

Minutes of a meeting of the CUP COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE held at Palestra House, London SE1 8NJ on **Monday 23rd September 2019**, commencing 7.10pm.

Present: I. L. Wallis (Chairman), A. Brown (North East), K. Wilmot (North East), I. Burke (Youth), D. Hooker (Youth), G. Harknett (Youth), L. Newham (South East), A. I. Gilbey (North East), G. Rodber (South West), D. A. Wolff (Vice President), J. Horne (Cups Officer), M. Burke (Associate Member), J. Middlehurst (LFA Chairman), H. Gilroy (Head of Engagement), P. Bickerton (CEO)

Apologies for absence: A. Sanchez (Youth), G. J. Etchell (Vice President),

1753. **Open Discussion**

This unscheduled meeting had been called at the request of five Committee Members, owing to the ongoing problems around the various LFA Cups which have led to an unprecedented level of complaints from both clubs and leagues.

HG explained that the initial delays had arisen through errors by inexperienced members of staff who failed to correctly register cup entries when completing the affiliation process. As a result the draws could not be made on time and considerable extra work became necessary in manually checking each affiliation to find those with unrecorded cup entries.

DAW suggested that an earlier cut-off date for affiliations could avoid this problem. GH observed that a similar situation over staff training had occurred last year. ILW said that we should stop making excuses and suggested that an apology should be made to each of our leagues by the CEO, as currently there is considerable discontent at the way our Cups have been delivered.

The inadequacies of the website were discussed and PB explained that an agency had recently been employed to manage communications. DAW drew attention to the shortcomings of the Full Time system. GH complained that only now was notification being given for fixtures to be played this weekend. JH countered by explaining that only Sunday Adult teams were affected by Full Time problems.

IB outlined the many problems with the Youth Cups including draws, fixture changes and late notifications. Every one of these issues adds extra work for league fixture secretaries. IB also called for at least 3 weeks notice of changes.

In future the Committee must take over a great deal more responsibility for the draws as this chaos must never happen again. ILW suggested that the office advise the number of entries received and the names of the teams so that before the draws are approved, the Committee can check that everything is correct.

DAW pointed out that the early round for all the three Adult Sunday Cups are scheduled to be played on the same date. JH promised that this would not occur again. IB felt that had consultation been made, the U17 and U18 Cups could have been merged.

IB stressed the importance of the full draws appearing on the website and results being recorded at an early stage. JH agreed that this will be done.

GH pointed out that several clubs had still not completed their affiliation and that one of the teams scheduled to play in the Champions Cup was among them.

1754. Any Other Business

Brentford have requested to play in black for their Senior Cup match against Beckenham Town. After discussion it was agreed that they should ask if their opponents will agree to change if they do not have any other kit than red/white and black.

Putney Town v Battersea Park Rangers (Sunday Challenge)

This match cannot be played as scheduled as Putney have other Cup commitments.

Match to be re-scheduled on 13th October.

Proposed D. Hooker Seconded G. Harknett (Carried 7-0, 1 Abstained)

GR did not take part in the decision making for this item.

KW confirmed that the remainder of the draw for the Senior Cup would take place at the conclusion of the meeting.

1755. Date of next Meeting

Monday 21st October. Venue to be advised.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.15pm