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MABL - Annual General Meeting – Monday 19th June 2017 – Castlefield Hotel – 7.30pm

Present:

See attached list.

Apologies:

N. Ibberson , D. Collister , L. Carlisle , S. Carlisle , R. Park , P. Hollister , D. Rogerson , T. Muldoon.

Gareth (chairman) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining the slight change to procedure.....i.e. that all reports were sent to members prior to the meeting in order for those present to prepare questions on those reports , thus keeping the meeting rather more brief. All the reports are on separate sheets.

Chairman's report:

It was presented and there were no questions.

Secretary / Registrar report:

It was presented and there were no questions

Divisional reports:

They were all presented and there were no questions

Cup reports:

They were presented and there were no questions.

Treasurer's report:

This was presented. Discussion followed.

Because BE had pulled the reconciliation money MABL used to receive from them at the end of each season there is a possibility that MABL will be in deficit in the future. It was stressed that there was no immediate problem.....it was a possibility in the future. The following ideas , from the floor , about raising income were to be discussed at committee throughout this season.

- Increase the clubs' registration fees to MABL
- Cut the play off weekend to one day
- Clubs to pay full cost of referees
- Participating clubs pay the cost of the play offs
- Negotiate with BE for MABL to pay less for each club/player , thus keeping more for MABL.
- Stop 3-man refereeing.

Disciplinary report:

This was presented. Discussion followed as the report touched upon a proposal by Cheshire Hornets and Stockport Atlas. The gist of the Hornets proposal is that the results of disciplinary hearings should be published. The Atlas proposal is that clubs should be allowed to see referees reports prior to any hearing.

After much discussion , the following was decided:

Referees reports were to be transferred onto a 'pro forma' which made clear what the report intended and the reasons for any ban. This could be shown to the clubs involved. Any ban would be made known to the divisional representative who would chose the games for the ban and then inform the clubs and referees involved in that game. This was accepted by all present.

Proposals:

Peter Lee seconded by Gregg Pickard (Hornets);

'All teams need to ensure they are able to stage a game in respect of a suitable court , adequate changing facilities , competent table officials and correct table equipment. If , for whatever reason , a team is unable to provide the basic necessities to stage a game they should inform the div. rep. , appointed officials and opposing team before they travel.

Match officials should make judgements concerning whether or not all necessary elements are in place to stage a game. This should not be left to coaches.'

It was accepted by all present that this was already covered in the 'League Rules of Play'

Gregg Pickard seconded by Peter Lee (Hornets):

Any team forfeiting two games during the season will not be eligible to play in the play-offs.

It was accepted by all present that this was already covered in the 'League Rules of Play'

Gregg Pickard seconded by Peter Lee (Hornets):

The results of disciplinary hearings should be published.

This has already been discussed and decided upon earlier in the meeting.

[Type text]

The next five proposals / discussion points all come from Nikos Silikas , Mike Greenough and Paul Brookes from Stockport Atlas. Unfortunately none were able to attend the AGM so although the five were discussed the proposers could not influence the discussion. All the proposals plus the thoughts of the committee are on the next page:

1. The use of undergarments: The committee proposal (in red on the attached sheet) was passed. 15 for , 1 against , 2 abstentions.
2. Publication of the referees reports: This was discussed and decided upon. See previous proposal from Hornets.
3. Referees declaring connections to teams at which they officiate: This was rejected unanimously. See the notes in red on the attached sheet.
4. Women's Plate Competition to be abolished: This was rejected unanimously. It gave rise to discussion about the introduction of a Men's Plate competition and the committee will look into that.
5. Sending out reports prior to the meeting: This has already been taken on board by the committee and it was done for this meeting and will be done for future meetings.

Any other business:

- Rob announced that there were inexpensive scorebooks available.
- The following people offered their services on the next committee. Their roles would be decided at the next meeting. If anyone else is interested in helping do let me know.

Mark Hague
Gareth Keith
Lee Carlisle
Simon Carlisle
Simon Felstein
John Cihlar
Dave Rogerson
Colin Hindmarch
Tom Muldoon

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

1. Use of undergarments during games. We see this as fairly trivial as it does not affect anybody else apart from the player using it. The current solution of obtaining a letter of GP is not ideal. If the letter cannot be produced it would be embarrassing for both the player and referee involved. Furthermore, we were specifically told by NHS that it is a significant misuse of their strained resources. Our proposal is in favour of using matching colour undergarments.

We propose that compression or tight fitting undergarments that are of the same dominant colour be allowed. Where a colour the same as the kit cannot be found, black or white will be acceptable as long as this does not clash with the opposing team colours. Where referees feel any undergarments are a risk for other competitors, players will be asked to remove them.

2. In case of an ejection foul, or any behaviour that will result in a game ban to a player from the league, we would like to see the report from the referee. The current state of affairs only allows a club and a player to see the report after they appeal and pay a set fee. We feel this is grossly unfair and not contributing towards transparency. Our proposal is that ref report should be made available freely to all relevant parties.

MH to create a template to be completed for all disciplinary reports which will summarise the referee report detail and give reasons for any ban or punishment

3. A referee evaluation system must be in place and classification of referees to Divisions according to their abilities. We strongly feel that a referee that is linked to a team (e.g. is a relative or has a relationship with player/coach of that team) must not be involved in any of their games or games that this team has a vested interest. Our proposal is that referees should declare any bias and failure to do so should result in their disqualification from MABL.

We will endeavour to ensure that no official of bias is appointed to a game they may have conflict of interest

4. The Women's Premier Division has two Cup competitions (for 8 teams). There is only one for 4 Divisions in Men! This is grossly unbalanced. Our proposal is for the Women's Plate competition to be abolished.

The plate is not funded by MABL but is administrated by it and it has originated due to the fewer games the womens division had.

5. As a suggestion, to speed things up at AGM, we would propose that the Agenda and Financial report to be circulated in advance to all clubs so that they have time to study them prior to the meeting.

We will try and send out the full AGM papaers prior to the AGM