

DEVON COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Devon FA Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 17th June 2023 in person at The Corner Flag, Coach Road 10.45am

Attendance

D. Parish, (Leader of Council), J. Street, (Chair of the Board), C. Cole, (Financial Director), C. French, M. Benney, (President), M. Willey, P. Morrison, T. Sampson, A. Bewes, A. Green, A. Alcock, B. Leach, C. Rea, C. Stephens, D. Froot, D. Henson, D. Loder, D. Richardson, D. Smith, Ivor Phillips, J. Hockin, K. Hawkins, K. Mann, M. Buley, M. Phillips, N. Anthony, N. Chapman, N. Pearce, P. Kennard, P. Alsop, R. Bonaparte, R. Brown, R. Hawker, S. Rothwell, S. Winstanley, & Sean Smith, (Thomas Westcott).

Clubs Present

Ipplepen Athletic, Brixham AFC, Newtown, Priory FC, Paignton Saints FC, and Liverton United.

Not Present – C. Davey, D. Blanchford, D. Hedges, I. Leonard, J. Lacy, J. Holwell, L. Brooks, M. Scott, M. Baitup, M. Norman, N. Campbell, N. Jones, R. Tapp, and S. Smith.

1. Presidents Welcome

President, Mervyn Benney opened the meeting and thanked those attending and asked everyone to stand to pay respects to those we have lost in the football family over the last 12 months.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 9th June 2022

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 9th June 2022 were accepted as a true record following a proposal by M Buley which was seconded by R Hawker.

C. French informed Council that Pioneer Youth League were missing from the attendance list, and this will be amended.

3. To Submit the Associations' Chair of Directors Report

J. Street in addition to his report already circulated to Council through the executive report, congratulated Chris French on his appointment as the Chief Executive of Devon County Football Association and informed Council of the following.

- a. On Thursday 8th June Tim Foster, (Head of Operations for The Football Association), presented Devon FA with the FA Code of Governance award.
- b. Thanked all the volunteers for their efforts in supporting the many Cup Finals played at Coach Road.
- c. The seats in the stand have been refurbished and there will be some further refurbishment in the Corner Flag.

4. Submit the Associations Leader of Council Report

D. Parish in addition to his report wanted to say what a fantastic job Paul has done in bringing the County to its current standard and is looking forward to leading the Council in what he hopes will be an exciting future.

5. To Submit a Statement of Accounts for 12 months ending 31st December 2021

C Cole went through the end of year accounts for 2022 that had already been circulated and discussed in the last meeting.

S Smith from Thomas Westcott explained the accounts presented were the summarised version and if members wished to see the full accounts, this could be arranged through the County Office.

There were no questions from those in attendance.

The Statement of Accounts were accepted as a true record and were proposed by N. Pearce and seconded by D. Smith.

6. To Submit 2023 – 2024 Devon FA Rules - (County Cups)

As this was previously discussed with the Chair of the Cups Committee, M. Buley proposed, to vote the County Cup rules en bloc and remove rule 8.

The motion was carried.

The list of the rules that were agreed and passed are at the end of these minutes.

7. Election of President and Vice President

The following positions were agreed by all present
President – Mervyn Benney
Vice President – David Blanchford
The motion was carried.

J. Street asked Council to wish Paul a fond farewell as the outgoing CEO of Devon County FA and went on to thank Paul along with D. Parish for the fantastic job he has done for the County of Devon over the past 17 years.

P. Morrison thanked everyone and went on to say what a pleasure it has been working for the Devon FA and wished C. French all the best in his role as the new CEO of the Devon County FA.

8. Date of the next AGM

Saturday 15th June 2024 – venue to be confirmed.

The President M. Benney wished everybody all the best for the new season and a safe journey home.

.....Chair

County Cup Rules Revision – 22/23

4. Entry of Clubs

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
(a) All applications for entry to the County Cup Competition must be made not later than 31st July for Adult Competitions and 31st August for Youth Competitions. The appropriate entry fee must accompany such applications.	(a) All applications for entry to the County Cup Competition must be made not later than 31st July for Saturday Competitions & St Lukes Cup, 31st August for all Youth Competitions and 30 th September for Women’s Cups, Sunday Cups, Veterans Cups and Midweek Cups. The appropriate entry fee must accompany such applications.	The Sunday, Veterans and Midweek Cups can then start in October when teams are playing, and leagues settled.
(d) Should a Club or Team resign from a League it will be excluded from any County Cup Competition that the Club or Team has entered.	Add rule (d)(i) (d)(i) Where a club has more than 1 team eligible to enter a County Cup Competition, should the higher ranked team be excluded from the competition the club may replace the higher ranked team with the lower ranked team within 48 hours of the notice of exclusion being issued. Should the club exercise this clause then any sanction issued against the higher ranked team will be withdrawn.	A club may only enter one team per cup competition, and should the higher ranked team withdraw from their league then this would leave the club with no entry into the cup competition. This rule gives the club the choice to replace the team with the 2nd ranked team and as the team is in a lower league competition then there will be no impact from a competitive point of view.

