:

Nothing submitted in advance or raised from the floor during the meeting.

4. Reports:

a) **Hon. General Secretary:** **Mr. J. Brown**

- **Rule Changes** – The General Secretary reminded clubs that he would circulate all rule change proposals to clubs by **28th February**, with clubs allowed to submit any amendments back to the General Secretary by **14th March**. All proposals and amendments would then be discussed and voted on at the AGM.

- **Registration / Transfer Deadline** – Clubs were reminded that the deadline for registrations and transfers was **1st March**.
- **End of Season Cup Finals** – Mr. Brown reminded clubs that there had been a slight change to the scheduling of the end of season Cup Finals, with the dates and locations as follows:-
- The Under 16 League Cup and Plate Finals would to be held on **Sunday 14th April 2019** at Shefford Sports Club, with the kick off times still to be confirmed.
- The Under 17 and Under 18 League Cup Finals would to be held on **Sunday 28th April 2019** at Bedford Town Football Club, with the kick off times still to be confirmed.
- Super Sunday had been scheduled for **Sunday 12th May 2019** and would again be held on Barton Playing Fields (Under 15 – Under 11 age groups). A schedule for the timing of the games was currently being devised and would be circulated to all clubs asap.
- The General Secretary encouraged as many people to attend these forthcoming events, explaining that they really help to showcase the CYFL. In 2017, over 2000 people attended the Cup Final Super Sunday, which made for a fantastic day, with so many games in progress throughout the day.
- **Application Forms** – to be circulated in mid-April and need to be completed and returned to the General Secretary by **31st May 2019** to allow the league to make the necessary plans in time to present at the AGM.
- **AGM** – is to be held on **Monday 17th June 2019** at the County Lounge, Bedfordshire Football Association. Further notices and information will be circulated to member clubs prior to the meeting.
- **Committee Members** - Mr. Brown explained that the committee were looking to strengthen their numbers for the coming season and would welcome any approaches from volunteers who were interested in joining the committee. Anyone who was interested, or knew of anyone who may be interested, were invited to contact either the Chairman or the General Secretary for an informal chat.

b) Hon. Fixture Secretary: Mr. T. Gee

In Mr. Gee's absence, the General Secretary delivered the attached report:-

- **Fixtures** – fixtures for the remainder of the season were in the process of being drawn up and will be processed on www.full-time.thefa.com in due course. The season will finish (unless otherwise advised) on **Sunday 12th May 2019** (Cup Final Super Sunday). It was hoped to finish all league fixtures the previous Sunday (5th May 2019), although this will be dependent upon the weather over the coming weeks.
- **Free Sunday Requests** – clubs are reminded that as per league rule 20(J) 'Teams must request a Free Sunday in writing to the Fixture Secretary, giving a Calendar Months' notice of the date required'. This is especially important as we head towards the end of season. Clubs are reminded that although fixtures **WILL NOT** be scheduled on **Easter Sunday** (as per note further on in these minutes), all other dates in April and also Sunday 5th May (May Day Bank Holiday) remain available to the Fixture Secretary to schedule fixtures, so if you do not wish for a game on any of these dates, please submit a request in a timely manner. Please note that Free Sunday Requests for any of the dates of Cup Finals for relevant age groups (dates as detailed elsewhere in these Minutes) will NOT be accepted.

- **Midweek Fixtures** – clubs were advised that some mid-week fixtures may be necessary to conclude the season and these would commence once the clocks change. Clubs were asked to check the scheduling of fixtures on www.full-time.thefa.com and if they were unable to play on the scheduled date, they could liaise with their opponents to re-arrange for a mutually convenient date. If this was the case, clubs were asked to advise Mr Gee at the earliest possible opportunity. However, the re-scheduling of fixtures would not be possible at short notice (i.e. in the week of the date of the game).
- **Council Pitches** – clubs who use these pitches are asked not to train on them, as this will potentially impact the quality of the pitches (especially during the winter months). Any clubs who are caught training on the pitches may lose their right to be allocated a pitch going forward.
- **Easter Sunday** – falls this year on **Sunday 21st April**. Fixtures would not automatically be scheduled on this date; however if teams wished to play, they should state their availability to Mr Gee at the earliest opportunity and fixtures would be scheduled if at all possible
- **Referee Mark** – if clubs are entering a score of below 61 for a match referee, they should submit a Low Referee Mark form / report detailing the reasons for the mark. This will help to support referee development
- **Photography** - reminder to all that you can use cameras and videos at games to record the action, but out of courtesy please ask opposition if it's ok to avoid any confusion.
- **Cup Final Super Sunday** – clubs were asked if they knew of anyone who would like to organise a stall (excluding refreshments) or event as part of the Cup Final Super Sunday. This could be an opportunity for clubs to gain some additional fund-raising – anyone who is interested is asked to contact Mr. Gee.

Additionally, the league is looking for a sponsor for the Player of the Match awards at the 2019 Cup Finals. This was a new addition to the Cup Finals last season and was well received by those involved in the Cup Finals. Again if anyone is interested they are asked to contact a member of the Management Committee for further details.

- **County Cups** – Mr. Gee placed on record his congratulations to those CYFL teams who have reached the semi-final stages of their relevant County Cup competitions and wished them luck for their next games.

c) **Hon. Treasurer:** **Mrs. J. Brown**

- **Fines** – Clubs are reminded that they will be notified of any fines via the monthly Management Committee Meeting Minutes (specifically by the Club Discipline Summary attachment) and are asked to make their payments promptly (no reminders will be sent). The Treasurer advised that she was intending to close the league's accounts for the season on 31st March, so it would be appreciated if clubs could ensure that all outstanding monies were paid before that point.
- **Pitch fees** – those clubs who play in either Luton or Dunstable on council owned pitches will be invoiced for their pitch fees. Swift settlement of these fees would be appreciated to ensure that the process is kept as tidy and as up-to-date as possible

d) **Hon. Registration Secretary:** **Mrs. P. Johnson**

- **ID Card Checking** – clubs were reminded that they MUST exchange ID cards with their opposition prior to matches taking place. This procedure is clearly detailed in Rule 8(A).

