

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Stockport Lacrosse Club on Thursday 5 February 2009 at 7 pm.

Present: Roger Ambler (Chairman) and Matthew Nugent, Neil Crosby, John Farmer, Ken Haves, Clive Perrin, Anton Bryant and John Partt.

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

Fixtures' Secretary's Report

Matthew Nugent had issued up-to-date league tables, and a re-arranged fixture list. Most re-arrangements had been made, but there were some problems in the 5th division. Results were being received as required, but the website showed inaccurate points totals in the 4th and 5th divisions.

Under 19's Organiser's Report

Clive Perrin reported that the knockout competitions had now finished (earlier than originally planned due to the loss of 2 teams owing to disciplinary action). Timperley had won the Cup, and Mellor won the Plate. There had been excellent support from spectators throughout the season. As there had been a reduced number of games, it was possible that there might be a reduction in the pitch costs, but this had yet to be determined. The Conference A Shield needed updating, and Brooklands had offered to deal with this. The Chairman thanked Clive for all his efforts in once again achieving a successful Under 19 programme.

General Secretary's Report

Correspondence.

1. Brooklands had written asking for dispensation for Nick Hewitt to play in the next round of the David Beesley Cup. However, on checking Nick's playing record, the Secretary had found that he was ineligible, and so had written back stating that Nick was cup-tied to the Stockport Cup Competition (or higher).
2. The Secretary had written to Oldham as agreed at the previous meeting, giving them a further 7 days to pay their outstanding Cup Competition entry fees, but as they had not done so, had written disqualifying them. Subsequently, the Oldham Treasurer had 'phoned the Secretary and bitterly complained about this treatment of his club. John Partt reported that it had been a most unpleasant conversation. The Oldham Treasurer had then 'phoned Roger Ambler, and Roger reported on a similar attitude from him, and had told him his club needed to comply with the set requirements. As the payment had still not been received, the Committee decided that Oldham's officials would be advised that unless payment was received by 19 February, further action might be taken against their club.
3. The Secretary had written to Birmingham as agreed at the previous meeting, giving them a further 7 days to pay their outstanding Cup Competition entry fees, but as they had not done so, had written disqualifying them. Payment had subsequently been received, with an apology.
4. The Secretary had written to Newcastle as agreed at the previous meeting, giving them a further 7 days to pay their outstanding Cup Competition entry fees. Payment had been received within the stated time limit.
5. As Cheadle had not attended the December Open Forum meeting, the Secretary had written fining them, following the set policy of sending the letter by recorded delivery, and 'phoning their Secretary to give a verbal reminder after 21 days. Subsequently, an incorrect cheque had been received, and John Partt had 'phoned the Cheadle Secretary requesting a correct cheque. This had been received, and John had returned the incorrect cheque by post together

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with a copy of the January Committee meeting Minutes. However, the Cheadle Secretary had written demanding the return of his original (personal) cheque, stating that unless he received it by 26 January he would 'stop' the cheque and would invoice the Management Committee for the cost incurred. John Partt had immediately 'phoned Steve Bottrill, the Cheadle Secretary, but this had also proved to be a very unpleasant conversation, with Steve complaining about the Committee's procedures, the inconvenience he had experienced in collecting the letter from the Post Office, the car parking charge he incurred in doing so, etc. etc. Steve repeatedly called John negligent in returning his cheque by normal post (despite the fact that Steve had sent both cheques by the same means), and demanded that John contact the post office to determine why they had not delivered the envelope to him, and discover its whereabouts. In other words, Steve had been extremely unreasonable.

6. Brooklands had written asking for dispensation for 3 players who had recently attained age 16 (James Hewitt, Ryan Sweetman and Vince Cara) to play in Cup Competitions. The Secretary had replied reminding Brooklands of the stated Guidelines on dispensations, ie. that no dispensation would be granted in the circumstances. Brooklands had written again, asking for further consideration. The meeting debated the current Guideline, agreeing that more than one interpretation could be applied to the current wording. The intention of the guidelines was to prevent the loading of teams, not to prevent otherwise legitimate players from playing. The wording would therefore be reviewed, and the Committee agreed to grant the requested dispensation to Brooklands.

Claims for Points/Complaints.