5. Qualification of Players

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
(a) A player is eligible to compete in County Cup competitions if they have been registered for SEVEN days for their club in a competition sanctioned by the association. In the case of the Semi Final and Final ties (with the exception of the Midweek Cup) the player must have played THREE league matches in the current season for the team for which they are registered. In the case of the Semi Final and Final ties for the Midweek Cup the player must have played ONE competitive match for the team for which they have been registered and must have been registered for TWENTY-ONE days prior to the match.	(a) A player is eligible to compete in County Cup competitions if they have been registered for SEVEN days for their team in a competition sanctioned by the association. In the case of the Semi Final and Final ties (with the exception of the Midweek Cup) the player must have played THREE league matches in the current season for the team for which they are registered. In the case of the Semi Final and Final ties for the Midweek Cup the player must have played ONE competitive match for the team for which they have been registered and must have been registered for TWENTY-ONE days prior to the match.	The word club causes confusion.

9. Playing of Ties

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
9(f) In all Competitions and all rounds the Club having choice of ground must notify their opponents and the appointed Official, SEVEN clear days before the date of the match where the game is to be played, giving the location of changing accommodation, shirts, shorts and socks colours, kick-off time an any other relevant information. Any Club failing to notify their opponents or referee shall be fined.	9(f) In all Competitions and all rounds the Club having choice of ground must notify their opponents and the appointed Official, FOUR clear days before the date of the match where the game is to be played, giving the location of changing accommodation, shirts, shorts and socks colours, kick-off time an any other relevant information. Any Club failing to notify their opponents, or referee shall be fined.	Fixtures are typically rearranged on the Monday and therefore 7 days' notice is not possible and also with electronic communication being instant 4 days' notice is plenty.

11. Penalties for Breach of Rules

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
<p>11.(c) Any club refusing to play a club against which it has been drawn, within the time stipulated and without sufficient reason for doing so, giving less than FORTY-EIGHT HOURS notice to their opponents, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and shall pay a fine. A reimbursement shall be awarded to the opposing team amounting to 50% of the imposed sanction to cover any costs they may have incurred.</p>	<p>11.(c) Any club refusing to play a club against which it has been drawn, within the time stipulated and without sufficient reason for doing so, giving less than FORTY-EIGHT HOURS notice to their opponents, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and shall pay a fine. A reimbursement shall be awarded to the opposing team amounting to £50 of the imposed sanction to cover any costs they may have incurred.</p>	<p>£50 compensation is considered a suitable amount and should not be increased per round. The fines tariff will also be amended to reflect this change.</p>

13. Semi Final and Final Ties

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
<p>Semi-final ties are to be played on the first drawn clubs home venue with the exception of the Premier Cup semi-finals which will be played on grounds as determined by the Competition Secretary. All Final ties are to be played at the County Headquarters. The competing Clubs in Semi-Finals and Finals must submit details of their travelling expenses within FOURTEEN days to the Association, such travelling expenses shall be as per Cup fees tariff for the return journey from and to the club's headquarters irrespective of the mode of transport or number of vehicles used. The following items shall be a charge on receipts (less VAT where applicable) or collection - Printing, Posting, Advertising and Police charges, Referee and Assistant Referee fees and the travelling expenses of the competing clubs. Clubs engaged in these ties shall receive at least FOURTEEN days' notice of venue and time of kick-off. Each Club shall receive one-third of the unexpended balance within TWENTY-EIGHT days thereafter. The appointed Match Referee or an appointed Deputy shall only postpone a Final or Semi Final due to adverse playing conditions on the day of the Match.</p>	<p>(a) Semi-final ties are to be played on the first drawn clubs home venue. All Final ties are to be played at the County Headquarters. The competing Clubs in Finals must submit details of their travelling expenses within FOURTEEN days to the Association, such travelling expenses shall be as per Cup fees tariff for the return journey from and to the club's headquarters irrespective of the mode of transport or number of vehicles used.</p> <p>(b) The following items shall be a charge on receipts (less VAT where applicable) or collection - Printing, Posting, Advertising, Catering, Police and Security charges, Referee and Assistant Referee fees and the travelling expenses of the competing clubs.</p> <p>(c) Each Club shall receive one-third of the unexpended balance within TWENTY-EIGHT days thereafter.</p> <p>(d) The appointed Match Referee or an appointed Deputy shall only postpone a Final or Semi Final due to adverse playing conditions on the day of the Match.</p> <p>(e) The first drawn club in each Semi Final, with the exception of the St Lukes Challenge Cup & Women's Premier Cup, shall pay the fees of the appointed Referees and Assistant Referees on the day and then, within FOURTEEN days to the competition secretary, submit a claim for reimbursement of these paid fees in accordance to the Cup Fees Tariff.</p>	<p>Premier Cup Semi Finals are no longer played on neutral grounds during the week and so the ties are played as per every other round.</p> <p>Semi Final travel expenses were paid when there was an expectation for clubs to travel at this stage having competed regionally up to this point. As the competitions are now open draws from round one, there is no logical reason as to why travel should be paid for the semi-finals.</p> <p>Additional costs added to the lists of items paid for from Finals receipts.</p> <p>Additional (e) added to make it clear that appointed match officials costs can be claimed for Semi Finals.</p> <p>St Lukes Cup and women's Premier Cup an exception as they have 3 officials appointed for all rounds and so paying for three officials is the norm for these competitions.</p>

Additional County Cup Rules

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
All Youth U16 and below are 11am kick off's, all U18 games are at 2pm and all Girls Cups kick off at 2pm.	All Girls, Youth U16 and below are 11am kick off's, all U18 games are at 2pm	Majority of Girls games now kick off in the morning

St Luke's Challenge Cup

Current Rule	Proposed Rule	Rationale
New rule to handbook	A player is eligible to compete in the St Luke's Challenge Cup if they have been registered for their club prior to the match.	To make current rules clearer