

## **Amateur Football Combination**

### **Spirit of Football Committee**

#### **Minutes of meeting held on 28th May 2018 at 6.30pm at the Civil Service Club**

##### **1. Present**

M Sainsbury (MS) (Chairman), A. Shah (AS), D Goldman (DG)

##### **2. Apologies for absence**

J. Whitmarsh (JW), R Gibbs (RG),

##### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2018.**

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously as a true and accurate record.

##### **4. Matters arising from the previous held on 8th March 2018.**

- 4.1 MS confirmed that as requested he had written to all sides that were still in the Bottom 10 of the Spirit of Football Table at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to acknowledge their improvement but remind them that they were still under review.
- 4.2 All other relevant matters arising were covered in other agenda items

##### **5. SOF CO-ordinator Reports**

- 5.1 DG said that he had spoken to several clubs over the course of the season about match incidents and poor Spirit of Football markings. Responses had been varied with some clubs agreeing to try and improve matters. The most unhelpful conversation he had had been with Old Parmerians following up a report on their 9<sup>th</sup> team. There had also been reports about Old Parmerians 5<sup>th</sup> XI.
- 5.2 Specific incidents relating to West and South clubs are covered elsewhere in the minutes

##### **6. Review of Spirit Of Football Marks – Bottom 10 Sides Review**

- 6.1 The committee reviewed the marks and positions of sides that had been set targets under the Spirit of Football schedule after being in the bottom 10 of the Spirit of Football at 31st December 2017 and 28th February 2018. (These are shown in the table below)

CLUB	SIDE	MARK (at 28/2/18)	TARGET SET	FINAL MARK	BOTTOM 10
Old Tenisonians	3rds	6.36	7.50	6.71	Yes
Mickleham Old Boxhillians	1sts	6.20	7.50	6.76	Yes
Old Wokingians	4ths	6.93	7.50	7.14	

Old Minchendenians	1sts	6.81	7.60	6.93	Yes
Enfield Old Grammarians	1sts	6.84	7.60	6.93	Yes
Mayfield Athletic	1sts	6.90	7.60	7.21	
Globe Rangers	1sts	7.16	7.60	(7.00)	Yes
Old Parmiterians	2nds	7.18	7.60	7.26	

6.2 It was noted that only Globe Rangers' mark had actually decreased in the last months of the season. DG felt that despite several conversations with Globe, they still did not really understand what the Spirit of Football initiative was about or what the markings related to.

6.3 The following teams were also in the bottom 10 of the Spirit of Football table at the end of the season.

CLUB	SIDE	MARK	POSITION (from Bottom)
John Fisher Old Boys	1sts	6.82	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Old Parmiterians	5ths	6.92	4 <sup>th</sup>
Old Manorians	3rds	7.05	8 <sup>th</sup>
Southgate Olympic	1sts	7.10	9 <sup>th</sup>
Old Vaughanians	3rd	7.11	10 <sup>th</sup>

6.4 MS noted that Martin Armstrong (SoF Co-ordinator, South) had contacted John Fisher regarding the behaviour of their 1<sup>st</sup> XI following adverse reports. MS had also had discussions with other teams that had recently played that side which seemed to confirm that playing against them was an unpleasant experience.

6.5 MS noted that Old Manorians 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had been involved in some recent incidents including one where a player was dismissed for knocking the cards out of the referee's hand whilst he was being dismissed. This had led to a match abandonment. It was noted that the club had immediately banned the player from the club.

## **7. AFA Respect Charges Review**

7.1 The meeting reviewed the latest information available at the time on FA Respect charges for AFC clubs. It was noted that Mickleham OB 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Globe Rangers, Old Parmiterians IIs, John Fisher Old Boys 1st XI and Old Manorians IIIs had all to date incurred 5 Respect charges. It was also noted that Old Manorians III, Mickleham Old Boys I and Globe Rangers had incurred the highest disciplinary points totals of any AFC teams. It was thought that the match abandonment that Old Manorians 3rds had contributed to their total of 65 points.

## **8. Spirit Of Football – Action Agreed**

8.1 MS said that under the protocols ratified at the 2017 AGM, the SOF committee had the option for sides not achieving targets set and still in the Bottom 10 of the Spirit of Football table, to either call that club up to a Spirit of Football committee meeting and/or impose a fine of £25-£75 for poor Spirit of Football/Respect.

- 8.2 After some discussion it was agreed that Old Tenisonians and Mickleham Old Boxhillians should be called up to a Spirit of Committee meeting in September in respect of their 3rd and 1st XI respectively. Globe Rangers would also be called up. It was felt that a meeting at the start of the season would be much more timely and effective than one during the summer months.

Whilst it was acknowledged that Old Tenisonians had improved their marks they were still the worst in the league and the committee wanted to hear what plans the club had to ensure that the same poor start does not happen next year. Mickleham 1<sup>st</sup> XI had the 2nd worse mark and the committee were also concerned by their Respect record and reports on them from other clubs. Globe Rangers were being called up because they were the only club of the bottom 10 whose markings had not improved during the past few months.

- 8.3 The committee would also have liked to have asked Old Minchendenian 1st XI and Enfield Old Grammarians 1st XI to a Spirit of Football Committee meeting but this would prove logistically difficult because of other clubs in worse final positions being called up. MS would write to both clubs to express concern about their markings and ask them to focus on improving Spirit of Football next season. **ACTION MS**

- 8.4 MS would also write to the Old Wokingian IVs and Mayfield Athletic to acknowledge the improvement in their performance and to ask them to keep the focus on Spirit of football next season. **ACTION MS**

- 8.5 No fines would be levied although the committee reserved the right to levy a Spirit of Football fine if invited Bottom 10 clubs did not attend a meeting without good reason.

- 8.6 The committee also decided to ask John Fisher Old Boys and Old Parmiterians to attend the Spirit of Football Committee meeting in September. On John Fisher this was because they were concerned about the 1<sup>st</sup> XIs drop in to 3<sup>rd</sup> bottom place in the Spirit of Football table at the end of the season which was reflected in their Respect charge and disciplinary points total. The committee were asking Old Parmiterians to attend because their 5<sup>th</sup> XI ended 4<sup>th</sup> bottom of the table with a mark of 6.92, their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had been in the bottom 10 most of the season and the Respect records of their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> XIs.

- 8.7 MS would arrange a date in September for this meeting in liaison with the League Secretary taking into accounts committee members availability and advise clubs accordingly. **ACTION MS**

## **9. Outstanding Match/SOF Incidents**

- 9.1 There were no other individual match incidents that the committee felt it necessary to discuss

## **10 Review of Spirit of Football Protocols**

- 10.1 The committee felt that the current operating protocols should stay in place. It was right to concentrate on individual teams rather than normally considering club markings as a whole which could hide poor performing sides.

10.2 It was agreed that relevant sides at Stage One should be targeted with reaching 7.50 or achieving 15% increase rather than 7.60. This was potentially more achievable but still aspirational in line with league average marking in 2017/18. **ACTION MS** to revise protocols.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

September 2018 at CSC. Date to be confirmed. **ACTION MS**