

Annual General Meeting

Monday 25th November 2024

Venue Billericay Town FC
meeting started 7:30



Committee members present: Derek Hornsey, Richard Coleman, Trevor Ridley, Kevin Preston, Robin Ogilvie, Peter Osborne, Gary Murphy and Simon Crump

Clubs Present

Beacon Hill, Billericay Town, Chelmsford City, Concord Rangers, Eastwood Falcons, Grays Athletic, Leyton Orient, Little Oakley, Paringdon Pirates, Romford, Southend, Stanway Rovers, Stones Athletic.



No apologies for absence

Minutes of last meeting: proposed Billericay Town, seconded: Leyton Orient

Matters arising: None

Chairman's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for turning up. It's nice to see this many Clubs attend the AGM.



This season seems to have flown past it only just seems we have started and here we are at the end. It's been a good season with lots of ups and downs.

I would like to thank everyone for making it an enjoyable season. Especially the Cup Finals. The format we used this season worked well and we will continue with it from now on.

I would like to think that by working together next season we can overcome the few problems we have had this season. Mainly running.

I am taking this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work in organising the way the league runs.

Can we all please remember a conversation is far better than an argument.

Secretary's Report

On the whole this season has been an improvement on the previous one, with only one tournament being postponed due to heat. As the league grows we will need to either find another venue for Tuesday, or another day of the week. The 50s have been the hardest age group to organise. Because of the limited number of pitches we can get at Chelmsford it limits the Divisions to six teams. Our 60s, 65s and 70s play at Billericay Town FC. This is a far better facility than Chelmsford as it allows us to organise hospitality after each tournament in the Bar, which has been a big

success. We are now trying to source Billericay on a Saturday morning so that we can move our 50s away from Chelmsford. If this comes off it will allow eight teams to participate in each division instead of six.

The feedback from players this year is that nearly everyone has enjoyed the football. We are still looking at ways to improve everything we do as a committee.

Ever since walking football was invented the biggest moan has been "he is not walking" referee. It's constant all of the time at the match official. It's all of our responsibility to insure that we abide by the rules of our league. Hopefully with the introduction of the new standard code of rules, especially the 4 accumulated "not walking" offences. This will slow the game down and most certainly cut out the running.

At the moment six of our current match officials have taken the new FA walking football referees course. The other match officials will be expected to book on the new course when dates become available. Having used the new FA Rules they most certainly do cut out the running. The players themselves are constantly warning each other about running.

Having seen a number of training sessions, the biggest problem I've seen is the amount of running that goes on and is not checked by anyone.

Congratulations to all of Divisional winners:

50s Div One Blackmore Athletic
50s Div Two Chelmsford City Clarets
50s Div Three Beacon Hill
50s Div Four Stanway Rovers
60s Div One Wakering
60s Div Two Chelmsford City Clarets
65s Div One Chelmsford City Clarets
65s Div Two Stones Athletic
70s Div One Little Oakley
70s Div Two Wakering

Challenge Cup winners and Runner up:

50s Concord Rangers Yellow - Chelmsford City
60s Cheshunt - Paringdon Pirates
65s Wakering - Little Oakley Red
70s Wakering - Eastwood Falcons Blue.

Fair Play Award:

50s Billericay Town White
60s Grays Athletic
65s Billericay Town Blue
70s Eastwood Falcons Yellow

The committee would like to thank everyone for making it an enjoyable season.

I think a special thank you to Peter Osbourne for the endless hours he has put in to insure all of your players are registered to play. Also without Trevor's help in not only setting up the new website, Referees app and also taking on the treasurers role, we would have struggled to find the extra time needed to insure we organise league business in the correct way.

When you are not part of a committee you don't tend to realise how much time is spent in organising any league. So thank you Peter, Trevor, Derek, Kevin, Gary, Robin and Simon. It's been a pleasure working with you all.

Treasurers report

Accounts for year 2023-24 show a deficit of £1379 however this is reduced by £854 due to the return of player registration fees (£975) from a previous season and inclusion of £450 bond for financial year 2024-25.

The £450 shown as Club bonds has been fully refunded in the 2024-25 Financial year.

As stated in the notes to the accounts the deficit can be fully accounted for by the League committee's decision to provide sandwiches for the match days played at Billericay. This has been fully costed and included in the match day fees for the 2024 season.

The current financial year to date is showing a small excess but this will change as invoices are still due for medals and engraving.

With respect to simplifying the accounting period for the League I am proposing that the League's financial year be changed from being April to March to being January to December. This will better align with the League's playing season and the main income and expenditure period of the League. I propose that this starts from the current year. This would mean that the current accounting period would run from April 2024 to December 2024 with the new accounting period starting on 1st January 2025.

