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**MINUTES OF THE
LONDON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CUPS & COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 26 JULY 2021**

Chairman Ian Wallis opened the meeting at 18:35 by greeting those present.

Members Present:- I Wallis, K Wilmot, M Burke, G Etchell, O Flynn, J Hind, A Sanchez-Buitrago H Tackoukraft and D Wolff.

LFA Staff:- P Trivedi, J Horne, A Howden and J Crichlow.

Apologies:- G Harknett.

Absent:- I Gazi and L Newham.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the meeting was conducted using Microsoft Teams, except for Michael Burke who attending the meeting via Conference Line.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. I Wallis pointed out that J Hind was present at the last meeting but unfortunately was not shown as present. Proposed D Wolff and Seconded by K Wilmot the minutes were unanimously approved.

Matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising from the minutes

Safeguarding. There were no matters on safeguarding to discuss.

Cup Competitions. J Horne reported that he had distributed to all Committee members the number of teams that have applied to enter LFA cups next season. The figures, however, are down on last season. The normal trait is that clubs have not yet got into the swing of their pre-season clerical work. On the up side numbers are increasing day on day and he will send an update to Committee members after 31 July which is the closing date to enter LFA cups.

J Horne also reported that he had dispatched to Committee members the list of

dates cup games are to be played from 1st round right through to the final. D Wolff brought to the attention of the Committee that the finals for the Sunday Trophy and the Sunday Junior Cup are to be played on the same day. This may throw up logistical problems for the allocation of Cup Committee members. J Horne replied that because we have a large pool of referees we can now appoint a referee to each cup match.

To date the girls under 18s has not a single cup entry. All other girls' cups have entries.

D Wolff requested that all Cup Committee members receive as soon as possible the names of teams and the cups they have entered so we can veto them to ensure they are allocated entry into the cup of their standard. J Horne said the draw for cups will be made 28 days before the ties are to be played and a copy will be sent to Cup Committee members.

It was agreed that the LFA Senior Cup and LFA Senior Trophy will be drawn by the LFA Cups and Competitions Committee on a date yet to be decided.

G Etchell suggested that the earlier rounds should be completed as quickly as possible. Is there any logistical reason why rounds are scheduled to be played three weeks apart instead of four weeks? J Horne replied that the reason is the weather and Covid 19 could well raise its head again. Because of a large influx of referees we have a genuine chance of having an official for all cup games.

J Horne is to establish the names of all the teams who have not entered the Senior Cup this season. For instance Dartford and Wingate & Finchley are both late with their affiliation but he expects them to enter.

A Howden gave a power point presentation on last season's LFA Junior cup. The presentation showed, amongst many other stats, the number of games that ended in a heavy defeat for one team. There followed a lengthy debate on the presentation. D Wolff suggested that we could seed teams. K Wilmot felt that it would be extremely difficult to put teams of equal ability against each other.

The discussion also suggested that teams getting well beaten may well end up being a learning curve for them. It also gives clubs a change of opposition and venues. J Horne suggested that teams getting well beaten may not enter a cup for the following season.

Large scores do not tell us if either side did not have a full team. J Horne informed the meeting that we do not have that statistic.

G Etchell pointed out that teams who are strong this season may well be weaker next season. It is our duty to do the best for our teams.

I Wallis said the season is about to start and he was reluctant to alter things now.

G Etchell asked if we could pilot a seeding scheme of clubs for this season. Weaker teams to play each other and the better teams to play each other.

No proposals were made on the above but it was agreed we will discuss it for season 2021/22.

It was agreed the presentation given by A Howden was very informative.

All Members received changes to Adult, Youth and Girls cup rules which are now with the LFA Sanctions Committee.

I Wallis will look at the rules for the Champions Cups.

Correspondence:- No correspondence were received.

Any Other Business. There was no other business to discuss.

Date of next meeting:- It was agreed the next meeting will be held on Monday 27 September 2021 commencing at 18:30. It is hoped by the proposed date we will be able to have a face to face meeting. Should this not be possible the meeting will be conducted using Microsoft Teams.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19:57.