

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 4th February 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), P Kingham (Referees Secretary), K Aldridge (Referees Liaison Officer), E Mee (Discipline Secretary), T Denham (Assistant Discipline Secretary), N Hickes (Minutes Secretary), S Aldridge (Trophies & Awards Secretary), A Tring, G Humphries, V Leggatt and D John (Committee Members).

1. Apologies for absence

1.1. Apologies for absence were sent by R Langley (Fixtures Secretary), K Offord (Fines Secretary), W McMahon (Registrations Secretary), V Gilbert (Results Secretary), J Bauer, K Head and P Clayton (Committee Members), D Ramsey and E Forde (Joint League Team Managers).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (7th January 2008)

2.1. The minutes of the League Management Committee Meeting held on 7th January 2008 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 (7th January 2008)

- 3.1. Minute 3.1 – 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 no further progress has been made. The Football Association are considering the most practical way of moving the matter forwards.
- 3.1.2. The General Secretary reported that Mr Russell Grant has requested his assistance in defining a 'fantasy' Senior League covering all senior clubs in the Middlesex County Football League's catchment area. This will be publicised on various football web sites and on Radio 5 Live. Mr Swan has agreed to assist Mr Grant.
- 3.2. Minute 3.2.1 – 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 Middlesex County FA has received no report from the match referee. Stanwell United FC has appealed against the League's decision to expel them from the Junior Open Cup. The General Secretary noted that the League Management Committee representative at the game will provide a witness statement at the appeal, to be heard after the Management Committee meeting.

- 3.3. Minute 3.3.1 – The General Secretary recalled that as agreed, he had compiled a detailed list of the key areas of concern and dissatisfaction concerning the administration of the 2007/08 Cup competitions, and had written 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 following the lack of response to the letter was sent on 14th November 2007, he had written again to the Chief Executive, copied to the County President, reminding him that a response is awaited. No reply has been received to this letter either.
- 3.4. Minute 5.8 – The General Secretary recalled the Committee’s decision to examine League Rule 10(L) with a view to reverting to its former state for the 2008/09 season, due to clubs taking advantage of the rule change and using it to the detriment of their opponents.
- 3.4.1. The General Secretary advised that he might need to propose that the rule is reverted by EGM, if the situation continues. Five clubs were suspended on 29 January 2008. Four clubs cleared their obligations and cleared their suspension before the following weekend, but one club remains suspended.
- 3.5. Minute 8.2 – The General Secretary has notified 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.
- 3.5.1. The General Secretary reported that Brazilians FC have advised of one remaining booking that they have at the National Sports Stadium. Sutton Common Rovers FC have agreed to go travel to Crystal Palace to fulfil their league fixture. The General Secretary has instructed both clubs to agree a date for this match and advise the League accordingly.
- 3.6. Minute 10 – The General Secretary expressed his frustration that a number of clubs continue to ignore the instruction to leave messages in the format.
- 3.7. Minute 11.4 – The General Secretary recalled his previous report of problems encountered in obtaining referees marks from some clubs.
- 3.7.1. The General Secretary reported that following a concerted focus on obtaining missing marks from clubs, the situation is almost resolved.
- 3.7.2. The General Secretary reported a suggestion from Mr Bauer, that clubs and referees be issued with prepaid envelopes at the beginning of each season, on the basis that this would encourage them to send in team sheets, reports and marks.
- 3.7.3. The General Secretary observed that this option has been discussed in the past by the Committee, but has never been pursued because the information is sent electronically by most parties concerned. The Committee concluded that this initiative would not incentivise those who already fail to avail themselves of the even simpler option of sending marks and reports by email.
- 3.8. Minute 12.2.1 – The General Secretary recalled his previous undertaking to obtain two further bookings at Yeading FC, after the Committee had concluded that there would be nine Final Ties.
- 3.8.1. The General Secretary reported that after booking two additional dates with Yeading FC, it was subsequently established that there would in fact only be seven Final Ties after all. The General Secretary has kept the two extra bookings on 5th May 2008 (2:45 pm and 7:45 pm) just in case the competitions experience a late backlog of fixtures.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1. The Chairman stated his grave concern that the progressive development of clubs in the Premier Division is in danger of veering in the wrong direction.
- 4.1.1. The Chairman noted reports that he has received of the poor manner in which clubs are treating match officials, instances of changing facilities being below standard, and

intermediate status requirements not being met. He concluded that the League's intermediate status would be put at risk if the trend continues.

