 TANDRIDGE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE CLUBS MEETING TO HELD ON MONDAY 11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2023 AT HSBC SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, LENNARD ROAD, BECKENHAM, KENT, BR3 1QW COMMENCING AT 8:30pm**

**Meeting Commenced: 8:49pm**

**Apologies Received:**

**Acceptance of Minutes of the 23rd of February of 2023 Meeting Minutes posted on the Website under Meeting Minutes.**

**Proposed by: Lewisham Tigers FC Seconded by: Orpington Rovers FC**

**There were no matters arising from this Meeting.**

**All were in favour of accepting the minutes.**

1.) **Chairmans Report** **(John Plummer)**

John Plummer welcomed everybody to the September Clubs meeting and specifically thanked all those Clubs that completed their league application early.

John also thanked all those that attended the registration walk-ins that were a success and that we hope to increase these events next year.

John advised the meeting that there were a considerable number that had missed the 15th of August registration deadline.

The Divisional appeals window was now closed and that the fixtures committee are working hard on publishing games.

John Plummer referred to the issue of behavior at Youth Football games which is now a major focus of the FA and the media and pointed towards the new punishment of points deductions which the Committee supports.

The Chairman then mentioned the respect campaign and encouraged all members to get on board in respecting referees.

2.) **Treasurer’s Report:** **(Steve Davis)**

a) Thank You to the vast majority of Clubs which, as usual, paid their Team Entry Fees on time (i.e ahead of the 31st August deadline).

b) Only 5 clubs have 'financial issues' which will be discussed ahead of the first week's fixtures and these will be considered by the Committee after tonight's meeting.

c) Our new member clubs should already know about the League Bond and following their election to membership tonight I will be sending them Bond Invoices in the near future. Three new cubs have paid their Bond in advance, so thank you to them.

 **Fines Administrator Report:** **(Rocky Horton)**

 Nothing to report at this early juncture.

**3.) Secretary’s Report: (Derek Harris)**

**Thank you to all the Club Secretaries that filed their applications early it is much appreciated.**

1. Apologies for the error in the handbook which shows the U10 and U11 registration secretaries around the wrong way. Shelley Kebir is U10s and Eddie Leroux U11s.
2. Sadly some Club and Team affiliations were extremely late and this puts pressure on the publication of divisions and fixtures. It is almost as if some Clubs shut down in the summer and do not wake up until it is almost too late. We will now have to look at a definitive deadline to ensure that the majority do not suffer for the few.
3. The League Committee is the body which decides on team placing in the divisions. The appeal process is a check, which we have added to the procedure, to identify if anything has been missed which makes their decision unsafe whilst placing teams in divisions and allows these to be rectified.

Teams do not have the right to decide which division they play in. There are no rules covering divisional appeals.

We are not the Premier League or EFL where there is a rigid format for promotion and demotion because at our level of football teams move around and some Clubs have a managed pathway where they move their teams into Leagues where they perceive there is a higher standard. This is a major issue at U13s. As in this season when, for different reasons, we lost almost all the U12 Premier Division teams from the previous season. When the new divisions were published it gave the impression that teams had been promoted but the fact is they are still playing the same teams as last season. Appealing on the division name rather than looking at who is in that division with them can be misleading. In the older age groups teams fold with players moving into adult football.

1. All Clubs have been reminded to check and ensure all the data on the website is correct. This helps the League to run smoothly.
2. The meeting was reminded that teams can have up to 3 people authorised to operate the Matchday App. The third person does not have to be DBS checked or hold a Safeguarding Children’s certificate - they can be a parent.
3. Just a reminder that the League Members passed a motion to include U9s in the no heading trial, as these players were involved in last years pilot and if the FA (as widely expected) bring in rule changes next season there is a possibility that the players would have become confused.

**4.) Registrations Report (Debbie Heale)**

1. As we approach the start of the season Clubs are advised not to approach registration secretaries for late registrations – after a more than hectic period to get as many players registered for the start of the season we will be now working to the deadlines in the Handbook. For players to be registered for the Sunday their competed registration documents must be with the appropriate registration secretary by the proceeding Monday if delivered by hand or the proceeding Tuesday if received through the post these deadlines will be strictly adhered to. Please also remember that when visiting registration secretary’s homes do not knock on the door or disturb the family.
2. It has become apparent that teams have been registering players with no signed parent consent forms, whether this is a genuine mistake or to assist with the 15th of August deadline it must stop; as besides being against the FA rules it is creating a huge amount of extra work.
3. We now have a dedicated Transfers Officer Debbie Heale. Already many transfers are not following FA or league Rules. Clubs must contact the Secretary of the holding Club with a 7-day Notice of Approach before any transfer can start.

Once this procedure is followed, the Club must complete a form TAN 4 and send this to The League Transfer Officer, the League also require the fee and two completed registration cards. When the League Transfer Secretary is satisfied that all this has taken place the TAN 4 form will be sent to the holding Club who have 7 days to respond. They must then returned the signed TAN 4 (this can be via email) to the League Transfer Officer and return the player’s registration card. Once the TAN 4 is returned the registration process follows the normal deadlines.

