

	<p style="text-align: center;">Swindon & District Football League Annual General Meeting Via Webex Thursday 18th June 2020</p>
Present	<p>Committee:</p> <p>Pete Mildenhall (PM)- President Peter Cejer (PC) John Luckhurst (JL) Martyn Rosewell (MR) Chris Ricketts (CR) Ian Rosewell (IR) Mark Parish-Haines (MPH)</p> <p>Participated Clubs: (new clubs*) The following clubs/referees were recorded, if you did participate but not listed here please let me know and I will update the record?</p> <p>Ashton Keynes, Bassett Bulldogs, Blunsdon, Chiseldon, Cricklade Reserves, Down Ampney, Hatherop*, Highworth Town Development, Intel*, Lower Stratton, Marlborough Town Reserves, Moredon, Priory Vale, Ramsbury, Redhouse, Swindon AFC, Swindon Supermarine Development, Wheatsheaf. (18)</p> <p>Log in issues were caused by attempting to join before the FA opened the meeting. We will look to resolve this issue for any future events – notably if you got/get the “password required” it is simply that the meeting has not yet been opened within the technology, so please be patient. Unable to join in the meeting that we are aware of were Spectrum, and North Swindon. If you were also unable to join please let me know?</p> <p>Referees Jeremy Moyes, Ted Lewis Brian Bennett-Murdoch Paul Boyles</p> <p>County FA: Emma Cottier- Small (EC-S)</p>

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Apologies received from committee members: Colin Tewkesbury, Jimmy Horwood

Apologies received from clubs: Regent, Swindon Centurions, Nalگو

1. Open meeting

The first ever virtual meeting was slightly delayed by a few *logging in issues*, but the AGM finally got under way at 7.10pm

PM welcomed the 37 people that had tuned in to the first ever virtual AGM, a mixture of clubs, referees, committee and County Officers, to the 130th meeting, and read out the apologies received. He said that up until 1 hour ago we had a membership of 28, but Abbey Meads, have now decided to pull out as they cannot guarantee enough players, and didn't want the prospect of fines for calling games off. PM said that in these unprecedented times the committee was working hard to prepare all clubs for a September start, although with the social distance ruling nobody knows what the future holds and when we can actually start the season? So far training is allowed with groups of 6 or less, under strict guidelines.. We are prepared to hold another meeting with you (EGM) in August if the Government gives further indication when we can start.

The committee had been adapting using video technology to hold meetings.

Last season, which had already been hampered by long periods of wet weather, was brought to a close in March by the Covid 19 outbreak, with the season declared null and void in line with other Leagues in the County.

The George Thomas/Don Rogers Cup, the only trophy awarded, will be shared by the two finalist Nalگو and Wroughton Reserves. – Congratulations are extended to both clubs.

Resultant from the curtailment of the 2019/2020 season, the League as supported by the FA have agreed that all League and Cup entry for existing clubs is free next season along

with 15 free player registration forms, (additional forms will be charged at £1.00 per player) . New clubs both have and will pay the full price, as per the agreed charges..

The County Affiliation fee has also been waived with only the Junior Cup fee to be paid

It is also worth noting that 2020/2021 FA affiliations via Whole Game System, are now open.

2 Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM were circulated prior to the AGM were approved and signed as a true record.

3 To Consider Any Business Arising

The ABA from the last meeting were circulated prior to the AGM with no questions received from the clubs.

4 Election of officers

The proposed committee was circulated prior to the AGM, and with no objections received, Martyn Rosewell was duly elected as Chairman and Ian Rosewell replaces Chris Ricketts as Results Secretary. JH's new role as Club Liaison Officer, as well as continuing with Social media can be your first contact including any help with your Charter Standard applications. CT will also continue as The League's FA Council Representative.

So your committee next season is

- Chairman & Cups secretary - Martyn Rosewell
- General Secretary - John Luckhurst
- Treasurer & Discipline Secretary - Peter Cejer
- Referee Secretary - Mark Parish-Haines
- Fixture Secretary (President) - Peter Mildenhall
- Registration Secretary - Colin Tewkesbury
- Results Secretary - Ian Rosewell
- Club Liaison Officer – Jimmy Horwood
- Committee member – Chris Ricketts

Some of your committee members are operating 2 roles, if you would like to join the management committee please let JL know?

5 Chairman's address

MR thanked everybody for joining in with the meeting, and for supporting his election as Chairman.

He said he would like to have more engagements/meetings with clubs either in person or using video technologies such as this.

