**Norfolk Women’s & Girls Football League**

**Minutes of NWGFL Annual General Meeting**

**23rd June 2020**

**Chairpersons Opening Remarks**

Ben welcomed all to the NWGFL AGM with a difference.

Ben confirmed this season had been the most unusual one we have ever experienced, Ben thanked all for their support & understanding in the current situation, and most of all hoped all the players, coaches & families were well & staying safe.

Ben advised the league would like to thank all managers, assistants, and parents that give up their time to continue to make the girls and women’s game in Norfolk a success. Advising whilst it ended in a way that none of us would have expected or wanted it to, we still saw a growth in female development football in Norfolk, largely due to the Wildcats programme, which has provided a fantastic stepping stone into girl’s football.

Ben confirmed the ladies game continues to grow in Norfolk & for the upcoming season we are delighted to see Thorpe United accepted into the Eastern Region league.

Ben said we as a league have entered into a partnership with a company called

Give to Local and look forward to sharing how this works and what this means to you as clubs, promising a great opportunity for this season and beyond, especially with the financial implications of COVID-19.

Ben advised lastly a massive thank you to all the league committee members, for all time and effort they have put into this season.

Ben informed all with regards to team training, every one of us are itching to get teams back into training and preparing for the new season, we urge all teams to continue to adhere to the latest Government guidelines and not take any unnecessary risks when it comes to arranging group training. Advising If in any

doubt as to what is and isn’t best practice, contact Norfolk FA or view their website.

**AGM** **House Rules –** Ben informed all of the house rules with this being a different format to previous years, and above all, please to bear with us.

Ben advised all to please familiarise yourself with the nearest fire exit!

Ben advised everyone will be muted by default throughout the meeting, with only the speaker and committee unmuted. Should you wish to speak, get our attention by typing in the chat box and you will be unmuted

All questions should have been submitted to the committee prior to the meeting and the proposers will have the opportunity to speak in the AOB section.

**Proposing/Seconding –** Ben confirmed to propose/second an AGM item, whoever chooses to, had to write their name, club and whether proposing/seconding in the chat box when prompted.

**Voting -** Ben confirmed when we reach the relevant sections, we will invite those that have submitted prior questions to put forward their proposal, and then the rest of the league (either youth or adult, depending on team) will be invited to vote.

Advising when voting, to put their team name and FOR or AGAINST in the chat box. The committee will count votes, and when all votes are in the result will be declared.

Advising, the AGM is a discussion, not an already pre-decided event. Saying this is their opportunity to vote on the proposed constitution, as well as any suggestions that have been brought forward.

Ben confirmed fees will be decided when we know the season will start.

**Committee Attendees:**

Alison Moore, Netti Champion, Louise Riseborough, Ben Binder, Julie Hutchin, Caroline Aldous

**Apologies**

No apologies

**Minutes of previous AGM**

Confirmation that the minutes of the previous AGM were circulated to all, displayed on the League website, to be agreed as a true and fair reflection of the meeting.

* Proposed: Sean Morley – Gorleston Rangers FC
* Seconded: Meganne Smith – Dereham Tavern Ladies

**Matters arsing**

No matters arising from the previous minutes

**Treasurers report**

Confirmation that the BALANCE SHEET was circulated to all, and displayed on the League Website.

No matters arising from the Treasurers Report

**Election of New Clubs**

Two new Clubs requested to play in NWGFL next season, no objections.

**Needham Market FC**

* Proposed: Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC
* Seconded: Bethan Sommerfield – Thorpe St Andrew FC

**Great Yarmouth Town FC**

o Proposed: Kirsty Turner – Thetford Bulldogs FC

* Seconded: Liam Gurney – Kirkley & Pakefield FC

**Existing teams name changes**

The following teams are existing teams with new names and have requested to be voted in as playing as existing teams, no objections.