**5.) Fixtures Report (John Dalziel)**

1. Fixtures late being published due to late Club applications and Divisional Appeals we will now do our best to get all fixtures published.
2. League Cup program starts on 24.09.23 and the draw has been made.
3. County Cup Fixtures are also being published for certain age groups from 24.09.23.

**6.) Referee Secretary’s Report:** **(Casandra McKoy & Derek Harris)**

1. The League Panel has increased but is still very small for the size of the League.
2. Please remember to contact referees assigned to your fixture to confirm the fixture details as soon as the appointment is published.
3. A panel referee take precedence over any Club appointed referee.
4. U12 upwards should the home team not be able to allocate a qualified referee they should offer the away team the option. If the away team appoint the referee, they should pay the fee. If neither team can provide a qualified registered referee the onus is back to the home team to provide someone to referee the game. Please ensure that any non-qualified referee is at least aware of the Laws of the game.
5. The FA are implementing more discipline around referee abuse, and this could in some cases lead to point deductions, the fines for abandoned games are also climbing rapidly up to £300; they average around £250. Any team removing their team from the field of play will be charged by their County FA. This often results in a large fine and the person responsible receiving a suspension.
6. Our panel referees should be treated with respect, and we will be working with Clubs where this is not the case.

**7.) Match Cards: (Sue Whittaker)**

The website collects a massive amount of information from the Matchday App. We have reports that show the exact time of every entry into the app, down to the time that the player’s 5-digit code is entered. The app was introduced two seasons ago and we believe that everyone has had sufficient time to become proficient. We will be taking all discrepancies up with Clubs with a view to getting all team managers to carry out the pre-match process correctly, this will lead to fines for persistent offenders.

**8.) Disciplinary Report: (Derek Harris)**

The FA have again highlighted the standard of supporter behavior in Youth Football and whilst the same if not worse behavior is very visible in the professional game, the FA are right to point out the issues we have at matches.

Every week we get complaints from teams suggesting that we must do something about issues that happened at games both on the ‘Field of Play’ and the sidelines. But, let me tell you again that we are limited in our powers. The FA will not allow Leagues to get involved in on-the field offences, this is the prerogative of the referee and County FAs. Whilst a game is in progress the spectators are part of the referee’s jurisdiction. Behavior at matches is the responsibility of the Clubs and you should not abdicate your responsibility. Why is it that when a parent or official abuses a referee and is dealt with by the County, in some cases picking up 6 week bans, the Club allows them straight back, including into team management as soon as the suspension is completed, often to offend again?

**9.) Welfare Report: (Anita Russell)**

 No report available.

**10.) Cups and Competitions:** **(John Dalziel & Paul Carter**)

All cup competitions are ready to go and the Autumn Trophy events at U10 and U11 are planned to start after the October half term with the finals in December.

**11.) Trophies: (Derek Harris)**

Despite several reminders, the following Autumn Trophies that were due back on 30th of June the following are still outstanding. Please can the Clubs make every effort to get these trophies back to the League asap. The two Trophies from Wisla Krakow were handed in this evening.

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| 9 CUP AUTUMN | MIKE GOBEL U9 MST CUP | JUNIOR ELITE |  Outstanding - Claire mentioned it at one of the Drop-ins, but it’s not been returned. |
| ~~9 SHIELD AUTIMN~~ | ~~STEVE DAVIS SHIELD~~ | ~~WISLA KRAKOW RED~~ | ~~Outstanding - Pawel mentioned two trophies at the Drop-In – but it’s not been returned~~ |
| 10 SHIELD AUTUMN | ROB CAIRNEY SHIELD | MAIDENBOWER COLTS | Outstanding unless it was returned to Michelle |
| ~~10 TROPHY AUTIMN~~ | ~~MIKE GOBEL u10 TROPHY (Cup)~~ | ~~WISLA KRAKOW REDS~~ | ~~Pawel mentioned two trophies at the Drop-In – but it’s not been returned~~ |
| 11 CUP AUTUMN | ALAN CLARKE CUP | R & R Cobras | Cup reported as damaged – but not been returned. |

**12.) Website (Derek Harris)**

**13.) Roll Call:**

The following teams were not present at the meeting and will receive the appropriate fine unless they have suitable apologies.

AFC Croydon Athletic – Blasé Hub Ballers – Blue Stars Elite – Carpe Diem – Champs FC – Coney Hall Youth – Dalmain Athletic Girls – Deptford Lionesses – DNA FC – Lambeth Tigers – Northcote Elite – Old Wilsonians – Sanderstead Juniors – South London Kings – Southbridge United – Southwark Allstars – Sports Attack – Streatham FC – Tooting Park Rangers -

**14.) Any Other Business:**

 There are U7 to U9 Registration Cards available for collection.

**15.) Dates of Next Meetings:**

 Monday 12th February 2024

 **Meeting Closed: 21:22**