

Amateur Football Combination
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Civil Service Club
1st June 2020

Present: J. Maskell (Chair), I. Andrews, N. Johnstone, B. O'Toole, M. Armstrong, J. Whitmarsh, M. Sainsbury, N. Macdonald, S. Lovejoy, T. Julien, R. Gibbs, S. Goldring, S. Smith A Cashmore-Till.

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 A. Meyer, A. Robinson

2. Conflict of Interest

2.1 AJ raised that he was conflicted in all discussions regarding AFA finances and so took no part in those discussions.

3. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 6th May 2020.

3.1 The minutes were agreed as true and correct other than the references to "Dinner Committee" were replaced with the words "Awards Committee".

4. Matters arising from the Executive Committee Meeting on 6th May 2020.

4.1 Robin Gibbs raised the issue of a momento, in recognition of the service that Alan Robinson has contributed to the AFC/AFA football as he has now finally retired. This was discussed in the May meeting but had not appeared in the minutes. The Chairman agreed the AFC would arrange a suitable presentation in the future once Covid 19 restrictions allowed. SG reminded all that AR should be removed from distribution list. JM

4.2 The Secretary requested that all members raised issues with the minutes earlier than the night of the next meeting. RG suggested minutes were not timely, but this was refuted by the Secretary. In future any issues must be raised at least 7 days before the next meeting. ALL

4.3 JM would follow up with AFA office the issue with BlueFin pricing strategy, due to covid 19 (This has since been resolved as the AFA has now negotiated a better financial deal with another company which has been circulated to clubs).

4.4 ACT reminded NMC that the JD for the position of President needs to be passed onto the new incumbent, once that person had been nominated (21/22 season). This JD must include that the President is the person that presents awards at both the Presentation Evening and at the LOB Senior Final. ACT to forward the JD he has to IA. It was agreed that future nominations for the role must be ratified by the Exec at a suitable meeting, prior to AGM. Custom and practice dictates that a President only serves one term. JM then proposed that due to the season being voided that NMc be given the opportunity to serve for a third season. NMc

4.5 Minute 5.3 was discussed between MA & JM and it was agreed that JM continue as Chairman for one further season to ensure continuity throughout the current disruption. No objections were raised on the night so JM stays as Exec Chairman for season 20/21.

4.6 Minute 5.6 now has a 2nd new club – Forza FC, who play at Hackney Marshes, who also played in same league as IB Albion. It was agreed to include them in the constitution. JM has also had a number of new requests from newly formed clubs that have currently played no football wanting to join the League. Purley OB are one such club, SG suggested we should offer clubs entry into the Leagues if we are currently shrinking in team numbers.

4.7 It was agreed that Purley OB be considered for a low south division once we have news of a start date for the season and after the AGM and allow them entry if we have the opportunity. JM will follow up with the club and obtain a list of players and what ground etc they will use. Sec of club, Paul Welton, is an ex JFOB player and so he is well versed with AFC rules. This person was not known as regards any past discipline/SOF issues. JM

5 Secretary Report.

- 5.1 All Committee Chairman have replied and Danny Goldman the Northern SOF Co-ordinator has resigned and MS will try and source a new person for that role. AR has resigned as Exec VP, we need suggestions for that role. IA suggested that the role is left as vacant. Teams Rep Committee still have to get Aaron, Henry & Derek to confirm their continuance in the committee (since meeting Roger Philo of Southgate Olympic and Mike Pierce of Minch have joined the committee).
- 5.2 The role of Welfare Officer will be JW , once he has successfully completed the training JW and online course, which has been put on hold since the Covid outbreak. DMc will stay as the nominated Officer. JW
- 5.3 ACT raised issue of getting a Twitter specialist and asked JW that he speaks to the Dorking club member – Henry Hill & Cameron Smith – putting one or other in the role of Social Media Manager so that we can develop the use of Social Media fully as requested by clubs in the survey. JW

6. Committee Reports

- a) **Club Support Committee:** - Nothing to Report.
- b) **Development & Communications Committee:-** It was agreed that the survey results be discussed once we get to the Finance Committee. RG again raised the issue of all communications being sent to members of Exec. ACT asked that all emails were sent to all Exec Members and that all replies are sent to all. JW would and could create a distribution group for the Exec members. This will be created in the cloud distribution list. JW
- SG raised the issue of too much internal communications if we have 14 replies from 14 people would flood inboxes. BOT suggest open conversations may flood inboxes and he suggests why we need to see all replies and if we require openness then IA will ensure that all receive communications. IA
- ACT suggests we do not replace the vacant Exec VP role which then resulted in a number of different views to removing all Exec VP's from the Exec (ACT, RG & AM). BOT asked that we move on and JM advised he would ensure it is an agenda item at a future meeting. JM
- c) **Awards Committee:-** ACT had no updates other than clubs are owed the difference between last season's Dinner Tickets pre-payment and this seasons Award tickets. Refunds will be adjusted on the club 20/21 invoices , once produced.
- d) **Club Rep Committee:-** NTR
- e) **Finance Committee:-** Latest accounts were sent to all members and the 19/20 accounts were showing a minor profit of approx. £270 for the year ending 31st May 2020. The proposed expenditure for 20/21 were highlighted and theses included room hire costs, Rep team costs, Award evening costs. These variations obviously affect the charges for club and team fees to be made in 20/21.