- 4.1.2. The Chairman noted the League's ambitions to operate a Step 6 division, but queried how The FA would allow this if the League could not successfully operate its present Step 7 division.
- 4.1.3. The Chairman remarked that he has regularly been advised to improve the situation by attracting new clubs and teams to the League, and commented that the general malaise might also need to be addressed by removing underperforming clubs from the Premier Division.
- 4.1.4. Mr Leggatt enquired as to the availability of a checklist to be completed during club inspections. The General Secretary confirmed the existence of such a checklist, and undertook to provide Mr Leggatt with copies. The Chairman asked that inspections be focussed on Premier Division grounds
- 4.1.5. The General Secretary confirmed that Premier Division clubs must meet the requirements of Step 7 status, specifically including:
 - Producing a match programme, containing details of the League's Sponsors, teams, etc.
 - Using a roped-off pitch, or one with an approved crowd barrier
 - Providing refreshments to the visiting team and match officials at half-time and after the game
- 4.1.6. The Chairman reiterated his grave concern that the League might ultimately lose its Step 7 status if the Premier Division is unable to provide intermediate standard football, reverting to simply being a junior football league.
- 4.1.7. The Referees Secretary endorsed the Chairman's comments, remarking that the Premier Division should be pruned if necessary, and that the Management Committee should take a strong lead in acting as needed to preserve the league's integrity and status.
- 4.1.8. The Competitions Director noted that at one time, all clubs were required to hold intermediate status granted by their parent County Association, and observed that the removal of this requirement was a retrograde step.
- 4.1.9. The Chairman concurred with the views expressed. He observed that several clubs in the Premier Division may at present be failing to meet the criteria for Step 7 status, and cautioned that if the situation persists, those clubs would be rated by the League as being of junior status.
- 4.1.10. The Chairman instructed that a meeting will be scheduled to which all Premier Division clubs will be instructed to attend. The meeting will be used as a forum to make clubs aware of their obligations, and the penalties of not complying with the status requirements. Clubs which owe fines and regularly transgress the League's rules will be removed from the Premier Division.
- 4.2. The Chairman reminded the Management Committee that he had previously requested nominations for clubs to be released at the end of the 2007/08 season. He noted that typical criteria would be poor administration, on-pitch indiscipline, non-fulfilment of fixtures and financial issues.
 - 4.2.1. The Chairman instructed Committee Members to submit nominations to him in advance of the Management Committee Meeting in March 2008.

5. Disciplinary meeting

- 5.1. At 8.00 pm, the following members of the Disciplinary Department withdrew from the Management Committee meeting to attend disciplinary hearings: D Swan (Assistant General Secretary), J Hosmer (Treasurer), E Mee (Discipline Secretary), T Denham (Assistant

Discipline Secretary), S Aldridge (Trophies & Awards Secretary), A Tring, G Humphries and V Leggatt (Committee Members).

