

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

**Held on Thursday 29 August 2019**

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

**Present;** Messrs Pat Burns (in the Chair), John Chidley, Peter Clayton, Larry Corkery, Tony Forrester, Bill Hamilton, and Tony Weight

Mike Appleby (General Secretary),

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs: Bob Flight, Dave Henman, Mike Taylor and John Thompson together with Martyn Mitchell (Finance Officer and Company Secretary)

Before the commencement of the meeting the Chairman referred to the recent sad deaths of Ray Berridge (Bedfordshire FA), Graham Bint (Cockfosters FC) and Adrian Titcombe (formerly with the FA)

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2019 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. There were no specific matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Following the recent resignation of Vice Chairman Bill Scholes, due to his relocation out of the area, the position had become vacant. A discussion followed when a number of options were considered. It was agreed that, due to the impending restructure of the League for season 2020/2021, the position of Vice Chairman would remain vacant and that the appointed Chairmen of the three Committees would cover the position on an ad hoc basis as and when required during the current season.

**5. LEAGUE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

A report prepared by the General Secretary covering the current and possible future structure of the League Management was received and considered and various points noted. Whilst agreeing that perhaps there was a need to restructure how the League operates, as with Minute 4 above, it was felt that, with the possibility of a number of changes to the League Constitution for season 2020/2021, it would be better to await the outcome of this exercise and then consider changes in time for ratification at the 2020 AGM.

The composition of the Management Board was also discussed and again it was agreed to wait until next season before making any changes. Due to the drop in numbers on the Management Board in recent months the issue of the possible co option of additional individuals to serve on specific Committees was discussed and a number of possibilities mentioned which it was agreed to follow up.

With regard to the Committee structure it was agreed that this was appropriate and no changes recommended apart from noting that, as agreed at the June Management Board meeting, the work of the Cup Finals Committee was to be incorporated into the Discipline, Respect and Referees Committee.

After further discussion it was agreed that the composition of the various Committees should remain in line with last season subject to minor changes. It was noted that Committee Chairmen would be appointed at the first meeting of each Committee. The current Terms of Reference of each Committee would also be reviewed at this time.

It was agreed that the Discipline, Respect and Referees Committee would meet during the week commencing 16 September subject to availability.

The Committee membership for Season 2019/2020 would be as follows:

<b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	<b>Discipline, Respect &amp; Referees Committee</b>	<b>Strategy, Planning &amp; Development Committee</b>
Pat Burns	Pat Burns	Pat Burns
Peter Clayton	John Chidley	John Chidley
Larry Corkery	Peter Clayton	Peter Clayton
Tony Forrester	Bob Flight	Bob Flight
Dave Henman	Bill Hamilton	Tony Weight
Martyn Mitchell	Mike Taylor	
Tony Forrester	Tony Weight	
 <b>Ex Officio Members</b>		
Mike Appleby	Mike Appleby	Mike Appleby
Karen Browne	Isaac Jempeji	
Louise Condon	Roger Abraham	
	ASSMLMO Rep	

## 6. GENERAL SECRETARY ISSUES

- a. **Rule Infringements** – Members received for information details of Charges raised against Clubs up to and including 20 August 2019 together with submissions of mitigation received. It was agreed to recommend that, where no mitigation had been received or where a club had failed to respond to the Charge, then fines be imposed accordingly. After giving all cases careful consideration it was agreed to recommend the following:

All fines shown are in accordance with the current Fines Tariff.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Decision</b>
MK Gallacticos FC (Ref 001)	SCOR	Fine £50
Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC (002)	SCOR	Fine £50
Leighton Town FC (003)	SR	Total Fines £55
Arlesey Town FC (004)	SR	£250
London Tigers FC (005)	SR	£250
Sarratt FC (006)	SCOR	£60
Harefield United FC (007)	SR	£25
London Tigers FC (008)	SR	Total Fines £80
Biggleswade United FC (009)	SR	£25
Edgware Town FC (010)	SR	£25
London Tigers FC (011)	SR	£250

**SR = Standardised Rule**

**SCOR = Standard Code of Rules**

In arriving at these decisions the following should be noted:

**Arlesey Town FC (004)** – This related to the playing of an unregistered player in the Premier Division fixture against Leverstock Green FC on 3 August. In addition to the fine imposed it was agreed that the 3 points gained in the game be deducted and that the Premier Division table be adjusted accordingly.

