

**MINUTES OF THE AMATEUR FOOTBALL COMBINATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 27th June 2018 AT THE ABBEY CENTRE SW1P 3BU**

**Present**

**Representatives from the following Clubs:**

Albanian FC, Altis FC, Bealonians FC, Blackheath Wanderers FC, Brent FC, Clapham Old Xaverians FC, Clissold Park Rangers FC, Dorkinians FC, Economicals FC, Enfield Old Grammarians FC, Fitzwilliam OB FC, Fulham Compton FC, Globe Rangers FC, Hale End Athletic FC, Honourable Artillery Company FC, John Fisher Old Boys FC, Kings Old Boys FC, Latymer OB FC, Lea Valley FC, Leyton County Old Boys FC, London Hospital OB FC, London Lawyers FC, London Welsh 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 FC, Old Manorians FC, Old Meadonians FC, O.Minchendenians FC, Old Parmiterians FC, Old Paulines FC, Old Salvatorians FC, Old Sedcopians FC, Old St Mary's FC, Old Strand Academicals, Old Suttonians, Old Tenisonians FC, Old Thorntonians FC, Old Tiffinians FC, 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, Somerville OB FC, Southgate Olympic, Southgate County, Spaniards FC, Tilburg Regents FC, University of Hertfordshire FC, UCL Academicals FC, Wandsworth Borough FC, Witan FC, Wood Green Old Boys FC & Worcester College Old Boys FC.

The following clubs were not represented – Egbertian FC, Glyn OB, IB Albion, Mickleham OB, Old Pegasonians (all fined £50 Rule 6h).

**League Officers and Vice Presidents:**

Ian Andrews (IA), Bart O'Toole, Martin Armstrong (MA), John Maskell (JMa), Alan Robinson (AR), Alex Grayburn, Ray Holmes, Tony Julien, Sean Smith, Steve Lovejoy, Norman MacDoanId (NMc), Brian Watts, James Whitmarsh. In addition the following referees attended:- Emmanuel Makola & Neil Hagger

The League Chairman John Maskell welcomed all to the meeting & introduced himself and the League officers seated at the top table:- Alan Robinson (President), Norman MacDonald (President 2018-20) 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 especially due to the very testing weather conditions in march and April..

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:- Mickleham OB & IB Albion plus Kevin Dunn, Robin Gibbs, Graham Hollocks, Danny Goldman, Alan Meyer, Eddy Murphy and Barry Pollentine.

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

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 2017/18**

- 4.1 The Annual Report had been distributed with the papers prior to the AGM and the Chairman asked if there were any questions.. BOT commented that the report was both comprehensive & thorough. As there were 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 2018**
- 5.1 The Treasurer Steve Lovejoy presented the *draft* financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 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 turned last season's operating loss of £4k into a £2.5k profit this season. His notes included with the accounts explained the main areas in which the AFC Executive had managed to apply stricter budgeting controls and initiate savings.

The draft financial statements for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 were proposed and accepted subject to any changes required by the Auditor.

**Annual subscriptions 2018/19** - The Executive Committee proposed that there would not need to be an increase in Club fees in season 2018/19.

- 5.3 **Referees and Assistant Referees Fees 2018/19** - The Executive Committee proposed an increase in the Referees fee to £35 per match and that the Ass't Referees fee remain unchanged at £27. This small increase of £1 is above the fee set for AFA cup matches. The fees were proposed and accepted by the meeting.

## **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. BOT explained each change of rule in his precise manner and some promoted discussion from members present.
- 6.2 It was agreed to vote en-bloc on all rules except the following four - Rule 8a ii (International Clearance) , Rule 10e (With-holding trophies), Rule 10h (Free weeks) & Rule 10i (Sin Bins). It was agreed that all changes to rules (other than the 4 above) be adopted with one slight change to Rule 25 with the addition of the words "in which the club is aware" be accepted and a unanimous vote to accept the changes was made.
- 6.3 Rule 8a (ii) -International Clearance had been added as a proposed rule change due to the issues encountered by the AFC Representative team following their semi-final victory. There followed much discussion and a recommendation from the Executive that this rule be added. Many questions were raised and many clubs were against this being adopted as a rule change, despite it being in the FA's SCOR and any challenge by opponents would make teams at risk of being expelled from that competition. BOT suggested that the likelihood of a protest being made by an AFC club in a league match was very slim indeed, but was much more of a risk, in Cup games when playing against non AFC clubs.

It was noted that the FA themselves, as advised by the FA guest – Ash Slaughter - were seeking clarification from FIFA that the rule could be reviewed to exclude clubs at step 7 and below(Grass Root Football). Following a prolonged number of questions and comments from the floor a vote was finally taken and the adoption of the rule was lost by 27 votes in favour to 45 against. Finally Simon Goldring (Old Woodhouseians) made a valid point that teams could still apply for IC for any players needing such clearance despite it not being a written rule and actually suggested that clubs did that.

- 6.4 Rule 10e (With-holding Trophy). NMc explained that this proposed rule change was due to the number of clubs that had needed to be monitored and written to by the Fixtures

Committee and had taken up huge amounts of that committees time in the past two seasons and had led to club appeals against the decisions. By adopting the rule all clubs would be treated consistently and as it was a league rule, would be aware of the punishment. Martin Armstrong (Old Suttonians) proposed a rule change in that the rule states less than 1 point per game and not 1 point or less. It was agreed to accept that slight change before putting the rule amendment to the floor – which was accepted with a unanimous vote.

