

THE LONGHORN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE MEMBER-CLUBS' MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2009

AT BRUNTON PARK, CARLISLE

The Chairman, Jim Hunter, was unable to attend this meeting due to work commitments. Deputy Chairman, Peter Renwick took the Chair and opened the Meeting at 7.32pm.

Apologies for absence were received from a number of people. All were noted and accepted. There was however, a healthy number of team representatives present.

There were no matters arising, and the Minutes were accepted as a true record.

The League General Secretary Jim McCracken said that the Minutes of our previous Meeting (held in September) had been posted on the League Web Site, and therefore he did not propose reading them out again. He asked if there were any matters arising, and as there weren't any, the Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Jim told the delegates that as the League were now fully committed to becoming a FA Charter Standard League there were a number of vital matters that needed addressing. The need for a dedicated officer to "drive" the objectives forward had been recognised, and to this end the Management Committee had co-opted Mr. Chris Reid onto the Committee. Chris's remit was to ensure that the League identified and then fulfilled all the necessary requirements to attain the Standard.

Chris Reid then addressed the Meeting and more fully explained the aims, objectives and requirements that we were to undertake.

Chris said he was very confident that we could reach our target as many of the necessities had already been met by our Member Clubs. He further detailed matters as varied as CRB checks, Child Welfare, etc. He said that Teams would possibly be approached for information and appealed for such teams to co-operate with the League as fully as possible.

The General Secretary detailed some matters which were of concern to the Management Committee. These included a clarification of the de-registration of players procedure. The well-worn expression that the Committee were "stopping players playing football" is not only very annoying, but also totally untrue. Irresponsible managers are falling foul of the correct procedures by such methods as coercing players in an attempt to make them move to their club and phone calls direct to members of the Committee.

Bad behaviour was still prevalent from certain parents and players, especially towards match officials. This will not be tolerated in future. Teams were also failing to submit letters of explanation prior to disciplinary hearings. In future such hearings will continue to be held despite the lack of such written evidence.

People connected to our Member Clubs are still approaching the CFA direct before coming to the League Officials. This is contrary to our League Rules and will be dealt with accordingly.

There is a feeling within the CFA that a Under 21 County Cup Competition could be introduced. Jim sought the views of delegates on the subject.

Teams were reminded that they must use the correct age group Team Sheets (particularly at Under 18's). If a player leaves one of our Clubs to join a professional club, our Member Club must inform the League Secretary in writing (as per League Rules).

Jim informed the Meeting that the Royal Air Force had kindly donated three full playing strips as part of their on-going support of the League. It was felt that the fairest way of distributing these would be for teams to submit a request for a strip, in writing, within seven days of tonight's meeting.

A reminder was given that car parking at the Sheepmount must be done in a sensible, considerate manner. Any vehicle parked in such a manner as to cause delay or disruption to the access of emergency vehicles would be clamped, and the owners fined.

Jim pointed out that he had made notes to mention 11 items of interest to Member Clubs at this Meeting and only four of them do not concern Girls football. He said this was in contradiction to those who feel he does not give Girls Football sufficient consideration or publicity.

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mike O'Brien outlined several matters which fell within his remit. He read out the contact telephone number of one of our U16's managers which had recently been changed.

Mike also said it was the responsibility of teams who obtain dressing room keys at the Sheepmount to ensure the accommodation was clean and empty of all property before returning the key to the stadium staff. He repeated Jim McCracken's appeal for sensible, considerate parking, in order to facilitate emergency vehicular access.

Team officials were advised to telephone the Sheepmount regarding fixtures as the winter weather comes in. Mike said it was obligatory for teams to inform him of County Cup results – even if the game isn't played. The importance of

this fact cannot be over-emphasised as future fixture arrangements depend on him having this information. It is also a matter which is covered in our League Rules.

Mike ended by saying that our League Cup games will now not be staged until February, by which time it is hoped the weather will have improved sufficiently to allow them to go ahead!

REFEREES APPOINTMENTS OFFICER'S REPORT

Stephen Fraser informed delegates that matters on the field were going pretty well and he didn't have a lot to report. However he did say he was still receiving some telephone calls at an unreasonably late hour and occasionally his wife had answered the phone. "Mad Madge" isn't happy about this – and teams are warned that an unhappy Mrs Fraser is not a matter to be taken lightly!

Acting Chairman Peter Renwick said he was now putting on his Age Rep cap, and said he was disappointed that we rarely hear of Age Group Meetings or any matters being brought to the Management Committee's attention by the Age Reps.

He therefore invited any Age Reps in the room to stand up and speak if they had any matters of concern. None did! Peter appealed to teams to approach their Age Reps with any concerns they have. He stated that the Rep should be the "first port of call" and often a matter could be resolved without needing to involve the full Committee.

TREASURERS REPORT

Steven Pattison gave a brief outline of our financial position, but said that he had been disturbed to sit and listen to the previous speakers.

Our League is much more successful than people might realise. "It's not all doom and gloom", he stressed. However he had not been aware of the extent of non-compliance with our League Rules by certain individuals and teams. In future he would be asking to be informed of such breaches of the Rules and fines would be imposed.

Colin Seel spoke briefly about the 2010 League Handbook. He intended that it should become more of a "Year Book" with a review of the previous season and much more team and club information featured.

The Team Directory section had become an almost impossible feature, because of the late registration of teams and players. When the current Handbook was published it contained information regarding more than a dozen teams who hadn't at that time even officially registered with the League!

The constant up-dating of information meant that the publication was eventually rushed to the printers with undue haste, in order to ensure proper distribution. This in turn meant that several regrettable errors and omissions occurred.

However he stressed that he would be heavily reliant on teams and individuals to supply information, photographs etc., to make the production of a more “newsy” publication possible. He pointed out that the photographs contained in the current Handbook had cost the League something like £250-£300 to acquire from the Evening News, when individual teams could have e-mailed him similar material entirely free of charge.

Colin appealed to teams to give some serious thought to the matter. “2010-2011 season may appear to be a long way off, at present, but by the time our next meeting comes along, I will be starting to plan the Handbook”, he said.

There were few comments under Any Other Business, and the Meeting was officially closed at 8.03pm.

The next League General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 28 January 2010 at the same venue, starting at 7.30pm.