MR announced the launch of the "The League's new Respect Campaign"

A copy of the campaign was circulated prior to the AGM. He says we hope you all engage with it. It is important for the enjoyment of all that people behave on and off the pitch and we will be getting more involved with reported incidents that cross the boundaries of Respect. MR also stated that the league will be defining a zero-tolerance policy for Respect related issues and more details will be issued before the season starts and this will apply across the board, without exception. The league committee would like to carry out a survey with our clubs and details will follow later.

As part of the increased engagement with clubs, the league committee is proposing to carry out a short survey with our clubs, details to follow later but please continue to contact any league official with any matters you wish to discuss.

MR also confirmed that we have revamped the league's website, so please visit the site <http://swindondistrictfootballleague.co.uk/> as this will become a primary platform to share some information, plus as part of the revamp we have added a number of items, such as club contacts, match forms, etc. – My thanks go to Peter Cejer, James Lovell and Jimmy Horwood for driving the revamp.

The County FA have moved out of their offices in Dorcan and their new Devizes HQ is now open, and I will try and get along to meet the staff when they eventually are back to work.

6 Referee Secretary Address

The referee's address was circulated prior to the meeting.

A few questions were received before the AGM with others, some related, during the meeting, leading to a lively debate. Amongst answers to questions raised were:-

- Yes ex Cirencester referees have been contacted, with 3 agreeing to come and ref in the District league.
- The referee Bursary has not been advertised very well in the past. I will do my best to change that but details can be found on the league's revamped website
- Young referees are still children, (under 18), please understand that they come into our league to get the experience of open age football.
- Young referees often get taken for Senior leagues; some are fast tracked for promotion.
- Treat **all** referees with the same amount of Respect.
- We don't have League officers patrolling the parks, although PC will catch up with clubs and referees if he has a game where other matches are going on.
- The referee payment has not been capped, it hasn't gone up either. When you contact the referee on Thursday and you are not happy with what you are being charged, please contact me.
- Prior agreements on reviewing referee fees will be reviewed in the coming year but the league felt we should hold costs for the forthcoming costs as part of the wider considerations of Covid related cost freeze's or reductions

While we have 19 refs that have agreed to officiate in the league for the coming season, this doesn't mean with that we will have 19 every week as some only commit to so many games a month, and will be taken at short notice to cover Wiltshire Senior league & cups. I am pleased to be able to go forward with so many at this stage.

MPH has an on-line reporting procedure ready for the start of the new season, with further details to follow.

7 Treasurers address

The accounts were circulated prior to the AGM and PC walked through the accounts of the League for the season. PC mentioned that we had lost the Swindon Advertiser as a cup sponsor and the committee are actively looking for new sponsors to support the League and Cup competitions and once concluded announcements will be made via the SDFL website, and we are open to discussing options if any interest is expressed?

There were no questions raised to answer.

PC will get the accounts audited and forwarded to the FA.

8 Election of new clubs to fill vacancies

2 new clubs Hatherop and Intel applied to the league and were voted in as members for next season. The clubs moving across from the Cirencester District league which had been suspended from the end of the season. As PM said earlier Abbey Meads had paid their membership but pulled out 1 hour before this meeting.

9 League secretary address and rule changes

JL thanked MR for taking on the Chairman's role, especially now in these unprecedented times. Before Covid 19 our only major issue was contending with the bad weather and waterlogged pitches, now we have challenges on a completely new level.

The rule changes requested by the clubs were circulated prior to the AGM, and with no questions received, have now been approved by the FA and will come into force next season.

10 Constitution of League for coming season

PM talked about a provisional 2 division with 27 clubs but this has yet to be ratified at the next committee meeting owing to one club pulling out before the AGM and uncertainty shown by some others following the AGM. We have yet to get a start date which if delayed could change everything further? An EGM would be called if a delayed start date was confirmed by the FA

<p>11 Start date proposed 5th September with end date of 24th April</p> <p>12 Any other business</p> <p>i) Please get your registration forms back to CT, players to email their confirmations to him.</p> <p>ii) The SDFL Website will continue to be updated regularly, with club contacts and important announcements. Please get into a habit of checking the latest info.</p> <p>iii) Only 2 awards this season due to season finishing early.</p> <p>Referee award goes to Brian Bennett-Murdoch</p> <p>Secretary award – Phil Harris Bassett Bulldogs</p> <p>We will get these to you before the season starts.</p> <p>13 Address from the County FA</p> <p>EC-S said she hasn't heard when the season is likely to start.</p> <p>Whole Game System is open for club and player registrations.</p> <p>Player registration for 2020/21 must include players email addresses</p> <p>14 Fix date of next Annual General Meeting Thursday 17th June 2021 @ 7.15pm. Coleview Community Centre</p>	
The meeting closed at 7.55 pm	

Author	John Luckhurst, 21st June 2020
Copy	SDFL Committee Members; SDFL Clubs; County FA