**MINUTES OF AWJFC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT BRAMBLETYE HOTEL, FOREST ROW**

**20th JULY 2023**

8.1. **Chairmans Report**

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the committee for all their hard work during the season without whom there wouldn’t be a club. He also thanked Kevin Maxey for spending hours compiling match day information for every venue which will be put on the website soon.

He reported that we will not have u16 17 or 18 teams next season.

With regards to general behaviour of players and parents he encourages all coaches get his players to shake hands with the referee at the end of every game and for parents on the line to be respectful to the referee

He also mentioned that he had an interesting meeting with the FA

He said that it had been decided to re figure the pitch at Cowden to accommodate the younger teams.

He thanked the team that had organised another successful quiz night that was held at the Rugby club and Tom Saunders who arranged for Barclays Bank to match the profit for the evening. We also had grants from East Grinstead Town council and also from the football foundation which is much appreciated.

8.2. **Vote minutes of last meeting**

The minutes were proposed by Paul Newman and seconded by Dean Duly

8.3. **Election of officers**

The committee were re elected unanimously.

8.4. **Treasurers report**

The accounts show a loss for the season of nearly £6.5k, we were expecting to make a loss this season as our reserves were unnecessarily high, so we wanted to reduce these down, therefore fees returned to pre covid levels but were not raised. However, we cannot continue to suffer big losses each year and as expenses have all increased the fees for the 23-24 season have all been increased but they have probably not been increased enough with rising costs so I expect us to have a smaller loss for the coming season and use a bit more of our reserves, and then fees are likely to need to be increased slightly for the following season.

Unfortunately, we have had a few teams fold at the end of this season which will impact our player numbers but will obviously save on the costs involved with each team so shouldn’t really impact us financially.

Our biggest cost continues to be the 3G hire at the sports club and rugby club and a lot has been spent on kit and equipment this season. Although there are teams with remaining budget to carry forward to next season this is much less than we brought forward for this year.

Cowden pitch spend has more than doubled this season with much more money spent on line marking than previous years, we have now invested in a line marking machine, so I believe we plan to be doing the lines ourselves in future and saving on this significant cost.

We have spent more than double on coaches courses this year with quite a few new coaches joining us, we probably won’t need to spend quite so much in the coming year, and we are also hoping to reclaim some of this cost for Crowborough league coaches.

Referee fees continue to be very low with the massive shortage of referees continuing post covid.

We held a very successful quiz night in the spring which raised almost £2k with Barclays match funding which has really helped limit our losses for the year.

8.5. **Child Welfare Report**

Maxine sent a report thanking all those coaches that have kept up to date with their FA qualifications and urged others to do the same going forward. She thanked Rik Locke for putting links and instructions for FA courses and DBS checks on to the website.

8.6. **Pitch Bookings**

Gary Anders gave a report as follows

**Pitch Bookings and Winter Training for Season 23/24**

The reserving of match pitches and slots for winter training is becoming more and more difficult. The increased number of junior football teams (including new girls’ teams) emerging in and around the East Grinstead area is no longer matched by the facilities available to local clubs including AWJFC.

The good news is that for the forthcoming 23/24 season, we have been able to secure all of the match pitches and winter training slots that we require for the number of teams we currently have, all in accordance with the discussions held with each team coach at the Team Registration Evening held on 10th May. All of the detail will soon appear on the website, once Rik has had a chance to update it. Of particular note is the fact that the winter training at both the Sports Club and the Rugby Club will run from week commencing 1st October 2023 to week ending 30th March 2024.

What is becoming very clear is that the Team Registration Evening must become an annual event that is attended by a representative from every team. It must be held, as this year, in early May so that we can submit our requests for pitches and winter training slots at the earliest possible opportunity. This event must also become the absolute deadline for any proposed new teams to be finalised.

Looking ahead, and assuming the winter training slots at the East Grinstead Sports Club in particular become even more scarce, we may need to be a little more creative in how these slots are used. We may reach the stage where two teams of similar age share the use of one quarter pitch at the club or the same two teams alternate weekly in its use throughout the winter. Meanwhile, we continue to search for alternative solutions locally.

**Costs**

It has now been confirmed that the cost of hiring the 3G at Sports Club will increase by 4% for season 23/24, which is reasonable given the background inflation rate of twice that. At this point, we are still awaiting confirmation of costs from the Rugby Club but the hope is that it will be something similar.

8.7. **Any Other Business**

Paul Newman suggested that at the registration meeting next May that we ask for any redundant kits etc be returned for redistribution and if no one wants them we will donate to an overseas charity which we have done in the past.

It was agreed that Cowden would be marked out with 2 five a side and two seven a side pitches as there is not a requirement for a full sized pitch next season.