

08/09/2019 10:00

# THE FA THREE COUNTIES ABILITY COUNTS LEAGUE MINUTES

Derek Cunningham  
Beth Craven  
Ben Langworthy  
Mike Humphries  
Caroline Jones  
Ian Preece  
Scott Russell  
Steven Skelton  
John Lawley (OurWay)  
David Edwards (OurWay)  
Noel Colley (Telford)  
Nicholas (Telford)  
Nigel Pearson (Kidderminster Athletic Warriors)  
Lee Pearson (Kidderminster Athletic Warriors)  
Jake Bragg (Worcester All Stars)  
David Milberry (FA)  
Aspie Avengers (Apologies)  
Monday Night Club (Apologies)

Chairman welcomed everybody and thanked for being here and mentioned apologies

Minutes from last meeting agreed. Proposed by Ian Preece and seconded by Scott Russell

Chairman report. "Welcome to everyone.

At the start of a new season it is good to see everyone geared up and keen to get the new season underway. As you will hear during this meeting, there are some new teams and also some new rules to be attended to in all our future events.

I have a few thanks to note.

First, thank you to Caroline (Ourway) for arranging for us to be able to hold our meeting here at the Youth House. It is a great venue and very easy for most of us to get to. Everyone here is aware that this League exists principally through the efforts of a very few dedicated volunteers, both in running the League management and by all the committed team coaches and managers who put in major efforts to get their teams organised and able to attend our events. To the committee I offer my grateful thanks for all you do and assure you that I will continue to make efforts to recruit more support in the next year. You are doing a great job and I hope everyone here has no doubt that without your efforts none of this League would exist. Thank You All and Well Done!

To our team managers and coaches. I am well aware of the time commitment and effort it takes to operate and manage an amateur football team in your spare time. I also fully understand how intense it can be when teams both do well AND

not so well. I know you have passion, a deep interest in football and, in supporting our players, a compassionate understanding of the importance of delivering access to sport for people with disabilities. Your job is complicated by the many pressures of achieving Charter Standard, managing safeguarding issues and dealing with the emotions of your players. However, in all the years I have been involved with disability football and disability issues in general, I am constantly encouraged and frankly amazed at the great sportsmanship and respect shown to team-mates and to colleagues in opposing teams. It is one of my joys in life.

During last season we did have a very few incidents where the previously excellent behaviour and respect shown by teams and individuals broke down. I can only say how much these incidents disturbed me. In mainstream football there are many examples of very poor player and coach behaviours but prior to last season I could categorically state that in our environment such things were virtually non-existent. So we need to pay some more attention. This season sees the introduction of new protocols for anti-bullying and equality. The League will be asking all registered teams to strictly adhere to the new protocols. It will be the job, difficult in some cases, I fully understand, of the team managers and coaches to intervene early and effectively to curtail and re-direct any and all behaviours that would be unacceptable under the new protocols and the RESPECT

Agenda. Other measures, like the new sin bin rule, will also apply and you will hear more later. I simply ask that everyone involved throughout the League make it very clear to everyone they work with that RESPECT is not just a fancy logo or catchphrase. Lack of respect leads to a very disturbing and upsetting environment for our vulnerable players both at our events and quite possibly beyond. We, as a League, and I include everyone involved, MUST make sure that this does not happen and that we create a safe, exciting and competitive football environment that does not reflect the poor standards of behaviour prevalent in mainstream. We OWE this to our players.

I also wish to thank our County FA representatives who sit on our committee. Their help, advice and practical involvement with our tournament events has been an absolutely essential element of the success of each fixture. They sort out venue bookings, match day staffing, equipment and referees. Through them we have had support from Youth Members, and I ask they pass on my thanks for all the additional support they have provided. I think I can say without contradiction that the FA funds used to help build the 3G pitches we enjoy the use of, mean that we are very privileged in having the absolute best facilities over our 3 counties.

To ease our FA team workload, we have decided that the committee must move more toward a volunteer base so that we can take on some of these jobs ourselves. Hence why we need more volunteers. Thank you to Ben, Ian and Scott for all your invaluable support.

Finally, I will be seeking someone to replace me as Chair in this next season. I ask all of you to discuss this with your contacts and see if we can attract someone to this important and, up till now, excellently managed role.

We have a new season, new challenges and new spirit so I will end here and say ONWARD AND UPWARD!"

Treasurer report, "Good deals from the venues. Funds to update website for more professionalism, equipment, handbook for teams".

End balance correct - Proposed by Noel Colley, seconded by Nigel Pearson

Handbook downloadable and paper copy (50 copies) £300– Proposed by Nigel Pearson, seconded by Noel Colley

**See League Balance document emailed out with these minutes.**

Herefordshire FA found people that are interested in sponsorship. Still looking at possibilities.

