

CAPTAINS' MEETING 24th MAY 2022

Apologies :: Guy Scott [Covid-19]

Present : GSJ [Secretary]; Howard Jones; Mal Lakelin; Pete Morgans; Cyril Nolan; Gary Nolan; Don Wallington [County League Secretary]; Alex Whitehouse.

1.0 Don was invited to open this informal meeting and to give the County's perception of the Season. Because of the pandemic, the season had started later than normal and, again, due to the pandemic, had been extended to accommodate postponed matches. He had been obliged to operate the rules flexibly to achieve that.

With regard to the history of the "play-offs", over the past few years no lower side achieved promotion through that system ; therefore he questioned their worth.

It was thought that, as possibly the smallest County Structure, generally, Clubs cannot cope with even numbers of teams in Leagues because of a shortage of players.

2.00 This prompted a brief debate about how many Teams the Club could field in the forthcoming winter leagues.

One team had been relegated from Division One, raising the possibility of three teams in Division Two and two teams in Division three.

It was **agreed** that the Club could only operate three teams in Division Two by having one team play on the traditional Division Wednesday night. This would need agreement from other Clubs and the County.

It was further **agreed** that the Club would field 5 sides in the County Leagues.

It was thought appropriate that the second or 'lower' side in each division would encourage the development of players and 'feed' the other team.

3.00 The following players volunteered to Captain sides. Div 1 - Alex; Div 2 - Pete; Gary; Div 3 - Mal, assisted by Howard; Neil assisted by Alex Nolan.

No-one volunteered for the important post of Club Captain; however, as a temporary measure, Alex Whitehouse agreed to chair and arrange the Captains meeting to populate and sort out squads for each team.

4.00 Points to ponder.

- a. In the case of not obtaining players at 1 and 2 of sufficient quality or ability, Player selection should attempt to recruit stronger, winning players at 3, 4 & 5 particularly in Division One.
- b. Subject to identifying new or additional players, Squads should have 7 or 8 players to cover injuries and 'unavailability'
- c. In view of the mixed 'reliability' of players last Season, Captains should seek to explain the minimum commitment required from players for league matches, both home and away.
- d. If, during the player selection process, there is a will or determination or perception that a second Squad could be strong enough to compete meaningfully in Division One, then permission would be required from the County to have a second team in that Division bearing in mind that a team was relegated at the end of the season.
- e. The Club should not lose sight of the policy of bringing on young players in the lower sides, particularly in the lower of each side in Division 2 and 3.
- f. Captains were advised to recruit more players by personal contact rather than relying on emails etc.
- g. Above all else, players should be encouraged to enjoy "match days" both on and off Court.