



The Exeter & District Youth Football League
Pre-season Meeting Tuesday 25th August 2009
Flybe Suite – St James Park



Apologies

Nigel Doe, Stephen Birley, Steve May (Exwick)

Management Committee Members Present

John Penkethman (JP), Carole Johnson (CJ), Russ Murch (RM), Lynda Penkethman (LP), Julie Logan (JL), Nick Miles (NM)

In Attendance

Simon Hayward (SH) from the Exeter City Centre of Excellence.

Chairman's introduction

JP opened the meeting at 7.20 pm and welcomed everybody to the meeting informing everyone who was not already aware that this was the 15th season for the League which has seen it grow and go from strength to strength. JP brought to the attention of the floor the Respect rule, which the League has adopted, and all clubs will be expected to adhere to this during the 2009/10 season.

JP noted that there were still two League Cups un-returned from last season. JP to follow up.

Secretary's Report

Season's Fixtures: RM indicated he had tried to accommodate as many requests as possible regarding dates for fixtures and that the 21st August deadline for changes would be extended and that all managers, if requiring to change a fixture, should liaise and mutually agree between themselves the new date and then inform RM in order that the fixture list can be updated.

Cup Dates and Venues: The first three rounds of the Cup for all age groups have been set (1st Round: 17th October, 2nd Round: 14th November, Quarter Finals: 30th January 2010). RM had been in discussion with Devon County FA in regards to potentially playing all semi-finals for all age groups at the Devon FA Headquarters at Coach Road, Newton Abbot under floodlights in mid-week games. It was felt that a vote should be held as to whether managers felt this was what they wanted. JP proposed the vote which was seconded by Brett Collins (Exmouth Eagles U13s) and the motion was carried with only one vote against. RM is to follow this up with Paul Morrison at the FA, the likelihood being that the games will all be played in the first three weeks of March 2010. The League will be paying for the venue and will be sourcing officials for the games. Further to the semi-finals being played under floodlights, RM has been in talks with Simon Hayward of Exeter City CoE,

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who together will hopefully have put together a strong enough case that has been presented to the powers that be at Exeter City so as we will hopefully be able to play the finals at Exeter City's St James Park during May 2010. Please be aware this may clash with the FA Cup final.

Council Pitches: RM referenced the rules for all member clubs who play on council pitches that are within the licence agreements they have. Galvin Short of Exeter City Council asked that it was reiterated the importance of these rules and that all clubs **must** adhere to them at **all** times, or they run the risk of losing their pitch facilities. It was also discussed that all teams playing on Council pitches should be aware that changing rooms will only be open a maximum of 30 minutes prior to the official start time of each game, so visiting teams should be aware that they may have to warm up prior to being able to get changed, or wear kit to the game.

New Teams: During pre-season there have been a few comings and goings of teams within the League at various age groups and RM took this opportunity to welcome into the League the new Seaton Town U13s, Twyford U11s and Brixington Utd U11s.

Registration Officers Report

CJ reiterated the importance of all managers ensuring that player registrations and transfer paperwork were filled in correctly and submitted to her without delay. The League has in excess of 2500 players and currently CJ has only had around 250 registrations to process. CJ reiterated that if any manager or club secretary has problems with the forms then to ensure they contact her without delay.

ID Cards: The ongoing subject of ID cards was brought up. CJ indicated there would be a batch of processed cards being sent out from DFA within the coming week. CJ re-confirmed that during the transfer process ID cards should be sent from the old club to the new club's secretary for processing.

Referees Appointment Officer Report

JL informed the floor that there was a shortage of qualified referees in the East Devon area (Seaton, Sidmouth, Sidbury, etc). Most games in the U12s through to and including U14s have referee appointments made for the entire season. However, there are some gaps and the League Management Committee have agreed that if there are volunteers who wish to be put through the refereeing course and are prepared to referee in the East Devon area, the League will fund the course. This will be done on the understanding that if somebody takes the offer up they will be affiliated to referee for the Exeter and District Youth League for a minimum of 2 years and would be required to repay the funding should they leave before that period has ended. Ian Peacock from Sidmouth mentioned to JL he would contact her regarding some youngsters that may be available for the area.

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Simon Hayward – Exeter City Centre of Excellence

SH was in attendance to answer questions and give information regarding Exeter City CoE and the agreement the League and the CoE have regarding the eligibility of players. SH reiterated what the League have agreed with them in terms of there being no gray area this season. If a player is contracted to the CoE, they CANNOT play within the League. Trialists may continue to play until formally signed up. SH further emphasised the desire of the League and the CoE to work together with clubs to ensure we can all make sure we have the players' best interests at heart and help them in their football development. SH extended the invitation for clubs should they so desire to go along to CoE training sessions to observe how they do things. Notice would need to be given and enquiries should be passed through RM, the League Secretary. SH also invited teams, should they so wish, to apply to him for match day tickets to first team games (SH would not be able to guarantee tickets but would do his best to help).

Cup draws

The draws for age groups U9s through to and including U14s was made. All details have now been published on the website. The second round draw will be made at a date yet to be announced. This will be confirmed via the website when known.

Any Other Business and Questions raised by Clubs

No other Business

Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed on the Website.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.