The Three Counties Ability Counts website to cost £1000ish to update, maintain, hosting costs and to make it look professional. The league chairman thinks it's a good idea to present the League and for putting up fixtures, results, pictures etc. The use of Full Time website on it's own is limited and not good for sponsors, we need our own website for our own identity.

Secretary report, “EOI's received are OurWay (2 Teams), Monday Night Club (2 Teams), Kidderminster Athletic Warriors, Hereford (1 Team And Another Possible), Telford (3 Teams), Worcester All Stars (2 Teams), Aspie Avengers and another possible team from Worcester FA. No Derwen entering this season due to travelling and funds”.

Welfare officer report, “If anybody observes anything out of order to report to me (Mike Humphries). The email is on the website. I can then deal with it appropriately. Last season everybody adhered to the code of conduct. Thanks to the club welfare officers for dealing with matters efficiently. Thanks also to everybody for hard work in three counties league. We need to get a sharper look at things this year

Vote in committee members

No other nominations

Beth (Secretary) – proposed by Nigel, seconded by John  
Steve (Treasurer) - proposed by Nigel, seconded by John  
Derek (Chairman) - proposed by Nigel, seconded by John

Mike willing to continue as Welfare officer. Adults at risk coming in this season.  
Every club will need a Welfare Officer.

Opportunities for venue management, fixtures, website management. It's important people are actively involved. Natural growth of the league.

Below is a list of available opportunities with in the League

**Fixtures Secretary**

**Marketing Lead (social media, website, sponsors etc)**

**Match Day coordinator and deputies**

**VICE-CHAIR**

**Venue Booking secretary**

**Referee Booking Lead**

**Football Rules Lead**

Committee has been all set up again. The use of the Sin Bin is coming into use nationwide from this season onwards. Used for descent. 8 mins in sin bin. Well done to team managers for co-operating well with referees and dealing with matters accordingly. **More info to follow ASAP.**

Anti bullying and equality protocols. Everybody needs to get a grip of things. Need to tell the ref, or the FA representatives if they notice things happening. We as a league ask that you follow these things. Up to every manager to implement these within teams.

No way of telling of how teams are going to be each season. New players and new abilities. We have decided on a 6 game assessment period called the Good Will Cup. Teams will be placed in a hat beforehand to determine who will play who within this period. We can adapt if teams are winning like 5-0 etc then the team losing can add an extra player if they then score and lower differential then the extra player has to come off unless agreements between managers. There will be a winner, based on points and also respect, good will good sportsmanship and will gain a bonus 3 points to carry on into the league.

One fixed price per team. £200. Registration documents will be sent out soon. Be there for 10am on Match Days as usual. First fixture is at Ludlow due to Hereford being fully booked that day. Each team can register 15 players for the season. Above 15 they may as well create another team. Only 12 players to be registered each Match Day which is 7 players and 5 subs.

David Milberry – Worcester FA. Football Mentor. “Management structure of mentoring has changed. Allows opportunity to push support in disability football. Interested to know what support is needed within clubs and the three counties league. Mentoring support is about quality of coaching. How can they help as clubs to do a better job to coach footballers, maybe combining disability and mainstream football. Mentors need to be invited by clubs to come and support coaches. Every club can work better and coach better. How as a league do we make the quality of football better. The league chairman officially invited David and his colleagues to attend first 3 fixtures as to see teams in the assessment period to speak to teams and offer support. Need to know what resources are available to mainstream clubs that show their understanding of disability clubs

and vice versa if teams want to play for either disability or mainstream clubs as players may stay in club as they want to play football.

We need to show that our projection as a league is a safe but competitive environment”.

Hereford FA suggested maybe videos of David Milberry interview. Derek followed on saying he had started working with somebody with professional video promoting disability football. Asked for funds to do this. Will be sent out to schools and other clubs.

Proposed by Nigel Pearson, seconded by Scott Russell.

If anybody wishes to contact David Milberry, please do so on david.milberry@thefa.com or 07518 798780

AOB, Discussion if there is any more coaching Level 1 coming up. Worcester FA explained there will be one about May with shorter courses and possibly support available.

Also discussed what support could be given to new teams. Maybe an offer of support for transport. Any new teams to write to the league secretary and league chairman suggesting what support they need and also to county FA's.

A new “See the Shirt” and “See the Socks” initiative is now across Worcestershire. The purpose of **#SeeTheShirt** is to remind everyone that the referee is learning, with the majority of trainee referees aged under 18 and still subject to children’s safeguarding legislation – and should therefore be protected, encouraged and treated with the utmost respect. A similar scheme is available in both Hereford and Shropshire too.

### Tournament Dates

LUDLOW – SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER (NOT HEREFORD) Address Below

SHROPSHIRE – SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

WORCESTER – SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

HEREFORD – SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

SHROPSHIRE – SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH

WORCESTER – SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY

Address for Ludlow (6<sup>th</sup> October)

Ludlow Town,  
Broomfield Road,  
Ludlow,  
SY8 2BN.

Thanks from league chairman