

PRESS RELEASE

HORSHAM FC

At a Special Meeting called for the purpose this week the Board of the Ryman League considered an application for a ground share by Horsham FC at Worthing FC for a two year period.

The Board were deeply concerned that Horsham FC had put themselves into this position by entering into a new contract with developers which did not give them security whereby a new ground was built before the developers took possession of the existing ground. This is all the more important because a previous agreement with another developer had provided that security.

Instead of looking to ground share with neighbours the Club had initially sought a share at Crawley Town FC which would not only have been extremely expensive but was not seen by the League to be in the best interests of the members of the Premier Division because home matches could have been postponed at short notice. Horsham FC have therefore asked for permission to play their home matches some 20 miles away at Worthing FC.

At the current time the Lease which Worthing FC have does not permit such a ground share and the Club currently does allow the Reserve Team of Brighton & Hove Albion FC to play some matches on its ground.

The League has a policy not to allow "triple sharing" and therefore the Board has agreed to allow the ground share for one season only providing Worthing FC get legal permission from the freeholders and providing only the Worthing and Horsham clubs play at the ground. There will be monitoring of the number of games played on the pitch and the maintenance of the pitch.

In the meantime Horsham FC have been warned that they must achieve certain objects by 31st March 2009 at which stage the Board will consider any request for an extension of the ground share. The Club are required to have either obtained planning permission for their new ground or be appealing any refusal or have submitted a fresh application and, as important, have submitted a satisfactory business plan to show how the building of the new ground will be completed and they must also provide proof that funding is in place.

Horsham FC therefore have a great deal of work to do and retain the support of the Ryman League whose name they have served well during their 35 year membership of the League non more so than in the current season with their exploits in The FA Cup. The League wishes the Club well and hopes that the Club is able to overcome its problems.

For further information contact League Chairman Alan Turvey, 01256 461789