- 6.5 Rule 10h (Free Weeks). NMc explained that this proposed rule change was being proposed to help clubs plan ahead when they were short of players and would assist the small team clubs by doubling their free week allocation and reducing the time period to 21 days. MA proposed a slight change in that the 21 days should be reduced to 14 days. IA, on behalf of the Executive, totally opposed this amendment and explained that fixtures and referees were added 21 to 15 days before the fixture and indeed the refs and fixtures were published on FT more than 14 days in advance. IA suggested the proposed change was not workable for officers involved in the weekly fixture preparation. A vote followed in which the original 21 day rule was passed with just vote against (MA).
- 6.6 Rule 10I (Sin Bin). IA explained that this pilot, which had been successfully implemented in 31 other grass roots leagues across England, had been a huge success in that dissent cautions had reduced dramatically. The key changes had previously been sent to clubs with AGM papers and so it was not proposed to fully explain all scenarios involved. It was the Executives proposal that this rule be added as it seemed highly probable that the sin bin rule would become mandatory in 2019/20. Having clubs and referees apply the scheme for a test year would help everyone once it became statute. A vote followed and 8 voted No & 64 voted yes, thereby adopting this rule in season 2018/19.

*Following item 6 a short video presentation as made by Ash Slaughter of The FA who demonstrated the new FA Match day App that would assist club team captains & club treasurers run their clubs and captains run their teams, by monitoring availability. This app was free to clubs providing the League adopted the WGS Player Registration Scheme (PR). IA stated that he would send the relevant presentations to all clubs and that a huge amount of cleaning up of player data needed to take place between FT & WGS before the WGS became a viable option to use instead of FT.*

*It was without doubt a benefit to use the Match Day App which integrated fully with WGS & FT , but this had to be seriously considered rather than rushing into the acceptance of WGS Player Registration for season 18/19. It had been suggested that the AFA could provide admin assistance in the FT vs WGS player match-up of data, although IA did have his doubts whether this would actually materialise. It was noted there would also be a financial benefit to the League in IT funding if we adopted WGS PR. Clubs ultimately decide on when to accept the change and Ash Slaughter would be regularly available to assist the AFC with any issues that arose.*

## **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 Rob Roy Reds & Clissold Park Rangers to be confirmed as full members of the AFC is accepted. This motion was accepted unopposed.

- 9.2 The Executive recommended that a motion for Spaniards to be confirmed as full members of the AFC be accepted as they had now successfully completed their extended probationary period. This motion was accepted unopposed.
- 9.3 The Executive recommended that a motion for Blackheath Wanderers SC (formerly Old Boilers) to be confirmed as full members of the AFC be accepted as they had now successfully completed their extended probationary period. This motion was accepted unopposed.
- 9.4 **Old Vaughnanians & Old Aloysians** – A report on these clubs who are still under sanction throughout season 2017/18, was made and the proposal by the Executive was that the sanctions imposed, be discontinued for Old Aloysians, who were now in a much better shape as a club but in the case of Old Vaughnanians, due to their appalling fines history in 2017/18, that their sanction continue for a further season. The Executive’s recommendation was accepted.

## **10 Constitution of the League for 2018-19**

- 10.1 A document outlining the proposed league constitution for the 2018-19 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 AOB**

- 11.1 A club charter has been proposed and will appear on the website and in the on line handbook and will be circulated to all team captains before the start of season 2018/19.
- 11.2 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 9.20 pm.

## **Appendix 1 - Election of Officers**

President	<b>Norman MacDonald</b>	Amenities Officer	John Maskell
Chairman	John Maskell	Dev & Comms Chairman	James Whitmarsh
Vice-Chairman	<b>Martin Armstrong</b>	Dinner Chairman	Andrew Cashmore-Till (resigns 31.5.19)
Secretary & Rep Team Secretary	Ian Andrews	Emergency Chairman	<b>Not required</b>
Treasurer	Steve Lovejoy	Executive Chairman	John Maskell
Fines Co-ordinator	Alan Robinson	Finance Chairman	Steve Lovejoy
League Welfare Officer	Danny McConnell	Fixtures Chairman	Norman MacDonald
Representative Managers	<b>Luke Graham &amp; Ali McCombe (both Old Meadonians)</b>	Referees Chairman	<b>Sean Smith</b>
AFA Representatives (4)	Sean Smith	Representative Chairman	Tony Julien

	Aaron Shah	Rules Revision Chairman	Bart O'Toole
	Mike Sainsbury	Spirit of Football Chairman	Mike Sainsbury
	<b>Vacant</b>	SOF Co-Ordinators	Robin Gibbs
Auditor	Gareth Jones		Danny Goldman
League Match Secretary Senior/Inter	Jamie Brunton		Martin Armstrong
League Match Secretary 5-8 South	<b>VACANT</b>	Chairman of Club Support Committee	<b>Martin Armstrong</b>
League Match Secretary Inter South – 4 South	James Whitmarsh	Chairman of Club Representatives Committee	<b>Simon Goldring</b>
League Match Secretary 1-7 North	<b>Ian Andrews</b>	Club Representatives (1 of which to serve on Executive)	Neil Johnstone (Exec Support ), Derek Randall, Aaron Shah, Sean Smith, <b>Jim Davies &amp; Mick Kelly</b> plus 6 vacancies
Results Secretary	Mike Sainsbury	Vice Presidents Elected to Executive (4)	Alan Robinson, Alan Meyer, Robin Gibbs, Andrew Cashmore-Till
Referee Appointments South	Harry Hutchings	Referees Changes (South)	Chad Chaudhuri
Referee Appointments North	John Fowler	Referees Changes (North)	Alex Grayburn