

**MINUTES OF THE AMATEUR FOOTBALL COMBINATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 29th June 2016 AT THE ABBEY CENTRE SW1P 3BU**

**Present**

**Representatives from the following Clubs:**

Albanian FC, Bealonians FC, Brent FC, Citigroup, Clapham Old Xaverians FC, Clissold Park Rangers FC, Dorkinians FC, Economicals FC, Egbertian FC, Enfield Old Grammarians FC, Fitzwilliam OB FC, Fulham Compton FC, Globe Rangers FC, Glyn Old Boys FC, Hale End Athletic FC, Heathrow Seniors FC, Hinton & Finchley Revolution FC, Honourable Artillery Company FC, IB Albion, John Fisher Old Boys FC, Kings Old Boys FC, Latymer OB FC, Lea Valley FC, Leyton County Old Boys FC, London Hospital FC, London Lawyers FC, London Welsh FC, Mickleham Old Boxhillians FC, Mill Hill Village FC, National Westminster Bank FC, New-Magdalen AFC, Old Aloysians FC, Old Challoners FC, Old Crosbeians, Old Grantonians FC, Old Guildfordians, Old Hamptonians FC, Old Ignatian FC, Old Kingsburians FC, Old Magdalenians, Old Manorians, Old Meadonians FC, O.Minchendenians FC, Old Parmiterians FC, Old Paulines FC, Old Pegasonians, Old Salvatorians FC, Old Sedcopians FC, Old St Mary's FC, Old Strand Academicals, Old Suttonians, Old Tenisonians FC, Old Thorntonians FC, Old Tiffinians, Old Tollingtonians FC, Old Uffingtonians FC, Old Vaughanians FC, Old Whitgiftians FC, Old Wokingians FC, Old Woodhouseians FC, Parkfield FC, Queen Mary College Old Boys FC, Ravenscroft Old Boys FC, Reigatians AFC, Rob Roy Reds FC, Royal Bank of Scotland FC, Royal Sun Alliance FC, Shene Old Grammarians FC, Sinjuns Grammarians FC, Sloane FC, Somerville Old Boys FC, Southgate County FC, Southgate Olympic FC, Spaniards FC, UCL Academicals FC, University of Hertfordshire FC, Wandsworth Borough FC, Witan FC, Wood Green Old Boys FC & Worcester College Old Boys FC.

The following clubs were not represented – Mayfield Athletic, Old Boilers & Tilburg Regents (all fined £50 Rule 6h).

**League Officers and Vice Presidents:**

Ian Andrews (IA), Bart O'Toole, Martin Armstrong, John Maskell (JMa), Alan Robinson (AR), Neil Johnstone, Mike Hutchings, Tony Julien, Sean Smith, Steve Lovejoy (SL), David Cross, Alan Meyer & Mike Sainsbury. In addition the following referees attended:- Bimi & Fatmir Sherifi, Alan Lawson & Les Kyprianou.

The League Chairman John Maskell welcomed all to the meeting & introduced himself and the League officers seated at the top table:- Alan Robinson (President) and Ian Andrews (Secretary). Jma conveyed his thanks to all of the people who help with the running of the league, especially those that had been instrumental in ensuring the season was completed so efficiently, once again.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:- Mayfield Athletic ( 26<sup>th</sup>) & Old Boilers (on day) plus Ian Borland, Peter Chivers, Kevin Dunn, Taffy Evans, Ray Holmes, Robin Gibbs, Norman MacDonald, Eddy Murphy, Brian Peel & Brian Watts.

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**

2.1 The minutes of the AGM held as above were agreed as being accurate.

**3 Matters Arising**

3.1 There were not any matters arising.

#### **4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report Season 2016/17**

- 4.1 The Annual Report had been distributed with the papers prior to the AGM and the Chairman asked if there were any questions for the League Secretary. There being no questions from the floor, the report was unanimously adopted.

#### **5. To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

- 5.1 The Treasurer Steve Lovejoy presented the *draft* financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 including the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and notes to the accounts. The meeting was advised that the accounts had yet to be audited or approved. It was felt that there would be no major changes to the draft accounts as a result of the audit being completed.
- 5.2 SL explained that the AFC had made an operating £4k loss this season, primarily due to the decrease in the number of administrative/match day fines issued, the increase in the Representative team costs and also a loss made at the Dinner. He said that in 17/18 there was a need to increase the cost of Club AFC affiliation fees and Team fees by £5 each.
- 5.3 In addition it was being proposed (later in the AGM agenda) that hard copy handbooks would no longer be produced, thereby saving over £1.5k and also that the costs of the Dinner and the Rep team would be much more strictly monitored with a budget being set for the Rep team in September. David Cross (Rep Team Manager) stated that he was hoping to achieve sponsorship for the team in 17/18 and would keep the AFC updated with progress.
- 5.4 The draft financial statements for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 were proposed and accepted subject to any changes required by the Auditor.
- 5.5 **Annual subscriptions 2017/18** - The Executive Committee proposed that there would need to be an increase in Club fees of £5 per club and also an increase of £5 per team. This was the first proposed increase in fees since 2008. The new fees were proposed and accepted by the meeting.
- 5.6 **Referees and Assistant Referees Fees 2017/18** - The Executive Committee proposed that, in line with AFA guidance, the match fees for Referees and Assistant Referees would remain unchanged at £34 & £27 accordingly. The Chairman did advise the meeting that double headers would continue to pay the referee, twice the rate of an Assistant Referees fee ie £54. Bealonians suggested that the referees fee should be £35 and not £34 , but it was explained by JMa that we simply adopted AFA recommendations. In practice most clubs paid the referee £35 anyway. These fees The fees were proposed and accepted by the meeting.