**Thorpe St Andrew, previously Thorpe United**

* Proposed: Sean Morley – Gorleston Rangers FC
* Seconded: Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC

**Dereham Tavern Ladies, previously Tavern Old Boys Ladies**

o Proposed: Bethan Sommerfield – Thorpe ST Andrew FC

* Seconded: Sean Morley – Gorleston Rangers FC

**Dussindale and Hellesdon Women, previously Sprowston Ladies**

o Proposed: Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC

* Seconded: Paul Simmons – Long Stratton FC

**Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season**

The full constitution proposal with 3 x Development Divisions from U9 to U11, 5 x Youth Divisions U12 to U16 through to Ladies 7’s and Ladies 11’s, with no more than 168 Clubs in total, and no more than 14 teams in each Division.

Currently the Constitution is set out with one Division in U9, U10, U12, U15, U16 and Ladies 7 and two Divisions in U11’s, U13’s U14’s and Ladies 11’s.

**No concerns raised for U9, U10, U11, U12, & U13**

**U14 – Emails from:**

Horsford U14 have requested to stay in Division 2 – over to Chris Brown

Bawdswell U14 have requested to go into Division 1 – over to Jamie Snell

Sprowston U14 have requested to go into Division 2 – over to Lois Irving

Beccles U14 have requested to go into Division 2 – over to Alan Runnacles

Gorleston Rangers U14 have requested to go into Division 2 – over to Sean Morley

Ben advised if all the above teams were placed In their requested division we would have Division 1 with 5 teams and Discussion 2 with 10 teams, further discussions had with all playing in the U14 Division, with a proposal made by Chris Brown – Horsford FC for the following split:

**Division 1** **Division 2**

Beccles North Walsham

Costessey Blofield

Martham Sprowston

Bawdswell Bure Valley

Waveney Long Stratton

Yarmouth Gorleston Rangers

Bungay Dereham

Horsford

Total vote for the above U14 constitution divisional split as proposed by Chris Brown

For – 13

Against – 0

**No concerns raised for U15, U16 and Ladies 7’s**

**Ladies 11 – Emails from**:

Wymondham Town Reserves have requested to go in Division 1 – over to

Emma Chambers

Stalham Town Ladies have requested to go into Division 2 – over to Thomas Nicholls

Wymondham Town Reserves advised they didn’t mind staying in Division 2, so proposal just for Stalham to move into Division 2 with the Ladies 11 constitutional Divisional split as below:

**Division 1 Division 2**

Waveney Stalham

Thorpe St Andrew Freethorpe

Sprowston Athletic Beccles

Gorleston Waveney

Dereham Tavern North Walsham

Bungay Thetford Bulldogs

Dussingdale & Hellesdon Redrose

Fakenham Thorpe St Andrew Reserves

Long Stratton Wymondham Town Reserves

Taverham

Horsford

Thetford Town

Total vote for the above Ladies 11 constitution divisional split as proposed

For – 16

Against - 0

**Confirmed number of votes for the full constitution: -**

Total votes for the constitution - 37

Total votes against the constitution - 0

**Election of League Officers and Management Committee, new members voted in bulk**

* Chairperson – ***Alison Moore***
* Proposed: Chris Brown - Horsford FC
* Seconded**:** Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC
* League Secretary – ***Netti Champion***
* Proposed: Chris Brown - Horsford FC
* Seconded: Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC
* Treasurer - ***Louise Riseborough***
* Proposed: Chris Brown - Horsford FC
* Seconded: Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC
* Welfare Officer – ***Juile Hutchin***
* Proposed: Chris Brown - Horsford FC
* Seconded: Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC

**Election of new committee members**

Thanks to Steve Ryan for joining the committee

* Proposed: Kirsty Turner – Thetford Bulldogs
* Seconded Meganne Smith – Dereham Tavern

Thanks to Kayleigh Ellwood for joining the committee

* Proposed Karen Milam – Dussindale & Hellesdon
* Seconded Meganne Smith – Dereham Tavern