6. General Secretary's Report

- 6.1. The General Secretary reported that Bedfont Sports FC have advised the League of their intention to withdraw at the end of the 2007/08 season.
- 6.2. The General Secretary reported that Acton Town FC have advised the League of their intention to withdraw at the end of the 2007/08 season.
- 6.3. The General Secretary reported that Signcraft FC has disbanded and withdrawn from the League with immediate effect, resulting in their 2007/08 results being expunged from the Premier Division League table.
- 6.4. 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.
 - 6.4.1. The General Secretary reported that BAA (Heathrow) FC have changed their home ground and are now playing at Little Harlington Playing Fields, Sipson Lane, Sipson, Middlesex.
 - 6.4.2. The General Secretary reported that Marsh Rangers FC are now playing at Hillingdon Athletics Stadium, Gatting Way, Park Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
 - 6.4.3. The General Secretary reported that Bethnal Green United FC's Club Secretary is now Abdul Momin.
- 6.5. The General Secretary expressed his concerns about a number of facilities being used by clubs, which he suspected may not be of the standard required by the League.
 - 6.5.1. The General Secretary reported that Haringey Town FC may be playing at a ground without changing rooms or showers. He has Haringey Town FC to confirm this, and added that he has also asked all Division 2 clubs which who visited Haringey Town FC to confirm the standard of facilities they were offered.
 - 6.5.2. The General Secretary reported that the changing facilities being developed at Indian Gymkhana FC are not yet available for use, and clubs and match officials have been required to change portable accommodation in the interim. The club has been instructed to complete development work such that the new permanent changing facilities are made available for immediate use.
 - 6.5.3. The General Secretary reported that he still awaits details of Bethnal Green United FC's floodlights. It was agreed that the club should be written to again, with a warning that failure to respond with sufficient details would result in the club being charged by the League.
- 6.6. The General Secretary reported that the respective grounds used by Kodak FC and Broadfield United FC have both been sold to new owners, and the intentions of those new owners are as yet unclear.
- 6.7. The General Secretary reported that Chiswick Homefields FC have contacted the General Secretary about joining the Middlesex County Football League for the 2008/09 season. The club has been sent the relevant forms, and must now decide whether to follow up their enquiry with a formal application.
- 6.8. The General Secretary reported that Harefield United FC have contacted the General Secretary about entering a side (provisionally the club's third team) in the Middlesex County Football League for the 2008/09 season, based out of Taylors Meadow Recreation Ground.
- 6.9. The General Secretary noted that Sutton Common Rovers FC have reached the semi-final stage of the Anagram Records Trophy. The Committee commended Sutton Common Rovers FC on their achievement.

- 6.10. The General Secretary reported that Mr Chris Hartley has resigned from the employ of the Middlesex County FA. He noted that Mr Hartley has been the league's primary contact at the Association for years, and expressed his concern that Mr Hartley's successor has not yet been named.

7. Treasurer's Report

- 7.1. The Treasurer reported that the League has £28,915.88 in its bank accounts.
- 7.1.1. The Treasurer noted that the sum quoted is in addition to payments received from several Clubs, which are in the process of being banked.
- 7.2. The Treasurer reported that the League has purchased a supply of high-quality pens emblazoned with the League's name. Referees will be given a pen each, in a suitable presentation box, rather than a diary as in recent years.

8. Discipline Secretary's Report

- 8.1. The Discipline Secretary stated that he had no matters to report, but stated that a separate meeting of the Discipline Department would be held commencing at 8.00 pm, and that minutes will be issued in due course.

9. Fixtures Secretary's Report

- 9.1. The General Secretary reported that all of the League's Cup competitions are running to schedule.

10. Registrations Secretary's Report

- 10.1. The General Secretary reported the following registrations statistics:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| • Total registrations: | 2,760 |
| • Current registrations as at 04/02/2008: | 2,693 |
| • Transfers and registrations awaiting completed details as at 04/02/2008: | 67 |

11. Results Secretary's Report

- 11.1. The General Secretary reiterated 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.

12. Referees Secretary's report

- 12.1. The Referees Secretary reported that he has identified approximately twenty members of the Referees Panel that he was not prepared to appoint to matches, due to their poor record of accepting previous appointments.

- 12.2. The Referees Secretary expressed his satisfaction that the number of missing club markings for referees had been greatly reduced, but expressed his concern at the high number of missing match reports from referees. He stated that he would concentrate his efforts on ensuring that this volume of missing paperwork is similarly reduced.
- 12.3. There followed general discussion about the standards of refereeing, and also the standards of referees administration. The Referees Secretary concluded that standards have declined nationally, and that he would work to ensure that within the League, this trend is reversed.

13. Competition Director's report

- 13.1. The Competitions Director observed that the League's domestic cup competitions are running well and to schedule. He also reported on details related to outstanding Middlesex County FA Cup ties involving the League's clubs.
- 13.2. The General Secretary reported that he has circulated an attendance register to League Officers, with a request that they all indicate which of the Final Ties they can attend and support. The Competitions Director can then confirm duties and responsibilities for each event.
- 13.3. The General Secretary noted that the League has not yet allocated specific Final Ties to dates yet but he reported that the dates are:- 29th March 2008, 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th April 2008, 3rd and 10th May 2008 and two finals on the 5th May 2008, all at Yeading FC.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1. There was no other business.

15. Vote of thanks to the Chairman

- 15.1. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

_____ Chairman _____ (date)