Following item 5 a short video presentation was made by Dave Hallam of Slate who demonstrated a new app that would assist club team captains & club treasurers to collect match and annual subs and track those that failed to pay. He stated that one match club sub collected each week would easily pay for the use of the app, which carried a small transaction fee for each amount collected. These subs could be collected using the secure online banking facility or by cash, either way being tracked on the app, for ease of use. Both Dorkinians and Reigatians had used the app during season 16/17 to great effect and would recommend other clubs adopt. Dave was available for questions after the AGM and IA would be sending an email to all clubs sometime in July/August.

## **6 Rules Revisions**

- 6.1 The Chairman stated that there were a number of rule changes that was proposed by the Executive & these had been circulated ahead of the meeting and subsequently a few minor changes had since been sent out in the last few days before the AGM. BOT explained each change of rule in his precise manner and some promoted discussion from members present.
- 6.2 Rule 2e proposed a change of date (from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September) for the final payment of annual subscriptions. Andy Macrae (Bealonians) proposed that the current date should not change as clubs had not secured enough income to pay these fees so early in the season. Due to this counter proposal a vote of members present was made and the rule change of date was carried by 41 votes for and 31 votes against. This rule change was therefore adopted.
- 6.3 Rule 8e received a number of questions from the floor regarding exactly what the change meant and that any player that had played in step 1-6 in any season would be excluded from playing for an AFC club, even if that player had stopped playing for the senior club. JMa countered that this was indeed the meaning of the rule addition and it was intended that clubs would not be able to play these high standard players in key matches, against the ethos of amateur football. IA stated that the rule change was made following complaints by member clubs that this has happened in key games in the past season. The advice on the change had also been advised by the FA who stated that the term “contract players” was now largely not representative. Following lengthy questions and answers it was agreed that guidelines on the application of this rule would be put in the handbook and that reminders would be sent with the weekly bulletin and would appear on the new website news page.
- 6.4 All rules not previously voted on ie 4a, 5c, 8e, 10g, appendix of fines & charges, 10i, 12b and 17f were then proposed by the Executive Committee en bloc. These rule amendments were then proposed and overwhelmingly accepted by those present.
- 6.5 An amendment to Rule 26c (i) had been proposed by University of Hertfordshire and circulated with the AGM papers. The Secretary of UoH – Rob Poole – was asked to say a few words in support of his change. IA on behalf of the Executive Committee countered this amendment by saying that in the recent club survey 82% of the replies stated that hospitality was both important or very important. The Executive opposed the amendment and also a question from Witan suggested that the only way it could work was to play all UoH home matches before they played any team away (this wouldn't happen, so the rule change was unworkable). A vote followed which opposed the amendment by a unanimous show of hands.

## **7 Election of Officers**

- 7.1 A list showing the Executive Committee's proposal for League Officers had been circulated in advance of the meeting (see Appendix 1) and these officers were proposed and approved unopposed. The Chairman made special reference to the number of positions that were currently vacant and urged members present to nominate themselves into these roles.

## **8 Appointment of Auditors**

The League Executive Committee proposed that Gareth Jones be appointed as the Auditor and this was agreed unopposed.

## **9 Membership of Clubs**

- 9.1 The Executive recommended that a motion for IB Albion to be confirmed as full members of the AFC is accepted. This motion was accepted unopposed.

- 9.2 The League Secretary then explained that due to being called before the League Executive Committee Old Boilers would serve a third & final probationary season. It was noted that Old Boilers had not attended the AGM. In addition it was proposed that Spaniards serve a second probationary year. This motion was accepted unopposed.
- 9.3 The Executive recommended that the two new clubs (both who were in attendance) be confirmed as probationary members of the AFC for the coming season. The two clubs being:- Rob Roy Reds (new team) & Clissold Park Rangers (from West London League). This motion was accepted unopposed.
- 9.4 **Old Vaughnians, Old Aloysians & Lea Valley** – A report on these clubs who are still under sanction from last season, was made and the proposal by the Executive was that the sanctions imposed, be continued as agreed, for season 17/18. The Executive's recommendation was accepted.
- 9.5 **National Westminster Bank, Old Uffingtonians, Old Salvatorians, Hale End Athletic & Old Minchendenians** A report on these four clubs was made and the proposal by the Executive was that whilst all clubs had complied with some of the sanctions imposed, they remain under sanctions for a second season and the suspended fine was not implemented on this occasion, but in some cases was just extended and in others it was raised and extended. The Executive's recommendation was accepted.
- 9.6 **Old Isleworthians** Old Isleworthians had recently resigned from the AFC and so no further action was required, although the club would have been under sanction had they remained.

