

Amateur Football Combination
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Microsoft Teams Virtual Conference
22nd July 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 (No internet access to join meeting)

2. Conflict of Interest

- 2.1 There were no conflicts of interest to be recorded at this time, but mindful if any discussion takes place involving a member or members club, then such a conflict must be declared.

3. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 1st June 2020.

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed as true and correct other than the venue being amended to read Virtual meeting (AJ)

4. Matters arising from the Executive Committee Meeting on 1st June 2020.

- 4.1 There were not any matters arising as the agenda for this meeting was purely to deal with a number of key issues and not a full agenda, matters arising were part of this agenda.

5 Return To Football.

- 5.1 A detailed discussion took place which suggested that a small Working Party of key Exec members and club members should be agreed and that the Working Party will be empowered to take decisions that affects the League. Nominations would be accepted up to Sunday 26th August and the Secretary would write to northern clubs to obtain nominations.

ALL

- 5.2 Following the debate it was agreed that the start date of the season should be fixed as 19th September 2020 providing clubs of course had met all the requirements of a safe return to football ie Covid 19 Safety Officer and Risk Assessment.

- 5.3 It was agreed that we should start on 19th September and maybe have a rolling start for any teams that wish to start earlier – providing all safety controls are in place. SS reinforced the need to start earlier than 5th October as there will be clubs that do not complete what is required and so will not be playing competitive League games and once they start missing out it will speed up them doing what is required , so that by 5th October all clubs should be playing and correctly sanctioned.

- 5.4 SS proposed the wording for the Terms of Reference “ How do we, as a League implement the guidelines from the FA & what is the League’s role and the clubs role and how do we endure that all things have been delivered by the time that we need?” This was agreed as a starting point for the Working Party

- 5.5 The Covid-19 Safety Officer for each club must be named and that person’s contact details passed to the League before the club start playing in season 20/21. If clubs do not name a Covid-19 Officer then the default is the Club Chairman.

- 5.6 The Secretary was mandated by the Executive Committee to ensure a request is sent to the AFA to ask for a 7 day extension for cup entry from 31st July. (the email was actually sent by JMa and not IA without consultation).

IA

- 5.7 It was agreed (under AOB discussion) that the Working Party would have the powers of the Exec Committee and any decisions that decided were required would not need a 2nd approval.

ALL

6 Club Survey

- 6.1 NJ outlined the responses that had been received from the clubs. Losses were high in some clubs with the multi team clubs worse off in financial terms.
- 6.2 All sub-headings were analysed by NJ and many were no longer issues as we had a start date for the season and had reduced AFC affiliation fees already.
- 6.3 Much concern was raised about player safety. Despite the Government stating it was safe there would be understanding shown for teams that did not play due to safety reasons, not being heavy handed.
- 6.4 Hospitality was discussed and the decision was to be that we suspend that provision until such time as restrictions lift.
- 6.5 Discussions switched to home pitch options in that we could ask clubs with potential spare pitches , that they could share with others when we send out the pitch availability email. IA

7. Diversity & Equality Proposal

- 7.1 SG, NJ & AJ had a call with Chris Gibbons who is the Inclusion Officer at Chelsea FC regarding the fact that UCL suffered two racial abuse incidents that greatly affected players in their club and resulted in them bringing in a club charter rather than adopting the FA version.
- 7.2 It was suggested that we could share a template that UCL drew up and Chris would assist (foc) and used by all League clubs. UCL have been signed off by the FA for their Equality Standards. SG
- 7.3 SG suggested that the AFC should have a formal launch by zoom which would form an open discussion about diversity and racism and approach Troy Townsend (Chair of Kick it Out) and maybe some ex pro players. It would show AFC was serious about this issue. SG

8 My Club Draw

- 8.1 The original MCD demo was never seen and the cricket launch has also been delayed and is now launching in next 2 weeks. A template for football was agreed to be shared after this meeting. NJ suggested that the Clubs Committee meet with MCD to agree the contract. NJ
- 8.2 NJ thought this was a sensible solution for clubs to raise income during these times. IA did raise points where he personally thought that this was not the best form of fund raising rather than a Club 100 Draw. Others agreed with MCD option.
- 8.3 It was agreed that the points raised by IA & others would be addressed first by NJ . A survey on the options and benefits should be sent out to clubs and would be arranged by SG/NJ and sent to all clubs to gain their early opinion and would seek whether clubs think this is a good idea. IA agreed to send an email to clubs if required. SG/NJ
- 8.4 A question was raised by JW if the AFC were allowed to promote a gambling venture when we had under 18 players playing in many of our clubs. Advice on this would be sought by NJ, certainly no U18's could participate in the draw.

9 Sale of Trophies

- 9.1 Mick Kelly had sent out a request to clubs to return their trophies ACT
- 9.2 ACT is arranging a meeting with two potential purchasers in Yorkshire during August.
- 9.3 ACT asked that the finals are on different days, although he realized from discussions, this was unlikely.

10 AOB

- 10.1 A discussion took place regarding the payment to clubs for their pitches for LOB finals and the accounts had adequate accruals to cover the cost.
- 10.2 LOB Cup for season 20/21 was suggested that is delayed in starting until 20/21 and whether to just invite AFC clubs in 20/21? It was agreed that if we can get a Cup played to a conclusion then starting in 20/21 was an agreed solution. We would only invite SAL or ART teams that were not still actively involved in other cup competitions. IA
- 10.3 Applications would be sent out in early October to clubs to enter.
- 10.4 JW raised the question on progress of having a Premier North & Premier South as discussed by Old Minchendenians FC at the AGM. The Clubs Committee will take this forward asap by conducting a club survey. SG/NJ
- 10.5 An advert to recruit referees to be placed in AFA/LONSAR Argus for two months (Aug & Sept) at a cost of a £100 donation as this publication will go to 2000+ referees. IA

Date of Next Meeting – 19th August (Microsoft Teams)

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The Link for the meeting recording is:

<https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.microsoftstream.com%2Fvideo%2F734f68f8-b1de-4153-b854-f37cdb5c7b9a&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cbb38a8b5774841a45e5e08d8392f4749%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C63732222499432291&sdata=tz2HWwrRL3yLkn6jB0paqmC7klW9gxuQqVf%2FDnRWMul%3D&reserved=0>