**London Tigers FC (005)** – This related to the playing of an unregistered player in the Division One fixture against FC Broxbourne Borough on 3 August. In addition to the fine imposed it was agreed that the point gained in the game be deducted and that the Division One table be adjusted accordingly.

**Sarratt FC (006)** – This related to the playing of an unregistered player in the Division Two fixture against New Bradwell St Peter FC on 10 August. In addition to the fine imposed it was agreed that the point gained in the game be deducted and that the Division Two table be adjusted accordingly.

**London Tigers FC (011)** – This related to the playing of an unregistered player in the League Challenge Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> Round tie against Wembley FC on 20 August. As the club lost the game no further action, apart from the fine imposed was taken.

- b. Club Issues** - A number of club related issues were discussed as follows:
- (i) – **Admission Charges, Rule 20** – It was agreed to remind all clubs that, in accordance with Standardised Rule 20, an admission charge must be applied to all Premier and Division One fixtures. Whilst it is for each club to determine its own level of admission it was agreed that the minimum charge in both Premier and Division One fixtures should be £5. It was agreed that the request received from St Panteleimon FC to allow for a variation in charges, as set out in Rule 20, be approved.
  - (ii) – **Programme Advertising** – An issue had arisen with regard to the inclusion of adverts for mdh Teamwear & Trophies in club match day programmes. After discussion it was agreed that, whilst the inclusion of such an advert was preferable, this would not be mandatory.
  - (iii) – **MK Gallacticos FC** – Members discussed the situation regarding the possible relocation of the club to Leighton Buzzard, making use of the 4G facility at Cedars School. It was agreed that, before making a final decision on this matter a formal inspection of the facilities should take place.
  - (iv) – **Langford FC** – An issue relating to the lack of hospitality at a recent “away” fixture as reported by the Club was noted. It was agreed to contact the club in question to remind them of their responsibilities with regard to match hospitality. It was also agreed to place an appropriate note on the next issue of the Noticeboard to this effect.

## 7. THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### a. National League System Restructuring.

Members received for information a copy of the correspondence received from the FA advising that the League had been allocated one of the Step 6 Divisions which would operate from Season 2020/21. The Division in question is currently known as “Area 8” and early indications are that this will operate to the North of the League’s current footprint. An offer from the FA to attend a future meeting of the Management Board was noted and the offer accepted.

### b. League Constitution 2020/2021

– A discussion took place concerning the number of clubs that may be moved to other competitions at both Premier Division (Step 5) and Division One (Step 6) level for season 2020/2021. It was agreed that it was too early to look at possible scenarios in detail but it was agreed that this should be kept under close review as the season progresses.

## 8. GROUND SHARE AGREEMENTS

In accordance with Standardised Rule 2.3.2 the following Ground Share Agreements were formerly approved for Season 2019/2020. It was noted that the vast majority of these Agreements expired at the end of the current season and clubs should be aware of the need to renew well in advance of any expiry date.

### On-Going Ground Share Agreements

Member Club	Sharing at	Expiry Date
Baldock Town FC	Arlesey Town FC	31 May 2020
Brimsdown FC	Ware FC	31 Jul 2020
Broadfields United FC	Harefield United FC	31 May 2020
Enfield Borough FC	Wingate & Finchley FC	31 May 2020
London Tigers FC	Amersham Town FC	31 May 2020

### New Ground Share Agreements

Berkhamsted Raiders FC	Kings Langley FC	31 May 2020
New Salamis FC	Enfield Town FC	31 May 2020
St Panteleimon FC	North Greenford United FC	31 May 2020

