

CROWBOROUGH & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24/03/21 VIA ZOOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul McCarthy, Trevor Brand, Matt Miller, Aaron Hill Stuart Newman, John Elliott, Trudi O'Neill, Andy Stevens, Will Jeffries

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: David Cole

1. **WELCOME FROM CHAIRMAN**

Paul McCarthy, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following the recent Government announcement allowing return to football on 29th March, we are now awaiting further FA guidance.

Matt Miller ran over etiquette for the meeting and, as previously advised, indicated that Clubs would be asked to vote on two proposals, which would appear as a box on the screen and requested that only one person per Club vote. Also third option in box to indicate expression of interest regarding the proposal from Rotherfield re 9v9 playing option for U13s next season, to be discussed in due course.

2. **MINUTES OF FULL LEAGUE MEETING HELD 20 AUGUST 2020**

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record – Proposed by George Brand, Pembury and Seconded by Dave Lee, Crowborough

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM ABOVE MINUTES**

No matters arising. John Elliot, Treasurer, confirmed club cash statements had been circulated.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

No update as there had been no football and thanked all Clubs for their patience and perseverance during these challenging times. The League committee are working hard to get back to providing some football and normality as soon as possible and thanked the Club's for their support.

5. **CURRENT 2020/21 PLAYING SEASON**

The Management Committee met on 25 February to discuss options for the remainder of the season. Given the current timescale, it was agreed that this didn't provide sufficient time to complete all games in the current format, also taking into account lack of pitch availability due to cricket and council controlled pitches. It was therefore proposed that the current format be abandoned.

6. **PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR REMAINDER OF 2020/21 SEASON**

- 6.1 **U11s – U18s:** Aaron explained the proposed 6-week round robin tournament to commence 10/11 April, with the season ending by 23rd May, this allows an extra week from the previously advised date of 16th May for any changes or postponements. Plan is for this to be ability-based, but we await further confirmation from the FA as to any geographical/travelling restrictions before fixtures can be drawn up.

All teams would be assumed to be included unless they advise the League otherwise by the deadline of 15 March. Aware some Clubs have been in conversation with local authorities to allow goals to remain in place for longer.

Please ensure you advise League by 15 March latest if any teams do not wish to take part or do not have access to pitches for any part of the competition, so this can be figured into the fixtures.

6.2 Mini Soccer fixtures would also be cast with 3 matches per age group from 10th April - u8/u10s first followed by u7/u9s.

6.3 Proposal from Rotherfield FC for U13s for 2021/22 season

Aaron also covered the request received from Rotherfield FC regarding U13s staying at 9v9 for the 2021/22 season due to playing time lost during this and previous season. Clubs would be given the opportunity to vote for 'an expression of interest' for this proposal, which will be discussed at the next Management meeting on 1st April.

6.4 Clubs were asked to VOTE using the voting box shown on screen.

The results were as follows:

Vote 1 – Proposal by the League Management Committee to abandon the current 2020/21 season: FOR: 50 votes (92%); AGAINST 4 (8%) – proposal carried;

Vote 2 – What to do going forward: Revised 6-week round robin competition – 53 votes (98%); No further league arranged football until 2021/22 season – 1 vote (2%) – round robin competition carried;

Expression of Interest (not a vote) for U13s staying at 9v9 for 2021/22 season:

FOR: 21 (46%); AGAINST: 25 (54%), 8 clubs abstained as no u13s teams.

7. **OFFICERS REPORTS/UPDATES WHERE APPLICABLE**

7.1 **League Secretary**

Trevor advised that Player Registration within Whole Game will be changing/updated – Clubs should have received invite to attend webinars, further information can be found at <https://grassrootstechnology.thefa.com>. Site will be down between 10 and 17 March to transfer all current data across and update, so please submit any new player registrations for consideration (registration cut-off for this season was 24 Feb for U11 to U18) before 10 March if possible. Reminder that a parental email must be included for all players from 2021/22 season.

7.2 **9v9 and 11v11 Secretaries**

Aaron and Andy thanked all Clubs for support and for what had been a successful season up until lockdown. Reminder to please let them know by 15 March of any teams not wanting to enter and any pitch issues etc.

7.3 **League Treasurer**

Club Cash statements had been circulated prior to meeting and all balances would be carried to 2021/22 season. Should a Club leave then this will be credited after AGM.

Approval of League Cash Statement was Proposed by: John Elliott and Seconded by Hastings United Youth.

7.4 **Welfare Officer**

Advised that DBS and First Aid records that had previously been extended would be showing on WGS under team coaches and should be renewed on or before expiry. All courses are now being organised online by FA Education, not County FAs, and should be launched in April. Details for courses - Level 1, Safeguarding, First aid and Welfare Officer Workshops can be found on The Boot Room website - <https://thebootroom.thefa.com> - where you can also register your interest.

7.5 **Referees Secretary**

Matt confirmed that allocation of referees would be on same basis as before with KO time to be entered latest 9pm on a Monday and requested that teams stagger KO times. Confirmed Referees fees remain the same.

7.6 **Trophy Officer**
Nothing to report.

7.7 **Affiliations Officer**
Nothing to report.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 Langton Green asked if there is the possibility of an U17 division next season – Aaron replied that due to the way the current divisions are set up, we would not split U17 and U18s.

8.2 Ide Hill asked for confirmation re how old a player has to be to take part in u17/u18 football – players must be 15 by 31st August in a playing season.

All other questions asked were answered during the course of the meeting.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual General Meeting to be held 17 June 2021.