

ANTHONY AXFORD NORTH WEST CRICKET LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE SETTLE CC APPEAL

HELD ON ZOOM

13TH NOVEMBER 2023

Club Attendees: Salesbury, Foulridge, Earby, Whalley, Little Lever, Tonge, Brinscall, Settle, Cherry Tree, Kearsley, Ribblesdale Wanderers, Blackrod, Feniscowles, Padiham, Astley Bridge, Walkden, Baxenden, Oswaldtwistle and Farnworth Social Circle

Exec - Bill, Becki, Callum, Mike, Matt (Non-voting members)

Apologies: Ray Taylor, Phil Knowles (Lostock cc), Doug Livesey (Burnley Belvedere CC), Karen Knott

The meeting was opened by Bill Slinger who briefly explained that Settle had breached Rule 4.4 by applying to the Northern League without asking permission from the League Secretary first. At an Executive meeting which took place earlier in the season, it was agreed that a financial penalty was the only option and, by a vote of 5 to 1, a fine of £1000 was imposed.

Settle wrote to the League Secretary accepting the breach of rule 4.4 but appealing against the amount of the fine. This was discussed briefly at the last league committee meeting on 30th October but as Settle were unable to attend, it was decided that the appeal would be heard at a separate Zoom meeting. Clubs were sent all related documentation prior to the meeting and asked to share this with their own committees ready to vote on the matter.

Clubs were asked to vote on reducing the figure from the £1000 to a figure within the range of £200-400 as per Settle's appeal. This was passed by a vote of 13-1 in favour of doing so. At this point, Settle asked to address the meeting and explained that they accepted that they had breached the rule but that this was an oversight rather than any wish to bring the game into disrepute. As such, they felt that the fine imposed was disproportionate to the offence.

Tracey Brooks addressed the meeting as a league administrator explaining that by only giving the league 2 weeks to fulfil their place for 2024, this created an impossible situation. As clubs would need to have a consultation, tell their league, speak to our league, then our league inspects their facilities etc. She felt that had Settle informed the league at the beginning of the process, the league would have had plenty of time to fulfil that space and we would not be left with 23 premiership/championship teams instead of 24 which leaves one team with a bye each week.

David Brandwood spoke and indicated that at the last league meeting this issue was discussed and a figure of £300 was agreed. Martin Heyes then spoke confirming that although it was discussed and a couple of people mentioned £300, no proposal or vote was taken. Settle then suggested not accepting the game money from the Hamer cup final in place of a fine, but this was rejected as a separate issue.

2 proposals were then put forward:

£400 proposed by Baxenden which was then seconded by Walkden.

£300 Proposed by Blackrod Seconded by Earby.

By a vote of 9 votes to 7 in favour, a £300 fine was agreed. As Settle won their appeal, the £25 already paid will be taken off the £300 leaving £275 to pay.

Bill Slinger thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to seeing them at the league dinner on Friday 17th November 2023.

Meeting closed.