- **Team Sheets** – clubs were reminded that they MUST exchange teamsheets with their opposition (also giving a copy to the match referee) prior to kick off. This procedure is clearly detailed in Rule 8(A).
- **De-registration of Players** - clubs were reminded that if they wished to de-register players, they needed to return the player's ID card to the relevant Registration Secretary, giving notice of intention. This would then be actioned by the Registration Secretary.

Clubs were asked to respect the work being completed by the Registration Secretary and reminded that any registration requests received after 9pm on a Thursday night, would not be processed for the following Sunday. However, anything received prior to that cut off point would endeavour to be processed.

e) **Child Welfare Officer:** **Mr. T. Gee**
Nothing to report

f) **Webmaster:** **Mrs. P. Johnson and Mr. T. Gee**
Clubs were invited to make use of the website and other social media platforms used by the League to promote their own activities – eg forthcoming summer tournaments.

5. Chairman's Remarks: **Mr. P. Brown**

Mr. Brown thanked the committee and all clubs for their hard work and reminded everyone that the committee was always looking for additional support from volunteers. The Committee is a relatively small one, who provide football for nearly 4,000 boys and girls on a regular basis and additional support is always welcome. If anyone is interested in getting involved – not matter how much time they have available – interest is always welcome. For succession planning and emergency measure purposes, if anyone is interested in shadowing / being an understudy to any of the officers of the league, please contact either the Chairman or General Secretary for an informal discussion.

Best wishes were recorded for a successful second half to the season. The Chairman made a plea for more clubs to make use of RESPECT de-markation at games and also for there to be more tolerance on the touchlines amongst officials and spectators.

Concern was also expressed at the continuing high level of misconduct reports being dealt with by the County FA's for incidents that occurred on the touchline involving coaches and spectators. It is very disappointing that a few clubs have been involved in several instances of misconduct already this season.

The Chairman and General Secretary addressed the floor and introduced an idea that the Management Committee were proposing to try and address behaviour on the touchlines. A **Silent Sunday** was suggested, to be held on **Sunday 24th March 2019**, where managers, parents, officials and spectators are asked to remain silent, only celebrating goals, thus allowing the players to simply play the game and referees to officiate the game, without comment, shouting or abuse. A healthy discussion took place amongst those on the floor, with consideration given to whether this initiative should apply to all age groups, whether coaches should be allowed to advise their teams, where spectators should be positioned and the use of RESPECT de-markation.

The Chairman and General Secretary agreed to take these points back to the Management Committee for further review, with the intention to circulate guidelines for the day, to the Member Clubs by the end of February, to give time to introduce the idea to teams before the day. It was hoped that everyone would support this initiative and the Management Committee would be out pitch walking on the day to observe behaviours and to receive feedback.

The Chairman also raised the question around the purpose of the January Full Council Meeting (this meeting!) with Member Clubs, to gauge the general feeling of its use and interest. The Chairman explained

that over the past 10 years the number of Full Council Meetings that clubs are asked to attend each season has been reduced to only 3 – the AGM (June), the Pre-Season Meeting (late August / early September) and the Mid-Season Meeting (January). This was to reduce the expectations on clubs.

Again a healthy discussion took place with the general feeling amongst clubs being that they did not object to the meeting and felt it beneficial to get together to see what plans the League had and also to raise any issues or concerns. Clubs in attendance raised their collective disappointment with their fellow clubs who were not in attendance and suggestions were made as to how clubs could be incentivised to attend – for example it was suggested that the fines issued to those clubs not in attendance could be shared amongst those who do attend? Or that clubs who do not attend could be fined a higher amount or even docked points. The Chairman explained that the League does not want to fine clubs for non-attendance, but out of respect to those clubs who do attend the meetings it was felt necessary to issue fines as per League Rules. He also advised that it was unlikely that the League would receive sanction for a rule change to deduct points from clubs for non-attendance at a meeting, although the sentiment and frustration was appreciated. It was agreed to try and explore the suggestion to hold the meetings in other locations around the County, although the issue maybe around finding a venue large enough and the cost involved in hiring! The Chairman thanked those clubs in attendance for their views and it was agreed that the Management Committee would discuss these further and advise the clubs in due course of any plans.

6. Any Other Business:

Nothing raised from the floor.

a) Fines for Clubs not represented

(Rule 5(N) CLUBS NOT REPRESENTED SHALL BE FINED £20.00)

Atletico Europa, Bedford Park Rangers, Bedford Santos, Blunham Youth, Inspire Athletic, Leighton Town Youth, Luton Nations Community, M&DH Clapham Sports, Smart FC, St Joseph's Youth, Stony Stratford Town, Tattenhoe FC and Wilstead Harriers.

Please Note –

CLUBS NOT REPRESENTED AT A SECOND MEETING IN THE SEASON SHALL BE FINED £40.00

The following clubs were fined £40.00 each having failed to be represented at a second meeting in the same season (Rule 5(N))

MK Wanderers and Someries Youth

The Chairman thanked the Bedfordshire Football Association for the use of their facilities and the clubs for attending, wishing them well for the remainder of the season and closed the meeting at 21.00.

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