

PATRON
Russell Grant

President
Peter Rogers



THE CHERRY RED MIDDLESEX COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



FOUNDED 1984

Sanctioned By The Football Association

**Meeting of the League Management Committee
Held at Brook House FC, Farm Park, Kingshill Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex
On Monday 7th January 2008, commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present: F James (Chairman), S Hosmer (General Secretary), D Swan (Assistant General Secretary), J Hosmer (Treasurer), H Wooster (Competitions Secretary), R Langley (Fixtures Secretary), K Aldridge (Referees Liaison Officer), E Mee (Discipline Secretary), N Hicke (Minutes Secretary), S Aldridge (Trophies & Awards Secretary) and G Humphries, V Leggatt and D John (Committee Members).

1. Apologies for absence

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were sent by P Kingham (Referees Secretary), J Bauer (Assistant Referees Secretary), T Denham (Assistant Discipline Secretary), K Offord (Fines Secretary), W McMahon (Registrations Secretary), V Gilbert (Results Secretary), A Tring, K Head and P Clayton (Committee Members), D Ramsey and E Forde (Joint League Team Managers).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (5th November 2007)

- 2.1. The minutes of the League Management Committee Meeting held on 5th November 2007 were accepted as a correct record, and duly signed by the Chairman, noting several amendments to be applied before the minutes are published.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting (5th November 2007)

- 3.1. Minute 5.1.1 – The Chairman recalled the Management Committee's endorsement for the Middlesex County Football League to attend an exploratory meeting with The FA and the Essex County Senior Football League, in order to learn the nature of any proposed options regarding a merger with or takeover of the Essex County Senior Football League.
 - 3.1.1. The General Secretary reported that discussions are ongoing and a meeting is being planned with the Essex County Senior Football League and the Essex & Suffolk Border Football League. He added that geographical logistics must be factored into any proposals.
 - 3.1.2. The General Secretary noted that the Combined Counties Football League has announced intentions to operate a Step Seven section commencing from the 2008/09 season, to fill the gap created by the amalgamation of that league with the Surrey Senior Football League.
- 3.2. Minute 5.8 – The General Secretary recalled the alleged abandonment of The Wanderers FC v Stanwell United FC Junior Open Cup tie on 3rd November 2007, following an assault on a club linesman.
 - 3.2.1. The General Secretary reported that the League awaits the decision of the Middlesex County FA as to whether the game was abandoned.
 - 3.2.2. The General Secretary reiterated that he will write to the Middlesex County FA, informing them that the League Management Committee had a representative at the game who would be willing to provide a witness statement.

- 3.3. Minutes 3.7.2 and 12.1.2 – The General Secretary reported that as agreed, he compiled a detailed list of the key areas of concern and dissatisfaction concerning the administration of the 2007/08 Cup competitions, and wrote to the Chief Executive of the Middlesex County FA on behalf of the clubs, so that the issues and causes could be fully understood by all parties.
- 3.3.1. The General Secretary noted that the letter was sent on 14th November 2007, but to date, no reply has been received. It was agreed that the General Secretary will write to the Chief Executive, copied to the County President, reminding him that a response is awaited.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1. The Chairman stated that he had no major issues to report, and concluded that the League is operating well and the competitions running smoothly,
- 4.2. The Chairman noted the high number of young players who are playing in various reserve teams and junior sides. He suggested that this might provide an opportunity for the League to operate a youth or age-limited section. It was agreed that Mr John will informally discuss the matter with representatives of the League's clubs, and gauge likely support for the idea.
- 4.3. In response to a question from the Minutes Secretary, the Chairman confirmed that a number of clubs in Division One (West) are voluntarily meeting some or all of the criteria for Premier Division clubs:
- Produce a match programme, containing details of the League's Sponsors, teams, etc.
 - Use a roped-off pitch, or one with an approved crowd barrier
 - Provide refreshments to the visiting team and match officials at half-time and after the game
- 4.3.1. The General Secretary endorsed the Chairman's comments, noting the increasing number of clubs using facilities of a high standard.
- 4.3.2. The Chairman advised the Management Committee that he would require proposals for the League's 2008/09 structure, including clubs to be released. He noted that typical criteria for clubs would be the standard of administration, on-pitch discipline, fulfilment of fixtures and financial state.
- 4.3.3. The Chairman instructed Committee Members to submit nominations to him in advance of the Management Committee Meeting in March 2008.

5. General Secretary's Report

- 5.1. The General Secretary reported that clubs have notified the League of a number of changes to their arrangements, all of which have now been updated on the various League-related websites.
- 5.1.1. The General Secretary reported that Marsh Rangers FC have changed their home ground and are now playing at Hillingdon Athletics Stadium, Gatting Way, Park Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
- 5.1.2. The General Secretary reported that BAA (Heathrow) FC have changed their home ground and are now playing at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, The Playing Fields, Mogden Lane, Whitton Dene, Isleworth, Middlesex.
- 5.1.3. The General Secretary reported that Hillingdon Abbots Seniors FC have changed their home ground and are now playing at Yeading Community Centre, 2 Ditchfield Road, Yeading, Middlesex.
- 5.1.4. The General Secretary reported that Acton Town FC have changed their home ground and are now playing at Grunell Grove Leisure Centre, Ruislip Road East, West Ealing, London.

