

**SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
MANAGEMENT BOARD  
MINUTES OF A MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday 26 March 2019**

**At the Offices of the Bedfordshire FA commencing at 10.30am**

**Present;** Messrs Pat Burns (in the Chair), John Chidley, Peter Clayton, Larry Corkrey, Tony Forrester, Dave Henman, Bill Scholes, and Tony Weight

Mike Appleby (General Secretary), Martyn Mitchell (Finance Officer) and Louise Condon (Administration & Registrations Secretary)

**42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs Bob Flight, Bill Hamilton, Mike Taylor and John Thompson.

The Chairman updated members on Bob Flight's current medical condition. On behalf of the League, the chairman wished to send condolences to Bill Hamilton following the recent death of his wife Veronica. Condolences are also recorded following the recent sudden death of Graham Smart, match secretary at Leverstock Green FC, who sadly passed away. The League also wished to record their appreciation to league match official, Steve Williams, who had assisted following the incident involving Mr Smart.

**43. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 January 2019 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as true record

**44. MATTERS ARISING**

**a. League Development Plan (Minute 30(c) – 22 January 2019)**

Members were advised that, since the last board meeting the FA had confirmed a grant of £4,650 towards the initiatives identified in the League's Development Plan. It was noted that this award was less than that received in the previous year. Total funding received from the FA during the current season was £18,150 including the £5,500 received towards the Referee Observer programme. This grant has to be spent on the initiatives outlined by the FA and cannot be used for the general expenses of the League.

**b. Oxhey Jets FC v Cockfosters FC (Minute 31(c) – 22 January 2019)**

It was noted that there was no further action for the League to take on this matter.

**45. THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**a. Step 7 League Meeting**

Members were advised that there was to be a meeting to discuss the future of the Step 7 structure within the National League System on Monday 1 April 2019. The Chairman and Vice Chairman would be attending.

**46. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Members received and noted the Minutes from the following Committee meetings and highlighted the issues shown:

**a. Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 19 February 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 February 2019 were received and confirmed and the recommendations contained therein approved. The following issues were highlighted:

**Rules infringements** – The following decisions were noted and confirmed:

<b>Club</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Decision</b>
New Bradwell St Peter FC	SCOR 20(E)(i)	Charge rescinded
North Greenford United FC	SR 8.20	Fine - £15
London Colney FC	SR 8.20	Fine - £15
Holmer Green FC (Dev)	SCOR 20(C)	Charge rescinded
Clean Slate FC	SCOR 9	Fine - £50
MK Gallacticos FC	SCOR 9	Fine - £50
Bedford FC	SR 2.20	Fine - £50

Milton Keynes Robins FC	SR	2.20	Fine - £50
Enfield Borough FC	SR	2.20	Fine - £50
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR	2.20	Fine - £50
Crawley Green FC	SR	2.20	Charge rescinded
London Colney FC	SR	2.20	Fine - £50
London Tigers FC	SR	2.20	Fine - £50
North Greenford United FC	SR	2.20	Fine - £50
Berkhamsted FC (Dev)	SCOR	20(F)	Fine - £15
Biggleswade United FC (Dev)	SCOR	20(F)	Charge rescinded
Totternhoe FC	SCOR	2(I)	Fine - £25
Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC	SCOR	2(I)	Fine - £25
Biggleswade United FC	SR	7.1	Charge rescinded
Holmer Green FC (Dev)	SCOR	20(E)(i)	Fine - £75
AFC Dunstable (Dev)	SCOR	11(B)	Fine - £100
Leighton Town FC	SR	4.5	Fine - £25
London Colney FC	SR	4.5	Fine - £25

**SR = Standardised Rule**  
**SCOR = Standard Code of Rules**

**Social Media** - Louise Condon advised that she was now keeping the League's Twitter Account updated where possible.

b. **Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Thursday 21 March 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2019 were received and confirmed and the recommendations contained therein approved. The following issues were highlighted:

**Rule Infringements** – The following decisions were noted and confirmed:

<b>Club</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Decision</b>
MK Gallacticos FC	SCOR 18(N)	£50
Baldock Town FC	SR 6.9	£50
MK Gallacticos FC	SCOR 2(I)	£25
Milton Keynes Robins FC	SR 8.13	£15
Brimsdon FC	SR 8.28	£25
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 8.23	£50
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 8.6	Defer Pending Clarification
Harefield United FC	SR 8.6	Defer Pending Clarification
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 4.8	£25
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 6.9	£50
Bovingdon FC	SCOR 2(I)	£25
Aston Clinton FC	SCOR 2(I)	£25
Stotfold FC (Dev)	SCOR 24(B)(iv)	£50
Langford FC	SR 8.23	Defer Pending Clarification
London Lions FC	SR 8.23	Defer Pending Clarification
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 8.23	£15 +
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 8.23	£75
Hillingdon Borough FC	SR 8.14	£25
Milton Keynes Robins FC	SR 8.14	£25
London Colney FC	SR 8.14	£25
London Tigers FC	SR 41	Charge rescinded

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**Unregistered Players** – Members noted and approved the action taken against both MK Gallacticos FC and Baldock Town FC with regard to fielding unregistered players in competition matches.

- c. **Discipline, Respect & Referees Committee held on Tuesday 12 February 2019**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 December 2018 were received and confirmed. There were no specific issues to highlight.
- d. **Discipline, Respect & Referees Committee held on Tuesday 12 March 2019**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 were received and confirmed. Members noted and approved the various Cup Final appointments. There were no further issues to highlight.
- e. **Strategy, Planning & Development Committee held on Monday 18 February 2019**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 February 2019 were received and confirmed. There were no specific issues to highlight that were not to be covered elsewhere in these minutes.

