**CAFL League Management Minutes – held on Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7.00pm at the Victory Club**

**Cup Draws to take place during this meeting**

**Attendees – JH, PT, AW, LC, BH, IH, DJ, IS, TH**

**Apologies – DP, TO, MP**

***Prior to the meeting start, Bishops Cleeve FC represented by James Trigg and Shurdington Rovers FC represented by Steve Henley joined us to conduct the cup draw.***

1. **League Secretary**

Appeal by Shurdington Rovers to the GFA in the case of their game v Welland in which Shurdington stated there was a conflict of interest in regards to the Referee appointed, having had an appeal heard and failed with the league on the following grounds:

1. The league failed to give it a fair hearing.
2. The league misinterpreted or failed to comply with the rules or regulations relevant to its decision.
3. The league came to a decision that no reasonable body could have come to

The three grounds of appeal submitted by the Club were rejected for the following reasons:

1. The on-line meeting held by the league to consider the protest was fair;
2. The League did follow its rules;
3. The League’s decision was not so irrational that no other such body would have reached the same decision;

The League Management Committee made up of hard-working volunteers were very pleased that the GFA found this decision. Equally the League are disappointed that Shurdington Rovers followed this course of action, but recognise they were in their rights to do so. We hope in the future they act more in the spirit of the game and respect the Committee decision and the strength of grassroots football. The Committee also firmly believe had Shurdington won the game vice draw it, they would never have put this case forward, equally we are not convinced this was the wish of all concerned at the club.

All Trophies and Medals ordered. We are going to canvas the clubs for next season as to whether or not we still go down the medal route or consider voucher prizes instead.

New IT provided for Results Secretary.

1. **Treasurer**

Paid the deposit for the Trophies and Medals.

All invoices currently up to date.

Cheques presented to the Victory Club and the Victory Club Steward.

1. **Fixtures**

JH awaiting available dates from Bishops Cleeve FC for semi-finals and finals. Other venues being investigated as well.

Fixtures currently looking ok, but hoping the weather is kind to us. D1 and D2 busy, but confident we will get the games in.

Tredworth Tigers Reserves from the Premier Division decision to withdraw their side ratified. Their record has been expunged.

Cheltenham United made a request that an additional 6 games are added through the premier division meaning the teams play each other 3 times given they have nearly completed their fixtures. They also requested an addition 1 game through the Junior Charity Cup by making the Quarter Final 2 legged.

The Committee considered this request but felt it was impossible and unfair to agree it given we agree our format prior to the season starting and we will be in February shortly. Equally, due to the weather one team, as an example, have only played 3 league games as they do not have the luxury of playing on an all-weather pitch. This would also have potential ramifications to all divisions and cups as this can not just be a change for Cheltenham United alone.

Cheltenham United can off course ask for a Special General Meeting if they get 24 clubs out of 32 to agree to one. Action on League Secretary to let them know.

We are of course sympathetic to Cheltenham United, but we could not foresee the Premier Division situation that has arisen since the constitution was voted on and the season unfolded.

The Committee have it right at the top of its agenda to restructure the League for next season to ensure we have lots more League games and we can cater better should teams drop out.

1. **Registrations**

1334 signed on, 24 transfers. Interesting fact, we are 367 registrations down on last season.

New transfer process seems to be much smoother since the change.

1. **Results**

All going well, a couple of late team-sheets. The SMS time change seems to have been a change for good which is good to see less fines generated from it.

1. **Referees**

MP sent his apologies, but offered the following:

To date (29/01/2025) 237 out 240 games have been covered.

To date 6 low marks submitted against referees.

To date 3 positive reports received about referees.

Latest positive report was about Len Cole and how he dealt with a serious injury to a player and match being abandoned.

This month is fully covered currently.

Requested a rule change for next season to have automated cup draws via full time.

Tredworth Tigers Reserves (disbanded) and Tredworth Tigers 3rds have had a warning reference poor behaviour after totting up 25 points.

1. **Discipline & Rule Offences**

See attached.

1. **AOB**

TH briefed that there is a new rule sub-committee meeting next week and one of the topics is the automated cup draw as highlighted under the referees’ secretary remarks above.

Concern of the admin of FC Lakeside in the Premier Division. IH to email the club for clarification.

Confirmation of the Cheltenham League insurance provided to the Victory Club.

Proposal for a CAFL Charity Shield game presented by Matt Roberts of Fintan shared with the committee for discussion electronically.

**Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday 26th February in person at the Victory Club at 7pm.