

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the CUP COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, commencing 6.35pm.

Present: I. L. Wallis (acting Chairman), M. Burke (South West), K. Wilmot (North East), D.A. Wolff (Vice President) G.J. Etchell (Vice President), G. Harknett (Youth), A. Sanchez-Buitrago (Youth), O. Flynn, Ms. J. Hind, I. Gazi, H. Tachoukraft, P. Bickerton (LFA CEO), Ms P. Trivedi (Head of Football Services) J. Horne (Cups Officer), J. Critchlow (Football Services).

Absent: L. Newhan (South East).

**1821. Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

They were accepted as an accurate record.

**1822. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**1823. Safeguarding**

There were no safeguarding issues to discuss.

**1824. Acting Chairman's Introduction**

ILW welcomed the newly appointed Committee and the representatives from the London FA office, in particular Priti Trivedi, the recently appointed Head of Football Services.

He explained that as the LFA Director allocated to the Cups Committee he would chair this first Meeting. Nominations for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary should be submitted to him and the Committee will vote on them at the next Meeting.

It was explained that JH and any other staff members in attendance are encouraged to participate fully and give their views, but will not have a vote.

The Committee was reminded that where members have connections with leagues or clubs, any conflict of interest must be notified and if necessary the persons concerned will be asked to retire while the item is discussed.

**1825. Cup Competitions 2020-21**

Unlike most other county F.A's, we did not cancel our cup competitions when lockdown was introduced and with the recent Government announcement that grass roots football may be able to re-commence from 29<sup>th</sup> March, the Committee debated at length whether or not we should attempt to continue with our competitions or not.

Thanks were given to JH for supplying detailed information concerning the current position with each of the cups along with detailed responses from the leagues who had been asked to give their views.

JH was strongly in favour of continuing with our cups, but on the understanding that our fixtures would not take precedence over league fixtures, but be fitted in around them.

There were concerns that even if clubs were offered the opportunity to withdraw without penalty, those that wished to continue would have difficulty in obtaining pitches during May and June and there was no space in the calendar to allow for postponements through bad weather