Questions were raised on the accounts and the various options as listed 1,2 & 4. Also was any factor built in to charge clubs an even further reduction on fees and what do we do about clubs who fold and have paid their fees for 20/21. As fees are not due until 31st October and then the Executive will be able to make a more considered opinion as to what to charge.

The AFA have yet to agree their club fees for 20/21 and the FA may support clubs by reducing annual team fees by £15 from the current fee of £50 and seek reduced insurance premiums. Payment for affiliation by the AFA will not be sought until the season starts and be phased over a series of part payments. Counties that have offered nil affiliation fees (Essex, London, Middx & Surrey) are possible due to their

balances being in excess of £2m. JM also advised that the FA have to make a significant £300m saving over the next 4 years (£75m per season). The net affect is a reduction in FA Grant Funding to the AFA of £20k per season plus less income from reduced discipline income and lack of income from key FA Finals.

SG asked what would happen if all AFC clubs moved from AFA? The response was that the AFA would not grant the transfer is that the cost of funding from the FA is based on affiliated teams and that the AFA would not let 80+ clubs transfer.

Option 4 was proposed by IA and NMC countered by suggesting the AFC could offer a bigger reduction. It was asked what the Exec believed was a reasonable level in the balance sheet to have. Also there was the possibility of losing 20% of teams due to financial issues. That too would cause issues.

Insurance for trophies was stated to be nil is this a risk. Cash stores the unused trophies in his lockup, which is a very secure facility. He could add the trophies currently with clubs to the lock up and so just insure them. If Cash stays in the same unit then there will be a cost of approx £1k in addition per year. SG raised the point that we had an option to sell one or two trophies. ACT has one or two trophies that he could sell and get approx. £2k each.

Insurance needs renewing by 25th September and ACT needs to complete the exercise which includes the return of all the cups with clubs to get the information and take pictures. SG agrees the short-term solution is to sell two cups which would then allow that to fund the trophy insurance. Also any saving with the Rep Team would also fund the insurance.

ACT suggested reducing fines in 20/21 and discounts per multi team clubs. Fines are reducing due to clubs getting better with their administration so this is not really a viable option.

Small clubs would not suffer any loss as opposed to large clubs. A % reduction for the larger clubs would help them as requested in the survey answers. SG finally proposed the option of £25 per team and club and cup £25. The Exec agreed that this is the option that should be put forward to the AGM. If football is curtailed in season 20/21 then a further refund may be awarded in 21/22. Invoices for 20/21 will also include the refund of dinner tickets due.

NMc stated that payment will be delayed by clubs and maybe charge clubs 50% by 31st October and the balance by 28th February 2021 if clubs request.

- f) **Fixtures Committee:-** A draft Constitution had been drawn up and this would be sent to clubs later that week with AGM papers by IA IA
- g) **Referees Committee:-** Fees from AFA had been proposed at £40 for refs and £30 for AR's (This has since been rescinded). Cup Final match officials from 19/20 would be offered the finals if possible, subject to availability. All three Referee Appointments Officers are willing to serve again. BOT asked that we ask AFA Refs Committee not to appoint AR's in early AFA Senior Cup ties. SS
- h) **Representative Committee:-** Nothing to Report
- i) **Rules Revision Committee:-** BOT explained all changes that were highlighted in yellow. JM suggested putting rule changes after the Officer nominations in AGM agenda. 6a was agreed. 6h was agreed following some debate on how the rule change should be applied. 10k highlighted yellow change was agreed to be removed. 12d change agreed and Bart will add a note to say goals cannot be awarded just points. Rule 27 was explained in full, as these were the LOB rules that were needed due to the combining of both competitions and those LOB rules that then need be amended. 27f needed date changing to July from October. 27l changes were agreed. 27m needs to be removed as Jack Perry Cup is no longer played. BOT

j) **SOF Committee:-** Nothing to Report

7. AFA Representatives Report

- 7.1 IA to write to Jason Kilby regarding Jim Davies (Old Crosbeians) to propose he joins AFA Representatives from AFC. IA will try and source two more representatives from the clubs IA

8 AOB

- 8.1 AGM Virtual Testing will be carried out and IA may need a few volunteers. For season 20/21 virtual meetings will be continued. JM requested that the agenda be renumbered so that important discussion points are listed firstly. IA
- 8.2 RG raised a point if it was known if the FA are putting a team together to reintroduce the Grass Roots Football at our level. Currently there are no discussions being held.
- 8.3 NJ suggested we tell clubs what updates are currently being received from the FA/AFA, what changes are planned and the dates of those changes. Also a statement at the AGM and to be included in JM opening speech.
- 8.4 SG asked on updates on the use of the FA Match Day App.
- 8.5 MA raised the issue on the new JFOB Officer structure and IA will forward the email received so that MA can speak with the relevant Officers

Date of Next Meeting – 22nd July (Micro Teams)

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The Link for the meeting recording is:

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.microsoftstream.com%2Fvideo%2F142a2656-94e4-4311-880f-667045566c0e&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc7b91d67ebac45fb083308d8190aa6f4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637286880818634870&sdata=9%2BTvVKRgtVsJ8fWjOZS7mO%2FbhNJ7BCSTKLXJor%2B21lc%3D&reserved=0>