

Amateur Football Combination
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Civil Service Club
9th September 2019

Present: J. Maskell (Chair), I. Andrews, S. Lovejoy, N. Johnstone, B. O'Toole, M. Armstrong, A. Cashmore-Till, J. Whitmarsh, N. MacDonald, M. Sainsbury, S. Goldring, A. Julien & A. Robinson. M. Kelly (invited for item 2).

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 A. Meyer, R. Gibbs, S. Smith

2. LOB /AFC Cup Rules & Committee Merger

2.1 It was agreed that the Cup Committee would consist of the following members J. Maskell, I. Andrews, J. Whitmarsh & N. MacDonald. John would chair the committee.

2.2 A spread-sheet that showed a comparison between the current AFC & LOB rules had been prepared and distributed by the Secretary prior to the meeting. BOT explained a number of the key points that had been identified in that comparison & these would need to be prioritised within the rules merger. BOT would try and complete this paper by the next Exec on 21/10.

3. Valuation of AFC & LOB Trophies

3.1 The key points being raised by ACT had been sent in an email dated 25th July which were as follows (with numbering points from the email):-

1. Retention of the Trophies

1.1. Insurance of all Trophies to be undertaken by the AFC. (AC-T is currently obtaining competitive quotations together with any conditions that may be attached.)

OR

1.2. Should the appropriate AFC Member Clubs be responsible for the full insurance of any AFC Trophy whilst in their possession?

OR

1.3. Insurance costs to be segmented between AFC and Clubs with Clubs maintaining an agreed minimum insurance level. Could all AFC Member Clubs benefit from a single source negotiated block policy?

1.4. If the Trophies cannot be insured (for whatever reason) but remain the property of the AFC, should they be presented on the evening of the Awards Ceremony and then returned to a place of safekeeping, either as detailed in (1.5) below or an alternative secure location?

1.5. A select number of the heritage Trophies could be permanently loaned to The National Football Museum in Manchester. (It should be possible to retrieve the relevant Trophy for presentation at the AFC Awards Ceremony.) [NOTE: AC-T has discussed this option with the Collections Department of The National Football Museum.] The AFC would be the first major proper Grass Roots Football League to be so represented in The National Football Museum. A suitable Trophy for the winning Club could be

provided as a permanent keepsake (quality, design, etc. to be agreed).

2. Disposal of the Trophies

2.1. Some / all of the Trophies could be sold. What combination do we sell / retain? [NOTE: There are 21 silver plated Trophies with a value of approx. £15,715, which would fall into the latter category.]

2.2. How do we sell surplus to requirement Trophies? Specialist Sports Trophy Auctions [NOTE: AC-T is taking advice on the most appropriate sale forum.]

2.3. Do we gift / loan or sell heritage Trophies to Third Party Organisation (Ref. 1.5)?

2.4. Do we return any surplus / redundant Trophies to the donating Club if it is still in existence and a current Member of the AFC?

NOTE: Whichever option – 1 or 2 – that is selected, one or two of the Heritage Trophies require repair. The valuations provided by Raven Silverware are based upon the current state of the Trophies.

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| 3.2 | ACT advised that the insurance premium was £2941.39 inc fees & taxes & the only restriction was when moving trophies from engravers to the venue. The excess per claim is set at £250, which it was agreed that clubs should be held liable in the instance of a loss and subsequent claim on the policy. A vote of Exec members present agreed to insure the trophies at the amount and conditions quoted. | ACT/SL |
| 3.3 | ACT had met with representatives of both the Specialist Sports Trophy Auctions & The National Football Museum, in Manchester. If it was decided to sell the trophies it would be required that we search and source as much history regarding each trophy as is possible. ACT advised that the Dinner Committee had already started work on sourcing the individual cup history. | ACT |
| 3.4 | NJ raised a valid point in that the AFC need to protect its assets and asked whether current rules are adequate regarding ownership, maintaining the record and the disposal of any such assets. | |
| 3.5 | It was questioned whether the scrap or real value should be shown in League Accounts, SL would advise on this particular point. | SL |
| 3.6 | It was agreed that a sub trust will be created from members of the Dinner Committee & Executive to take control of the income from trophy sales and how this income is spent. | ACT |
| 3.7 | BOT stated that the AFC should not keep the cups at An insurance cost of approx. £3k per annum for an indefinite period. £117k worth of trophies are currently not presented and are in storage so steps to sell these as a priority. | ACT/MK |
| 3.8 | It was agreed, after much debate that current trophies in the possession of clubs for any LOB Cups be returned no later than 15 th January 2020. The Dinner Committee are to supply a full plan for the sale, repair, disposal or loan of each trophy to the Executive by 31 st March 2020. | ACT/MK |
| 3.9 | It was agreed that the Jack Perry Cup be used as the cup for the newly created Junior South Cup. | ACT/MK |

4. Club Survey.

- 4.1 SG advised that approximately 150 out of 400 surveys had been submitted. The 400 was a snap shot of team administrators on Full Time, Club Secretaries and Club Match Secretaries.
- 4.2 A summary of the key points that were made were that Twitter was poorly used and

needed to be utilized more, it was suggested that maybe an AFC app should be investigated. JW would need to take this forward. It was asked of SG how many actual clubs had returned the survey as there could have been many from one club out of the 150? SG will be providing a full written report for the Exec in due course.

SG

- 4.3 A big issue raised was the commitment and retention of players. As regards travel time 83% of those replying stated that travel time should be no more than 60 minutes. A solution to this would be the merging of the AFC & SAL lower divisions, as currently in the SAL they are SE heavy and in the AFC the opposite being SW heavy.

Exec

- 4.4 Replies were generally against the ability to call off higher xi's but the replies should exclude those from 1 team clubs and would more analysis from SG. The issue of playing squads and player movement within multi team clubs had no clear majority.

SG

- 4.5 As regards hospitality it was an overwhelming response in the affirmative that hospitality is what makes the AFC the league it is and the provision of post-match hospitality must be retained at all costs.

- 4.6 As regards the use of club assistants the response was about 50/50 which was in line with the replies (albeit from only 30 referees) to the same question when they were asked a few months ago.

- 4.7 It was requested by the Exec that SG produces a written summary of the survey that is sent to all Clubs and presented at the Exec meeting on 21st October 2019.

5. AOB.

- 5.1 NJ raised an issue in the liability of Executive members unincorporated status of AFC and whether Directors Insurance be provided to cover members. It was not know the risks that are being incurred by the members of the Executive. SG suggested that liability risk is for the three trustees only and not the full Executive. JMas agreed to enquire of Bluefin Insurance say as regards this query.

JMas

Date of Next Meeting – 21st October 2019

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.