1. Oldham 'A' v Norbury 'A' - 20 December 2008.
Oldham had submitted further information as requested by the Committee at its January meeting, and this was considered along with the previously submitted information. However, on the basis of the evidence provided, the Committee was unable to determine whether Oldham had played non bona fide players. No further action would be taken. Norbury's £10 deposit would be returned to them.
2. Poynton 'A' v Stopfordians - 24 January 2009.
Stopfordians had written claiming that Poynton had played a player or players who were non bona fide. Poynton had submitted appropriate information which was given due consideration. However, on the basis of the evidence provided the Committee was unable to uphold Stopfordians' claim. Stopfordians' £10 deposit would be returned to them.
3. Timperley 'A' v Sheffield Steelers 'A' - 24 January 2009.
Sheffield Steelers had written complaining that their team had travelled to Timperley, only to find the match had been called off at about 9.30 that morning. Timperley had 'phoned Steelers to inform them, but had left a message on a voicemail service, rather than speaking personally to someone. The Committee recognised the inconvenience caused to Steelers (and the cost incurred), but Steelers had not claimed the points and appeared to consent to re-arrangement of the match. The Committee would therefore re-arrange the fixture, and Steelers' £10 deposit would be returned to them.

Transfers.

1. David O'Callaghan from Liverpool to Rochdale.
2. Peter Windeler from Poynton to Norbury.
3. Josh Jennings from Wilmslow to Heaton Mersey Guild.

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Treasurer's Report

Ken Haves reported that the only outstanding payment in respect of Cup Competition entry fees was Oldham's.

The Secretary handed cheques totalling £580 to Ken, being payments of fines, Cup Competition entry fees and Disciplinary appeal hearing fees.

Disciplinary sub-committee Report

Anton Bryant reported that there had been one recent expulsion foul, dealt with by normal procedures.

Anton expressed concern that referees should provide him with specific explanations of their reasons for expelling players, to ensure the expulsion was carried out in accordance with the playing rule.

John Partt commented that he had still not received the promised letter from the MPC detailing the authority of the Disciplinary sub-committee, but Anton stated that the MPC had changed its mind, and instead would simply minute their decision and provide John with a copy of the minutes.

Open Forum Meeting Report

The next Open Forum meeting would take place at Brooklands on 12 February. The shortage of referees would be raised, and Matthew Nugent's ideas on the subject would be discussed.

Men's Playing Committee Report

Anton Bryant reported that he had participated in the recent meeting by audio link, saying it had been an interesting and effective way of doing so. In particular, he reported that there had been a good settlement from Sport England, being £2,211,000 over the next 4 years (paid to the ELA), for development etc.

Special Events Report

Ken Haves reported that he had sent Festival Weekend tickets to all clubs except Oldham (their payment of Cup Competition fees being still outstanding). He had also arranged for the appropriate medals for the Festival. David Marsden had extra tickets for anyone who wanted them. The semi-finals would be played on 7/8 March, Manchester Waconians ground being the venue for one double-header, and possibly Stockport for the other. Each participating team would be required to pay the fee for one referee, and as both venues would be gated, referee's fees (for CBO duty) would be paid from the gate monies, and also for one referee (assuming 3 referees on the pitch).

County Association Reports

CCLA - No meetings had been held this season, but John Sharples had submitted a lengthy written report. He stated that no officials were in place, as he had received no response at all from clubs regarding nominations for posts. Nevertheless, coaches and team managers were active, and both Under 16 and Under 19 teams had played against Lancashire, although losing. The Senior squad had done better, beating Lancashire.

LCLA - There had been concern expressed about the report recorded in the January minutes of the NEMLA Management Committee meeting, but it had been emphasised that the implications made were not in respect of the playing aspect of the County, but referred merely to the intended administrative structure as described in the ELA Constitution/Bye Laws. The Lancashire Ladies' organisation had now joined the LCLA. There had been a discussion about the shortage of referees. Efforts at Under 14 level were productive.

YCLA - Neil Crosby reported that the scheduled meeting had been postponed by one week due to snow. The MPC had refunded £88 to Yorkshire in respect of referees who had travelled to the Fresherfest. The question of squad sizes was being debated.

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Referees' Association Report

No report was given.

Juniors' & Schools' Committee Report

Roger Ambler said there was little to report, except that a Good Practice Guide was being produced, and concern was expressed that some clubs had not yet achieved accreditation.

Any Other Business

1. The Secretary had arranged for a new stock of NEMLA letterheads to be printed, at a cost of £88 for 1000.
2. The Secretary commented on a 'gap' in the existing Senior League Championship Rules which he and Matthew Nugent had discovered in January. As a result he suggested that at the AGM in May an additional Rule be proposed, as follows:
A 11 (the current Rule A 11 to be re-numbered as A 12) -
If a match is played, subsequent to which the Management Committee upholds a protest or claim for points made by the losing team, the records shall show the result of the match as one goal scored by the winners, none by the losers, and the points awarded to the team whose protest or claim is upheld.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....