He added that Emergency Contact Jayson Lomax also has had a change of email address, which is now j.hargreaves942@btinternet.com.

- 5.1.5. The General Secretary reported that Hillingdon FC's Club Secretary is now Julie Prior.
- 5.1.6. The General Secretary reported that Kings Meadow FC's Club Secretary is now Babis Danny.
- 5.1.7. The General Secretary reported that AMU FC's Team Manager has resigned, and his contact details have been removed from the Mitoo website at his request.
- 5.1.8. The General Secretary reported that Bedfont Sports FC's first-choice kit for both their first and reserve teams are now red shirts, black shorts and black socks.
- 5.1.9. The General Secretary reported that Sutton Common Rovers FC's first-choice kit for is now red shirts, black shorts and black socks, and their second-choice kit is now white shirts, black shorts and black socks.
- 5.2. The General Secretary reported on three Middlesex County FA Cup ties affecting Middlesex County Football League clubs.
 - 5.2.1. The General Secretary reported that following the abandoned cup tie Indian Gymkhana FC v Hayes Gate FC, both clubs will be removed from the competition, and their next round opponents will receive a bye. Indian Gymkhana FC has informally indicated an intention to appeal against the decision.
 - 5.2.2. The General Secretary reported that the Middlesex County FA is continuing to investigate allegations and reports concerning the Harrow Club FC v Hanworth Villa FC 3rds. Both clubs have been instructed to appear at a disciplinary hearing on 11th January 2008, and the next round tie has been postponed.
 - 5.2.3. The General Secretary reported that Uxbridge Town FC is alleged to have played a suspended player in the NPL Saturday FC v Uxbridge Town FC MCFA Cup tie. The General Secretary reported that Uxbridge Town FC will be removed from the competition, and their next round opponents will receive a bye.
- 5.3. The General Secretary reported that Uxbridge Town FC appealed to The Football Association concerning a decision by the League to deduct points for playing a suspended player.
 - 5.3.1. The FA found the club guilty as charged, but modified the penalty imposed, such that the two matches concerned were awarded to the club's opponents and the points gained were deducted. The FA ruled that the club should not be deducted further points specified in the League's Rules. The General Secretary reported that subsequent to the ruling, The FA issued a clarifying statement that their decision "does not set a precedent".
- 5.4. The General Secretary reported that on several occasions he has instructed Bethnal Green FC for details of their floodlighting, without response. It was agreed that the General Secretary will write to the club, advising them that any further delay in providing the requested information would be treated as a failure by the club to deal with correspondence.
- 5.5. The General Secretary reported that a match at Brazilian FC was abandoned due to non-availability of floodlights. He added that he has written to the club for an explanation, but has not yet received a reply. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Disciplinary Department.
- 5.6. The General Secretary reported that details of new FA funding levels have been published on the League's website. He noted that clubs can now apply for up to £10,000, in addition to the 50-50 Scheme.
- 5.7. The General Secretary reported that Bedfont Sports FC have informed the League that they have lost a number of players through illegal approaches made by clubs of the Combined Counties Football League.
 - 5.7.1. The General Secretary has taken the matter up with The Football Association, and has received the advice that Bedfont Sports FC should submit their allegations to their parent-

affiliated County FA. It was agreed that the General Secretary should relay this advice to all of the League's clubs.

- 5.8. The General Secretary recalled that League Rule 10(L) was amended at the 2007 AGM to allow clubs to clear any club County FA suspensions by noon on the Friday for the match on the Saturday.
- 5.8.1. The General Secretary noted that the version of Rule 10(L) operated during the 2006/07 season only gave clubs until noon on the Tuesday, as the County FA would have advised the Club that a club suspension was being imposed and a date given – i.e. 14 days prior to the actual suspension.
- 5.8.2. The General Secretary observed that clubs are taking advantage of the rule change and are using it to the detriment of their opponents. It was agreed that Rule 10(L) will be examined with a view to reverting to its former state for the 2008/09 season.

6. Treasurer's Report

- 6.1. The Treasurer reported that the League has £31,159.23 in its bank accounts.
- 6.1.1. The Treasurer noted that the sum quoted is in addition to payments received from several Clubs, which are in the process of being banked.
- 6.2. The Treasurer expressed her view that the current account contains more funds than are required for current day-to-day operational needs, and that she would therefore transfer some of that money to the League's high-interest savings account.
- 6.3. The General Secretary reported that following the League's meeting with The FA, the second instalment £1,500.00 of the League's administration grant has been received and banked.