With regard to the provision of new Substitute Boards, it was agreed to proceed with an order for 54 new boards from MDH Teamwear.

#### 47. FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

- a. Members received and noted a number of financial reports produced by the Finance Officer as at 17 March 2019. Current balances were as follows:  
**Barclays Bank (Current Account) - £25,936**  
**Nationwide (General Account) - £20,500**

#### 48. FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

- a. **Financial Projections**  
A report prepared by the Chairman covering financial projections for the current 15 month period to 31 March 2019 together with the subsequent 12 month period to 31 March 2020 was received and considered. It was noted that there was a projected loss in both periods of £5,900 and £8,300 respectively. A number of options were discussed regarding ways in which these losses might be reduced without impacting on member clubs. It was clear that the reduction in Income was due to decisions taken by the FA to reduce the number of clubs in each of the three "senior" divisions which had resulted in a loss of income on annual subscriptions, player registrations and transfers.

It was agreed to recommend that, in order to assist in the reduction of these projected losses, the Administration Incentive Scheme, which costs £2,000 per season, be discontinued. The Board would need to review all costs going forward to seek other reductions whilst also looking at ways of increasing income.

- b. **Fees Payable by Clubs**  
Members received and considered a Table detailing the various fees currently paid by clubs in the three Senior Divisions within the League. It was agreed to seek comparable information from other similar leagues and refer to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for further consideration.
- c. **Discipline, Respect & Referees Committee**  
Members noted a request submitted by the Discipline, Respect & Referees Committee that an additional amount of £2,000 be made available to cover a projected shortfall in the cost of the Referee Observer programme for Season 2019/2020. After discussion Members were unable to agree to this request at this time due to the financial uncertainty going forward.

#### 49. TEAM OF THE MONTH AWARDS

The Team of the Month Awards for January and February 2019 were confirmed as below.

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>
Premier Division	Biggleswade FC	Oxhey Jets FC
Division One	Harefield United FC	Harefield United FC
Division Two	Old Bradwell United FC	Due to lack of games – held over until March

#### 50. RESPECT TEAM OF THE MONTH

The Respect Team of the Month Awards for January and February 2019 were confirmed as below.

<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>
Sarratt FC	Potton United FC

#### 51. FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE LEAGUE

Members received an update from Vice Chairman, Bill Scholes, on the progress of the establishment of a Division Three for season 2019/2020. Particular reference was made to a meeting held the previous evening with representatives of the North Bucks League (NBL) at which the Chairman, General Secretary and himself had attended. This meeting had not been fruitful with the NBL clearly not in favour any form of co operation on the matter.

This followed a similar response from the Aylesbury & District League.

After a lengthy discussion it became clear that, without the support of these two leagues, any form of a Division Three being established for next season would not be possible. It was, therefore, agreed to recommend that the creation of a Division Three would be placed on hold at this time and that the matter would be reviewed for Season 2020/2021.

#### **52. PLAYING SEASON 2019/2020**

Members received and considered a report based upon potential club movements at the conclusion of the current playing season. It was noted that a number of clubs had applied to the FA for lateral movements into and out of the League. The FA had asked for our views on these applications.

After discussion members agreed to advise the FA that they had no objections to any of the requests whilst recognising that, any club moving into the league, would have to be compensated by a club having to move out to another competition. Any final decision would be a decision for the FA's Leagues Committee.

The situation with regard to promotions from Step 7 leagues and applications to join the League at Division Two level were also noted. No decisions on any of these matters could be made at this time.

#### **53. CLUB ISSUES**

- a. **Aston Clinton FC** – Correspondence received from the club regarding the proposed construction of new changing facilities at the ground was noted. It was possible that temporary changing facilities would be provided during the build process.
- b. **Enfield Borough FC** – A request from the club that they be allowed to play any home Cup fixtures on another ground next season was rejected.

#### **54. INTRODUCTION OF TEMPORARY DISMISSALS "SIN BINS"**

It was noted that the FA were to introduce Temporary Dismissals, otherwise known as "sin bins", to Steps 5, 6 & 7 of the National League System from season 2019/2020. Following on from this, a report to cover the implementation and training prior to introduction, produced by the Referee Liaison Officer, Tony Weight, was received and considered.

A long discussion followed on this matter. It was noted that all training, which was being led by the FA, has to be completed by 30 June 2019 with all meeting dates, venues etc agreed by 31 March. It was the opinion of Mr Weight that at least two meetings would be required to accommodate all club officials with maybe three meetings to cover all match officials. Referee Observers should also be included in the training process. It was suggested that venues could be split between the North and South of the League's area with the Bedfordshire FA and London Lions FC be suggested as possible locations. An issue relating to the costs of these meetings was noted.

It was agreed that, with regard to clubs, two representatives should attend and these should be either: Chairman, Secretary, Team Manager or Match Secretary. These meetings would be classed as General Meetings with attendance of all clubs mandatory. With regard to match officials, it is possible that some may be able to attend training sessions run by various County FAs. If this were to be the case then written confirmation of attendance must be provided prior to any appointments being made for next season.

The chairman thanked Mr Weight for his efforts to date and looked forward to receiving further information in due course.

#### **55. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. **New League Website** – It was noted that the first draft of the new website had been produced and had received a positive response from members to date. Work would continue to fine tune prior to the site going live.
- b. **FA Inter League Cup** – The decision of the Finance & General Purposes Committee not to enter the next edition of the FA Inter League Cup was confirmed.
- c. **Return of League Trophies** – The current situation was noted

#### **56. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 21 May 2019 at the offices of the Bedfordshire FA at 10.30am

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.05pm