

Amateur Football Combination

Spirit of Football Committee

DRAFT Minutes of meeting held on 29th November 2018 at 6.30pm at the Civil Service Club

1. Present

M Sainsbury (MS) (Chairman), A. Shah (AS), D Goldman (DG), Robin Gibbs (RG), James Whitmarsh (JW)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th & 13th September 2018.

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

3. Matters arising from the previous held on 10th & 13th September 2018.

- 3.1 The records of the clubs either interviewed or referred to in the notes were reviewed.

Old Tenisonians. The 3rd team appeared to be much the same side as last year. Their average mark was 7.50 but they had recently been the subject of negative comments and low marks from referees. The 4th XI had an average SOF mark of 6.54 and also been the subject of negative reports. **ACTION** MS to contact club to remind them of responsibilities for Spirit of Football

Mickleham Old Boys. The 1st XI had a marking of 6.79 and reports suggested that the same 2 players who caused problems last year were still being allowed to play and causing issues with the opposition and referees. The meeting felt that the club were still not really taking Spirit of Football even though they knew this may have a negative impact on the club's own ability to retain players and even survive. **ACTION** MS to review conduct record and follow up with the club.

John Fisher Old Boys. The 1st XI's average mark was 7.38 but they had recently starting picking up negative reports. **ACTION** Continue to monitor. Get report from Martin Armstrong (MA) whose side are due to play them in 2 weeks' time.

Globe Rangers. Average mark 7. There had been incidents, including allegations of racism by Globe, in 2 matches against Spaniards which resulted in both sides awarding each other low marks. Incidents had been reported to AFA. DG had spoken to Globe. He felt that they were making an effort to improve Spirit of Football but some players still didn't get it. **ACTION** Continue to monitor

Old Parmiterians. The 3rd XI's average mark was 6.88. The club's average was 7.86 at 31/10/18. It was not known whether the 3rd XI were a new side or a low-scoring side from last year who had been re-badged. DG felt that the club were still not taking Spirit of Football seriously. **ACTION** Continue to monitor all sides.

Old Minchendenians. The side that had come under notice last year, the 1st XI had been disbanded although some players were still playing in the 'new' 1st XI in Senior Two North. No issues to date.

Enfield Old Grammarians 1st XI. No issues to date.

4. SOF Co-ordinator Reports

North

It was noted that Spaniards after having a good year last year were bottom of the Spirit of Football table with an average mark of 6.64. DG had spoken to Spaniards about the games with Globe Rangers. It appeared that some new players had been causing issues and the club would be taking on this. DG would continue to monitor.

DG had spoken to Albanian about their 3rd & 4th XIs. The club said they would remind their captains of their responsibilities. He had also spoken to Mill Hill Village, Latymer Old Boys re. their 2nd XI and Old Aloysians regarding their 2nd and 3rd XIs. Latymer said that their issues were due to new players coming into the club who did not understand the culture of AFC football and had promised to take action on this. Aloysians said much the same thing although DG was not sure what action they would take. He had also spoken to Southgate County regarding 3rd XI. AS confirmed that the club had expelled a new player as a result of inappropriate actions.

West

RG had spoken to Old Manorians and Old Salvatorians about some of their sides. He had some concern about Old Hamptonians 1st XI who currently had a very low mark of 6.89 for a Premier Division side. This was mainly seen as being down to verbal behaviour.

South

MA was not at the meeting. There were however no other particular concerns about other sides other than those referred to elsewhere in the minutes.

General

It was acknowledged that whilst the overall increase in markings so far this season was encouraging reality was beginning to bite. We may expect to see marks fall and more problem teams emerge as the season moved on.

5. Sin-Bins

RG asked if we had a list of players who had been sin-binned as he believed this is a key indicator of a side's approach to Spirit of Football. In discussion it was confirmed that although numbers of players sin-binned are recorded on report cards, only the AFA would have information on the actual players sin-binned as referees have to report this. This information might be available from Respect data. **ACTION** MS to contact AFA office to try and obtain a list of players/clubs sin-binned.

6. Abandoned Games and Outstanding Match/SOF incidents

No games had been abandoned yet because of player behaviour. There were no other individual match incidents that the committee felt it necessary to discuss

7. Spirit of Football Marks – Bottom 10 Sides Review

The meeting confirmed that MS should again write to the bottom 10 sides in the Spirit of Football table at Christmas to ask them what action they will be taking to improve their records. **ACTION MS**

8. AOB

Nothing raised

9. Date of Next Meeting

7 March 2019 at CSC.