## **10 Constitution of the League for 2017-18**

- 10.1 A document outlining the proposed league constitution for the 2017-18 season had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was advised that further changes would undoubtedly be made before the season gets underway.
- 10.2 As there were no objections to the constitution a vote was unanimously agreed.

## **11 League Motion**

- 11.1 The proposal to merge the LOB Cup Competition into the rules and control of the AFC was proposed. Bealonians questioned whether this would give any teams not members of the AFC a right to vote on AFC business, BOT replied to this with a definite "No". Clubs then voted and proposed the merger with a unanimous show of hands.

## **12 AOB**

- 12.1 The Chairman again raised the issue of the continuation of having a hardcopy of the League Handbook. He explained that the saving in not producing a hardcopy handbook would be over £1500 and as the Executive were trying to cut costs, this was one area that needed change. The full handbook would be available in full via the new AFC website and a new app. Clubs then voted and proposed the handbook be an online copy only.
- 12.2 Bart O'Toole then spoke on behalf of David Goldring and his tragic and untimely death just a few days after last year's AGM. He spoke with great admiration of the work David did for the league, County and grass roots football in general. The void left by his death was a difficult one for the Executive to fill but they were working tirelessly to achieve this.
- 12.3 The Chairman asked if clubs were happy with the new venue and having the AGM on a Thursday. An overwhelming show of hands supported the change and the Secretary was tasked with arranging this.

- 12.4 John Maskell on behalf of the LOB Cup Committee reminded clubs that entry forms were very scarce in number and the deadline for entry was on 21st July 2017. He urged all clubs to arrange their submission with haste. He also reminded clubs of the need to complete their County & league affiliations.
- 12.5 Andy Macrae (Bealonians) raised the issue of introducing paid roles within the league and suggested that a plan to look at financing these key roles, with paid hours per week, be looked at urgently, as the role of the volunteer was diminishing year on year. JMa confirmed this would be raised at the next Executive meeting
- 12.6 Arthur Cornish (Southgate Olympic) raised the issue of referees turning up just before or worse still, after, the scheduled kick off time and not accepting hospitality, even when that hospitality is at the same venue. IA responded that he too was equally frustrated and that hopefully with a successful & huge drive on referees recruitment in the close season, referees who did arrive late would not be selected. Hospitality was also an issue with home team players and as such he would include the issue in his pre-season circular.
- 12.7 A vote of thanks was proposed by Martin Armstrong (Old Suttonians) to all League Officers and the work they all did on behalf of the clubs. Following this vote the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all present for their attendance

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

## **APPENDIX 1**

President	<b>Alan Robinson</b>	Amenities Chairman	John Maskell
Chairman	<b>John Maskell</b>	Dev & Comms Chairman	<b>James Whitmarsh</b>
Vice-Chairman	<b>Norman MacDonald</b>	Dinner Chairman	Andrew Cashmore-Till
Secretary	Ian Andrews	Emergency Chairman	<b>John Maskell (Acting)</b>
Treasurer	Steve Lovejoy	Executive Chairman	<b>John Maskell (Acting)</b>
Fines Co-ordinator	<b>VACANT</b>	Finance Chairman	Steve Lovejoy
League Welfare Officer	Danny McConnell	Fixtures Chairman	Norman MacDonald
Representative Manager	David Cross	Referees Chairman	<b>VACANT</b>
Representative Secretary	David Cross	Representative Chairman	<b>VACANT</b>
AFA Representatives (4)	Norman MacDonald	Rules Revision Chairman	Bart O'Toole
	Aaron Shah	Spirit of Football Chairman	<b>Mike Sainsbury</b>
	Mike Sainsbury	SOF Co-Ordinator	Robin Gibbs
	<b>Sean Smith</b>	SOF Co-Ordinator	<b>VACANT</b>
Auditor	Gareth Jones	SOF Co-Ordinator	<b>VACANT</b>
League Match Secretary Senior & Inter	Jamie Brunton	Club Representatives (12)	Aaron Shah (Southgate County)
League Match Secretary South Inter - 4	James Whitmarsh		Paul Doherty (Old Aloysians)
League Match Secretary South 5-8	James Brickley		Francis Mariani (Old Parmiterians)
League Match Secretary North 1-7	<b>VACANT</b>		Neill Johnstone (Old Wokingians)

Referee Appointments North	John Fowler		Derek Randall (Witan)
Referee Appointments South	<b>VACANT</b>		Gareth Jones (London Welsh)
Referees Changes (North)	Alex Grayburn		James Whitmarsh (Old Dorkinians)
Referees Changes (South)	Chad Chaudhuri		Sean Smith (Somerville OB)
Results Secretary	Mike Sainsbury		Plus 4 Vacancies
Vice Presidents Elected to Executive (6)	Brian Watts, Robin Gibbs, Eddie Murphy, Danny McConnell. Martin Armstrong and <b>Alan Meyer</b>		