### Member Clubs Allowing Ground Shares at their Grounds

Member Club	Sharing with	Expiry Date
Wembley FC	Cricklewood Wanderers FC	31 May 2020
Amersham Town FC	London Tigers FC	31 May 2020

### Licence Agreements

Member Club	Playing at	Expiry Date
Crawley Green FC	Luton Town FC (training ground)	31 May 2020
Milton Keynes Robins FC	Milton Keynes Irish Centre	31 May 2028
Unite MK FC	Milton Keynes Irish Centre	31 May 2028

**9. OUTSIDE COMPETITIONS**

In accordance with Standardised Rule 8.9 and Standard Code of Rules, Rule 2 K, approval was given for the following Clubs to take part in competitions organised outside the jurisdiction of the League

Name of Club	Name of Competition	Midweek (M) Weekend (S)	Sanctioned By
Amersham Town FC	Wycombe Senior Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Ampthill Town FC	North Beds Charity Cup	M	Bedfordshire
Arlesey Town FC	Hinchingbrooke Cup	M	Huntingdonshire
Aston Clinton FC	Wycombe Senior Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Bedford FC	North Beds Charity Cup	M	Bedfordshire
Biggleswade Utd FC	North Beds Charity Cup	M	Bedfordshire
Buckingham Ath FC	Buckingham Senior Charity Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Buckingham United FC	Buckingham Senior Charity Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Grendon Rangers FC	Buckingham Senior Charity Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Langford FC	North Beds Charity Cup	M	Bedfordshire
Leighton Town FC	Buckingham Senior Charity Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Leverstock Green FC	West Herts FA St Mary's Cup	M	Hertfordshire
Oxhey Jets FC	West Herts FA St Mary's Cup	M	Hertfordshire
Potton United FC	Hinchingbrooke Cup	M	Huntingdonshire
	North Beds Charity Cup	M	Bedfordshire
Stotfold FC	Hinchingbrooke Cup	M	Huntingdonshire
	North Beds Charity Cup	M	Bedfordshire
Unite MK FC	Buckingham Senior Charity Cup	M	Berks & Bucks
Winslow United FC	Buckingham Senior Charity Cup	M	Berks & Bucks

**10. OTHER BUSINESS MATTERS DISCUSSED**

- a. **Supply of League branded footballs for Season 2020/2021** – With the current supply deal with Hereward coming to an end it was agreed that the Chairman would deal with seeking a new supplier for Season 2020/2021. The issue of storage was also discussed as this was becoming an issue with footballs being spread around Board members.
- b. **Ground Grading Process** – It was agreed that a ground grading programme would be introduced as quickly as possible. This was particularly important with the possible movement of clubs taking place at the end of the current season.
- c. **Social Media Issues** – The process for amending the on-line League Handbook was noted. Work was still progressing with regard to the development of a League specific “App”
- d. **Reserve Team Football** – It was agreed to keep under review the possible introduction of some form of Reserve Team structure for Season 2020/2021. This would, of course, be dependent upon the outcome of the proposed restructure of Step 5/Step 6 football for next Season.
- e. **FC Broxbourne Borough** – The club had reported that prior to a recent game with Hillingdon Borough FC the visiting goalkeeper had caused damage to the playing area by marking out positional marks in both goalmouths. It was agreed that the Club should pursue compensation from Hillingdon Borough FC with regard to the matter and report back to the League if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily.
- f. **Supply of League Ties and Badges to Match Officials** – It appeared that there remained issues over the distribution of these items to match officials. It was noted that the new process had been agreed at an earlier meeting and that this should be adhered to with Mr Bill Hamilton responsible and the point of contact

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Management Board meeting would take place in November and thereafter on a bi-monthly basis. Following earlier discussions regarding the management structure of the League a full programme of Board and Committee dates would now be circulated.

With regard to the 2020 Annual General Meeting it was agreed to look at either Saturday 20 or Saturday 27 June subject to a suitable venue being found.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.50pm