**Divisional Secretary, Charge Officer, Media Officer**

Alison Moore, Netti Champion, Louise Riseborough, Julie Hutchin,

Caroline Aldous, Ben Binder

* Proposed Sarah Earl – Freethorpe FC
* Seconded Sian Sands – Fakenham FC

**Appointment of Auditors – Sexty and Co**

* Proposed: Karen Milam – Dussindale & Hellesdon
* Seconded: Liam Gurney – Kirkley & Pakefield

**Amendments to Standard Codes of Rules Youth and Adult**

Confirm the rule changes, cup rules and Ladies 7 rules have been circulated to all and are available on the League Website, and voting in of SCOR and SCORY

* Proposed: Jamie Snell – Bawdswell FC
* Seconded: Chris Brown – Horsford FC

**Date for the commencement of the Playing Season and Kick Off times applicable to the Competition**

This cannot be confirmed due to the current COVID-19 crisis

**Date for the end of the Playing Season**

Ideally all games finished by end of the season will be the Cup Finals day

but if not possible then 31st May 2021.

**Any Other Business to which due notice has been given and accepted as being relevant to the AGM**

The following proposals have been received for considerations**:**

**Email from**  **Blofield United**  - Over to Tom Crowle

I would like to propose that the Girls U15 league for 20/21 move to an 11 aside format, with exceptions being made due to player and pitch availability so that if necessary matches will be 9 aside. This could be agreed by the managers when confirming fixture details with each other at the beginning of the week. If possible we would like this proposal to be voted on by just those teams playing in the 20/21 U15 league.

***Tom Crowle, Blofield FC***

***Upon further discussion around what will be the required pitch size, ball size, etc, it was decided to take this proposal away from the AGM, and once confirmed details are available to hold an SGM between all U15 team clubs to vote and agree a playing format***

**Email from Beccles Town FC** – Over to Alan Runnacles as representing Beccles

But I’d like to play 11v11 in the u16 age group next year. I know they are flexible on number; I’d like to do the same next year please.

***Neil White, Beccles***

**Email from Blofield United –** Over to Tom Crowle as representing Blofield Proposal U16 league runs same as 2019/20 league bases with 9 a side or 11 a side games being played where possible and/if sides able to raise numbers Due to 2019/20 season not being completed thoughts to allowing or change to aging in u16 league to allow teams to continue with current sides yet still playing at u16 level/above age ***Steve Ryan Blofield United***

**Email from Bungay FC** – Over to Graham Purling as representing Bungay I would like to propose where it’s possible that the girls u16 2020/21 play 11 aside football next year. It Would be essential for all girls to have some experience playing 11 aside before going into full ladies football the following year. ***Kevin O’Connor, Bungay FC***

Votes for proposed U16 to play at 11 v 11 – 0

Votes against proposed U16 to play at 11 v 11 only and to continue with playing both 11 v 11 and 9 v 9 as the previous year - 8

**Email from Gorleston FC** - Over to Colin Bray as representing Gorleston FC I was wondering if it would be possible that 9 a side football for girls could start at u12's instead? I've also spoken to a few other Managers who would be interested in moving to 9 a side instead of 7. ***Paul Dyer, Gorleston Diamonds U11's and U12’s***

***Upon further discussion around what will be the required pitch size, ball size, etc, it was decided to take this proposal away from the AGM, and once confirmed details are available to hold an SGM between all U12 team clubs to vote and agree a playing format***

**Chris Brown** raised a question to the League, for a proposal for 2021/22 season, for girls to play at mixed football format, to bring everything in line as the same as mixed football.

Ben responded advising Chris Brown to put this proposal in writing to the League, and attend a League meeting to discuss this further.

**Norfolk FA**

Matt Carpenter thanked everyone for all their hard work. Matt confirmed no one wanted to end the season the way it did. Matt reminded everyone to ensure they follow Government guidance on when training and games commence for the safety of all involved with football, Matt offered questions to the attendees. No questions asked.

**End of meeting**

Ben thanked everyone for attending the meeting, wishing everyone good luck for the fourth coming season declaring the AGM closed.