At the previous AGM it was asked that a financial forecast be carried out to ensure that the League finances are sufficient to ensure that the League's activities are fully funded. I have done this for the forth coming season and can see no need to amend fees other than for the over 50s that are playing at Billericay and where sandwiches are provided. This will mean an additional £10 per team per match day which will bring the fee in line with the teams that play at Billericay on a Tuesday. With the current information available with respect to number of teams and likely expenditure the forecast for 2025 is for the League to break even.

Registration Secretary Report

Good evening everyone. for those who don't know me I'm Peter Osbourne and I have served as the EWFL league registration officer for the past year.

The purpose of the LRO's role are to:

Examine and improve/reject club submissions to register players on WGS

Provide help and guidance to clubs on the registration process:

Ensure that Clubs meet the minimum qualification requirements for entry i.e. 12 players per team.

Compare completed team sheets with the record of the WGS. And liaise with clubs when anomalies are identified.

Refer anomalies to the WFL committee for further action as necessary such as the imposition of fines and other sanctions.

I cannot over emphasise the importance of the registration process and the correct completion of the timesheets they are in place to help ensure among other things a level playing field and to help underpin the integrity of the EWFL

So how has this worked for the past year.

When I started in a role it was clear that a large number of clubs have struggled to get to grips with WGS

Some had not registered the minimum number of players required. and that I Gained the impression rightly or wrongly, that Some just viewed the process as an administrative overhead. I worked closely with these clubs to educate them into remedy shortcomings.

As the season progressed and I started to compare team-sheets with WGS .I identified a considerable number of disparities. In fact, at the halfway point in the season over 50% of the team sheet had not been completed correctly. The nature of the discrepancies it was very wide.

I approached clubs about the anomalies and that seemed to have a positive affect as future comparisons to team sheets with the WGS revealed far fewer discrepancies. I should like to thank you for your efforts to make improvements. This helps to reduce significantly the amount of time needed by me to address errors.

I hope that my engagement with you over the last season has helped you to gain better understanding but WGS and of the EWFL requirements

I am not standing for re-election to a EWFL committee as I have had to make space for my increasing demands of my time outside of walking football. I wish my successor all the best, and all the clubs a successful season for 2025.

Election of officers

All current officers except Peter Osbourne to continue in office. Robin Ogilive to stand as Registration Secretary.

Constitution

This has been deferred until all clubs have returned their team entrance.

Laws of the Game

It was proposed by the Management Committee that the League adopt The FA Laws of the Game (LotG) with the following EWFL inclusions:

- (1) Tackling will still not be allowed
- (2) One step Penalty
- (3) The totting up of 3 fouls for a (Blue Card) sin bin offence.
- (4) 10.2.1) permit a player to run to retrieve a ball when it has gone out of play, regardless of whether or not that play is on or off the pitch.
- (5) remain EWFL's laws (7.3.1.3, 10.2.1, 10.2.2, and 14.3.1) If, in the referee's judgement, a player (including a GK) deliberately holds onto the ball to time-waste, in the full knowledge that they couldn't be dispossessed, the referee had the power to award a free kick to the player's opponents.
- (6) EWFL's laws when taking a penalty (12.2.30) allow GKs to step forward, by no more than 1 metre, from the goal line.
- (7) It may also be worth reminding clubs/players that the semi-circular penalty area line does not belong specifically to either the defending or attacking teams. In other words, if the ball is on that line it may be played by either the defending team (including the GK) or the attacking team without sanction.

The proposal was carried by the meeting.

Venues

It is proposed that we move the 50s Divisions from Chelmsford to Billericay. Reason for proposal. Chelmsford only allowed three pitches this restricted the league to having only 6 teams in a Division. Also there are no facilities for hospitality or storage for our equipment. At Billericay we can accommodate divisions of eight, also we have use of the bar after each tournament. The 50s will come in line with all of the other age groups with hospitality being supplied. A vote was taken and the majority voted in favour of the change to Billericay.

Referees' Secretary

New referees have been taken on. At the moment six of our current referees have taken The FA Walking Football referee course. By the end of next season all league officials must have taken the FA Walking Football referee course.

Representative Football

Over the past season we have run all age groups, and have played in numerous places all over the country, It's been quite a successful season overall. We hosted Oxford FA county side and have been invited to go to them in the new year. Our teams are open to all players who wish to take part. Although numerous requests have been made to clubs for players very few have been put forward. We are looking to organise our own tournament next season with County teams being invited from all over the country

Any Other Business

1. A question asked about new clubs, unfortunately we have received no applications for membership from any new. Club. We were informed by one of the delegates that Clacton were interested in entering teams.
2. Question: biggest problem is our match official's interpretation of the Rules. To help overcome some of the problems a referee training session will be organised in conjunction with either one of our clubs or a representative training session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12pm.