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**MINUTES OF THE
LONDON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CUP & COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON
MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Chairman Ian Wallis opened the meeting at 18:35 by greeting those present and apologized that this meeting originally was set for the Guildhall but because of the fuel shortage it was thought wise to hold the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

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

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

Absent. O Flynn and I Gazi,

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. G Etchell pointed out in para 13 of Cup Competitions, 2020/2021 should read 2022/23. Proposed by D Wolff and Seconded by J Hind. 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 there were severe problems with the Full Time computer. The LFA does not have a system that indicates each team is in the correct cup competition. It does not help matters when some club secretaries submit the wrong email addresses. Referee appointments are temporarily sent by post. The Full Time computer virus was finally cleared on Friday 23 September 2021.

Entries for the three Sunday adult cups are currently lumped together and I Wallis pointed out that in the past clubs applied for the cup that they wished to enter and suggested that we revert to this system again in the future.

G Harknett informed the meeting that U12,U13 and U14 teams had still not been notified nor referees appointed for games to be played this Saturday, 2 October. J Horne said all teams have now been advised and the appointment of referees will take place tomorrow, 28 September.

I Wallis informed the meeting that all adult and youth cup rules have now been sanctioned and will be placed on the LFA website on 28 September.

I Wallis said he sympathized with J Horne for the difficulty he had because of the virus in the computer. He re-iterated that before the cup draws are made the list of entrants must be sent to members of the Cups Committee to verify that teams are showing in the correct competition. Members should be allowed 48 hours to point out any errors before the draw is made.

P Trividi informed the meeting that several clubs have managed to pay the cup entry fee and enter a cup competition but not paid their affiliated fee. Are clubs allowed to enter before affiliating? I Wallis suggested that if they are in a cup competition they should be able to play after receipt of their affiliation. However, if a club has not affiliated by the date of the round they are in they should be eliminated from the competition and a walk over awarded to their opponents.

G Etchell asked if there are any contingency plans for the current fuel crisis. The Isthmian League has already postponed the fixtures for the coming Saturday because many away teams have to travel quite a distance.

D Wolff proposed, seconded by M Burke that we look at each case individually and they will be referred to a sub-committee for a decision.

The proposal by D Wolff was voted unanimously and it was agreed the sub-committee shall consist of I Wallis, D Wolff and K Wilmot who will look at all requests for a postponement.

Cup Draws. Outstanding cup draws will be made of which 4 cups are for girls.

Correspondence. G Harknett brought to the attention of the meeting that he had sent an email to J Horne saying that normally the Saturday draw does not get made until the first week in October and games start in November. Why have we started this early? Due to the number of clubs still waiting for their affiliation process to be sorted have the London FA taken all clubs that have not yet had their affiliation into account?

J Horne pointed out that he had sent round proposed dates of all the London Cup Competitions on 22 July and he did not receive any objections so had proceeded by that timetable. He and the London FA Player Registration Department will be on hand to ensure registration queries are solved and support provided in order to assist clubs where necessary.

Sponsorship of LFA Cups. The responsibility for sponsorship of our cups lies with the LFA Office but the Cups Committee need to know what is being arranged and should also be seeking sponsorship opportunities where possible. J Horne has already sent a list of all current sponsors to the Cups Committee. K Wilmot suggested we should target the larger commercial companies.

P Trividi informed the meeting that the LFA office is currently drawing up a sponsorship pack to send to companies ie what companies will gain from sponsoring the LFA cups, company name in cup final programme and their name on the LFA web site to name a few.

I Wallis said the names of all cup winners and runners-up used to be published in the LFA handbook. He is currently sifting through old LFA handbooks and compiling an up-to-date list. He will then place them on the LFA web site where they will permanently remain and can be added to each year.

J Hind said that her occupation was in sponsorship and will happily pass her experience on to J Horne.

Any Other Business.

P Trividi asked if we can make cup fees an agenda item for a forthcoming meeting.

D Wolff brought to the attention of the meeting that yesterday, 26 September, two cup matches were abandoned. K Wilmot suggested that the two clubs who caused the matches to be abandoned should be charged. G Etchell suggested that we write to both clubs and obtain their observations on the abandonment.

K Wilmot showed disappointment on the number of Committee Members that attend cup games as observers. This is the first time in his five year tenure that a game has not been covered. He plans to re-introduce a check list for those members attending cup games.

J Horne informed the meeting that currently there is serious shortage of referees which could be down to Covid-19. However, it must also be taken into consideration that some leagues are offering a match fee of £60 for under 13 matches in unaffiliated football.

Date of next meeting. It was agreed the next meeting will be held on Monday 22 November 2021 commencing at 18:30 which it is hoped will be face to face.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:00.