7. Discipline Secretary's Report

- 7.1. The General Secretary reported that he has received a complaint from Hendon FC A concerning a fine for late submission of a team sheet, for the Willesden (Constantine) FC reserves v Hendon FC A fixture.
- 7.1.1. Hendon FC A has advised that their team sheet was only submitted late because the referee was out on the pitch warming up, and neither club could find him by the allotted time. It was agreed that the fine issued to both clubs should be cancelled.
- 7.2. The Discipline Secretary stated that he had no other matters to report, but stated that a separate meeting of the Discipline Department would be held, and that minutes will be issued in due course.

8. Fixtures Secretary's Report

- 8.1. The Fixture Secretary reported that all quarter-finals and two semi-finals of the League's Cup competitions are scheduled for completion by Saturday 9th February 2008, and that all competitions are progressing well.
- 8.1.1. The Chairman commended the Fixture Secretary on his work in scheduling the League's fixtures. This was endorsed by the Management Committee.
- 8.1.2. The Chairman sought agreement on the policy to be adopted if inclement weather adversely affects the fixture programme in January 2008. It was agreed that home advantage on postponed cup ties must be conceded if the home drawn club cannot obtain a pitch for the rescheduled date.
- 8.2. The Fixture Secretary reported that Brazilian FC has insufficient pitch dates to meet their commitments.

- 8.2.1. It was agreed that the General Secretary will notify Premier Division clubs that Brazilian FC home games are to be played at their opponents ground, with all match costs normally associated with the home club being met by Brazilian FC.
- 8.3. The Fixture Secretary reported that Renegades FC and Bedfont Town FC have provided no details of pitch dates for 2008. It was agreed that the General Secretary will contact both clubs and instruct them to provide the requested information.
- 8.4. The Fixture Secretary reported that due to the loss of one pitch at Feltham School, clubs with home pitch bookings at this facility need to reconfirm their remaining dates. It was agreed that the General Secretary will contact clubs using Feltham School and instruct them to provide the requested information.

9. Registrations Secretary's Report

9.1. The General Secretary reported the following registrations statistics:

- Total registrations: 2,682
- Current registrations as at 07/01/2008: 2,625
- Transfers and registrations awaiting completed details as at 07/01/2008: 57

9.2. The General Secretary reported that the League has also detected a number of players playing whilst under sine die County FA suspensions. This is due in part to Mr Bauer rewriting his player registration system.

9.2.1. The General Secretary reported that where suspended players have been found to have been playing, he has informed the clubs concerned as well as the Middlesex County FA.

10. Results Secretary's Report

10.1. The General Secretary reported that a number of clubs continue to ignore the instruction to leave messages in the format:

- League Division/Cup Competition
- Home team name
- Home team score
- Away team name
- Away team score

The General Secretary noted that leaving further information simply takes up time when other clubs are trying to get through and leave their own results. The General Secretary will remind Clubs of this at the next League Council Meeting.

11. Referees Secretary's report

11.1. There was no report from the Referees Secretary for the second successive Management Committee Meeting.

11.2. The Minutes Secretary noted that the appointment of match officials with as much notice as possible during January and February 2008 would be of great help to promotion candidates, as the current promotion season will end on 28th February 2008.

11.3. It was agreed that rather than go through issues in the absence of the Referees Secretary, the Chairman will again contact Mr Kingham and discuss them with him directly.

11.4. The General Secretary reported that he is encountering problems obtaining referees marks from some clubs. Despite being fined, a number of clubs still fail to provide the information required.

- 11.4.1. The General Secretary recommended that the Management Committee take this aspect of club administration into account when deciding the structure of the League for the 2008/09 season. This was agreed.
- 11.4.2. The Minutes Secretary noted that for referees in the promotion scheme, these marks will be urgently required by the Referees Secretary at the end of the current promotion season, to submit to the relevant County FAs.
- 11.5. The Treasurer queried whether she should purchase diaries for the Panel of Referees. It was agreed that this policy should be halted, and an alternative scheme devised. Committee members were invited by the Chairman to consider options for discussion at the next meeting.

12. Competition Director's report

- 12.1. The Competitions Director observed that the League's domestic cup competitions are running well and to schedule.
- 12.2. The Competitions Director reported that all seven Final Ties are scheduled for Saturday evenings, commencing on 29th March 2008 and completing on 10th May 2008, all at Yeading FC.
 - 12.2.1. After lengthy discussion, it was concluded that there would be nine Final Ties, and the General Secretary undertook to obtain two further bookings at Yeading FC.
 - 12.2.2. The General Secretary reminded Committee Members that he would require notice of their availability to assist at Cup Finals.
- 12.3. The Chairman queried progress on plans for the staging of a Middlesex County Football League six-a-side tournament during the summer of 2008. The Chairman reaffirmed that a delegation of the Management Committee, led by Messrs Leggatt and Head, would at the next Committee meeting be presenting plans for the competition format, playing dates, rules and entry fees.

13. Any Other Business

- 13.1. Mr Leggatt noted that Committee Members had enjoyed the Christmas Dinner on Friday 7th December 2007. He thanked and commended Mrs Hosmer and Mrs Aldridge for their work in organising the evening. This sentiment was endorsed by the Committee.

14. Vote of thanks to the Chairman

- 14.1. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

_____ Chairman _____ (date)