# CHELTENHAM ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Minutes for the Management Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at The Victory Club.

Attendees: N. Oram, T. Holmes, J. Hunt, P, Tustain, M. Neave, B. Hill, D. Johnson, T. Onions, I. Smith

Apologies: I. Hamilton, I. Swales. G. Cook

1. **Actions arising –**

Charities and Futures minutes (previously circulated) from 14th February to be approved.

Futures to be the continued focus moving forward.

***Cup Finals to be Finalised***

***Charity Cup & Futures minutes ratified***

Winners and Runners-Up medals ordered for the Trophy Finals. Match Official medals also ordered, but no 4th officials as these will not be appointed for these games.

IH sent an email to all clubs to remind them of match postponement actions.

Dowty Dynamos Club Secretary and Manager invited to a meeting on the 14th February whereby a really positive discussion took place. It is hoped this will improve the situation in terms of discipline.

Recent meeting with the Stroud and Cirencester Leagues in terms of the future of Adult football took place last Thursday, this will be discussed under the Futures item.

1. **League Secretary**

Very disturbing to report an assault this weekend in one of our games against a match referee which follows an assault two weeks ago in another of our games against a match referee. These events will not be tolerated and further actions will follow once the GFA have completed their actions against the perpetrators who are ruining the game we all strive to participate in each week.

I had a really good conversation over the phone to a potential new treasurer Iain Smith (following a lead from Rob Morrison at Capita). Iain will be attending this meeting to discuss further with you all.

All medals now ordered and will be available in terms of our dates required.

Pete Langley (County League Chairman) advised that the County League have some match footballs available for sale at £20 each. Action on IH to send email address to all clubs if they want to buy some. (County League are going to be using Yellow match balls on all of their games next season)

Report received from Bishops Cleeve Dev. Manager in regards to their game on Saturday 24th that we need to investigate further -

I am disappointed to be having to write this... as I am sure I've got better things to do in my 'free' time and you really don't want to be reading it.

Yesterday afternoon we played the reverse fixture against Malvern Vale Academy. Having been treated poorly by them in the game at the start of the season we knew what to expect with regards to the way that they play the game and hoped that we would get a referee that would be experienced enough and strong enough to manage them.

Unfortunately this was not the case. From the first minute to the last the referee was weak, made poor decisions and offered little / no protection to the young Cleeve players.

What you need when you play against a team of 'seasoned+ savvy' players ...that's obviously not what I really mean! Is a referee able to understand what constitutes foul or overly aggressive play,  know what constitutes a pull or a kick and what constitutes ungentlemanly behaviour. We needed someone who could recognise and punish time wasting (kicking the ball away even when 3,4, and 5 goals to the good (really!),and 'thuggery'. One of the tackles which led to one of our players having to be carried off the pitch, occurred after the whistle had gone for another infringement. It was unnecessary, late and dangerous...and how the ref only deemed it to be a booking is beyond laughable. The Cleeve player played no further part in the game and was fortunate to only have stud indentations on his shin as opposed a broken leg. This was followed up a few minutes later by a player sliding in on the goalkeeper when he had no chance of getting the ball, and being high fived by high colleagues as the goalkeeper led on the floor waiting for treatment...on this occasion no action from the ref.

The Chelt League really need to realise that by allocating poor referees and letting thug teams play and get away with it they are going to lose teams and players from the league.

The Cleeve Dev Res were set up in order to provide a route from youth into adult football for local players. I have sat at meetings this seasons when you have flagged up the low number of teams in the league (the lowest in its history) and you offer reasons/suggestions as to why this is the case. well today provided two good reasons for this. - the poor refereeing and the opposition.

I came away from yesterdays game asking myself the question why should I bother and why should my players want to play when they have to endure what they faced today..no protection..it was extremely disappointing.

After the game I received the following from the parent of one of the young players.

*Hi Chris,*

*would it possible to make a complaint to the Gloucestershire FA about the conduct of the Malvern coach. I wasn't there taht long today but I certainly saw some breaches in the code of conduct for coaches, managers and officials.*

*- show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.*

*- adhere tot he laws and spirit of the game*

*- promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour.*

Now I'm old and have played against physical teams, so understand that part of game is about the physicality and some might say it all part of the learning process however yesterday was too much.

I also don't have any issue with losing to a better team that has played fairly...we lost yes ..but not to a team that in my opinion played fairly.  I suppose yesterday's game  mattered to those Malvern Players and this is part of their mentality/ make-up on how to win games, which certainly seems to have been instilled by one of their coaches. It's quite sad because they really didn't need to resort to playing they way they do. They have some players who could clearly play at a better level... Let's hope they get what they want,  runners up in Cheltenham Div 4 and promotion.

I certainly hope this happens as me and the players have no desire to play them again, and this assumes of course that we actually have team in this league next season.

Thanks

Chris Gough

Cleeve Dev Res

07460 811760

***Action for IH to forward letter onto the GFA & to inform Bishops Cleeve Del that they should also send their letter to the GFA***

**Rule Offences and Mitigation.**

See attached.

Charlton Rovers appeal – They were charged for failure to fulfil a fixture for a league match during the last disciplinary period. This should have been for a Primary Charity Cup match. Therefore, their points deduction will have to be reversed and the charge re-applied for the cup match.

***Appeal successful – Points to be reinstated & fine to be returned, then re-charge for broken fixture in PCT game***

1. **GFA**

NO and IS attended the League forum for adult and youth leagues at the GFA in February. Positive feedback received to be discussed.

GFA Council meeting on Thursday and the items of note were:

The GFA remains in a very healthy position financially with a potential profit in excess of £111,000 this year.

The Sin Bin trial will continue although there is some nervousness of at the FA. The GFA may invite other leagues to take part if the FA give approval.

Following the recent new TV rights deal, there should be more money available for grassroots football. The GFA are planning on going ahead with the building of a new 4G facility in the North of Gloucestershire to match the one they have at GFA HQ in Almondsbury.

***N.O & I.S discussed at the GFA meeting ways to bring youth players into Adult Football.***

***Possibility of inviting Youth teams to enter one of our Charity Cup competitions.***

***Adult football has to change i.e. two teams in one league as with Malvern Vale to encourage more teams into the league.***

IH/NO attended a Safeguarding operating standards brief prior to the GFA Council meeting.

1. **Treasurer**

Potential new treasurer for next season to attend this meeting.

***Iain Smith was introduced to the committee & he was invited to attend meetings until the end of the season as an observer/guest.***

***Iain & Matt to work together on the Treasurers Role.***

***Matt asked for a change in the League Rule 5L***

***Change of wording:***

***The business of the competition as determined by the Management Committee shall be transacted by electronic mail. To just, transacted electronically, to eliminate Clubs sending cheques to pay invoices & trips to the bank.***

***This was thought to be Matt’s first ever Rule request.***

1. **Fixtures**

***All upto date until this weekend***

1. **Referees**

IS sends his apologies but reports 100% coverage for February.

3rd March looks extremely challenging with the County League seeking more officials and the GFA County Cups requiring 24. (Victims of our own clubs success in the County Cups.

One Referee suspended by the GFA.

***Action on I.H to email Clubs to make them aware that Layton Pearce must not be used as a Club Referee or AR during his GFA suspension***

1. **Results**
2. **Registrations**
3. **Any Other Business.**
4. **Date of next meeting.**

***League Management – 28th March 2018.***

***Change date to 27th or 29th to be held at Bishops Cleeve during half time of one of the Charity Cup Semi Final Games.***

***Or move forward a week***

**Futures/Charities – TBA**

***Looking at W/C 5th March ( next week) or Mon 12th***