



The Exeter & District Youth Football League

League Meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
ECFC – Flybe Suite– 7.30PM



### Management Committee Members Present

John Penkethman (JP), Carole Johnson (CJ), Russ Murch (RM), Lynda Penkethman (LP), Julie Logan (JL), Rob Thorne (RT)

### In Attendance

Paul Morrison Devon FA **Chief Executive**, Lee Rider Devon FA **County Development Manager**, Paul McCormick **Head of Contracts and Direct Services ECC**.

### **1. The committee were introduced to the members present**

### **2. Apologies**

Nick Miles, Honiton Town, CREDITON, Sidmouth, Okehampton, Newton Abbot, Exmouth Town Eagles

### **3. Secretary's Reports**

- It was noted that Plate Competition venues for U15s and u12s are still needed or they simply will not be able to take place, requirements are x2 pitches, the league will assist with referees and all required paperwork, the host club will need to provide co-ordinators and facilities for the day
- It was noted by James Clampin (JC)(Exeter Panthers U14's) the Secretary had made an omission in the U14s plate by not including Beacon Knights, this was to be rectified by the Secretary and Beacon Knights would be fairly included into one of the groups, JC also noted the format was different to last year, Secretary responded by informing the meeting of the problems with logistic and venues and the decision was taken to slightly reformat the competition as is permissible under RULE 24 (g) of the handbook
- The draw for the quarter finals of the League cup was made on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February by two independent assistants – The Plate Competition groups were also drawn at the same time to ensure the integrity of the groups
- The Secretary indicated how delighted the committee were that the amount of fines being issued had fallen off dramatically. However, it was pointed out that some clubs are receiving double fines for non payment in the first instance, the League clearly do not have any desire for this to continue and the clubs involved will be spoken to separately.

**Chairman:** John Penkethman  
**Treasurer:** Linda Penkethman  
**Secretary:** Russ Murch  
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- Two requests had been received by the Secretary for clubs wishing to join the League for the 2011/12 season. The first was from a newly formed team/club from Torquay at U15's for the next playing season, it is likely their home games will be played on 3G, no objections were put forward for this any objections with reasoning should be submitted to the League Secretary within 7 days of receipt of these minutes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team seeking inclusion were from North Devon at U16s for the 2011/12 season all managers present unanimously agreed that they should not be included as the travelling distance for some teams would be around 2 hours one way – so the request will be turned down
- 4x4 at U7s was a proposal put forward by the League in conjunction with Devon FA for the 2011/12 season, there was a good deal of interest as to the why's and why not's for this, but it was felt it would be best to carry the matter forward and the Secretary would contact all member clubs to ascertain the feeling and put a further proposal together on how to move forward with the Under 7s in a way that is beneficial to the players development and match day enjoyment

#### 4. **Registration Secretary's reports**

CJ reminded the managers/club secretaries to include a SAE with all transfer requests if they wished to receive written notification of the transfer

CJ thanked the managers for their continued and very much improved effort

#### 5. **Referees Appointment Officer reports**

RT informed the meeting that we now have 60 + referees and a good deal of youngsters coming through who we all need to look after, RT informed all that we were now starting to appoint the newer, younger referees to Under 12 games where there were spaces.

RT informed the meeting, that the League will appoint referees for ALL League Cup Quarter finals

#### 6. **Charter Status Report**

JP informed the meeting that as a Charter Standard League we have to continue with our development plans, more information will be issued following our next Charter meeting.



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#### 7. Chairman's Update

JP started the update by informing the meeting of Devon FA's intention to hand back money collected from the ID card scheme over the last 3 years.

Paul Morrison added clarification to the matter, informing the meeting that numerous ideas had been put forward and discussed with the DFA on how to manage the funds and the fairest way they saw to move forward was to divide the sum of money (in the region of £15,000) between all the Leagues involved in order that the Leagues could work with their member clubs to find a fair and sensible way in which they could put the money back into the clubs.

It was explained that the money would be divided by the amount of teams that are members of each League so The Exeter & District would for instance receive a much larger share than say the Juventus league, simply based on the amount of teams.

The subject of fines being issued was again mentioned by JP as there were discussions at the open forum as to the suitability of some fines being issued, the League were in agreement that some misdemeanours that teams are being fined for will need fine tuning, this will be looked at by the Management Committee and circulated prior to the AGM pre 2011/12 season

#### 8. Any Other Business

Council Pitch –Potential Closures. This was really the main topic of the evening and **Paul McCormick (PM)** Head of Contracts and Direct Services ECC was present to talk through the situation.

PM made it very clear from his opening statement that the information that was forwarded previously from an Exeter City Council employee was not correct and was badly worded – for which PM offered his apologies. The focal point was the potential closure of Bromhams which would have an immediate effect on Alphington Football Club (5 junior and 1 Senior team), this in turn would affect all other clubs and council pitch allocation.

Alphington Chairman Dave Hitt asked PM why there was no consultation prior to any decision being made; this was echoed by Central, Stoke Hill and Pinhoe. PM reiterated the information sent out was indeed not correct and that all clubs and Leagues should have been liaised with prior to this evenings meeting which was supposed to be the starting point of discussions.

The meeting was informed by PM that prior to this meeting the council had met and in principle agreed that the closure of the 5 pitches at Bromhams should go to the full council for a final decision unless an alternative answer could be found. PM informed the meeting of the council's requirement to cut costs for the current year by some £2.4 million which made it inevitable that the sports facilities would have to take some kind of a hit.

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Several ideas were put forward including the clubs themselves taking control of the grounds to remove the financial short-fall the council has and after much debate and points of view being expressed it was agreed that the main parties involved would hold a meeting with PM next week (Monday) to start working through a plan of action.

Mr McCormick gave all those present his personal assurance that whatever the outcome this year in terms of having to make savings, that the following year where a reported £750,000 will need to be cut, **NO** football facilities will be targeted

9. **U15 Managers mini meeting**

This was very informal and it was simply to reiterate the request by the North Devon side to enter the League at U16s – it was unanimously turned down.

THE DATE OF THE NEXT LEAGUE MEETING WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE LEAGUE WEBSITE

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