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NATIVE WELFARE SOCIETY OF BULAWAYO.

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P.O. Box 552,
BULAWAYO.

15th June, 1944.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Owing to the absence of several members of the Executive Committee from Bulawayo, the quarterly meeting fixed for the 20th June has had to be cancelled.

Mr. Justice R.C. Tredgold has kindly consented to defer his address until WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE, and the meeting will take place on that day in the Womens' Institute, at 4.30 p.m.

The usual monthly meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on THURSDAY, 22ND JUNE, in the Railway Commission Board Room at 5.5 p.m.

Attached please find a copy of minutes of the previous meeting, ~~together with a copy of the replies received from the Government to the resolutions by the Council of the Federation passed on the 5th February, 1944,~~ and Mr. Clegg's Report for May.

Yours faithfully,

G.R. AGAR

Hon. Secretary

AGENDA:-

1. Minutes of the 25th May, 1944.
2. Business Arising:-
 - (a) Hillside Activities
 - (b) Letting of Stanley Hall
 - (c) Native Hospital, Bulawayo
 - (d) African Referees
3. Mr. Clegg's Report.
4. Correspondence.
5. General.

REPORT OF THE NATIVE WELFARE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1944

1. STANLEY HALL

The functional activities at the Stanley Hall have continued normally throughout the past month, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to satisfy the ever growing needs of the Africans in this direction.

It is usual for the hall to be fully booked up for at least three months ahead, and this often causes considerable heart-burning for those wanting the use of the hall at short notice.

Mr. Newton who has been working very hard for some time with his "Glamour Girls" with a view to staging a variety show for the purpose of raising war funds, is making excellent, steady and well-merited progress, and he feels confident that he will succeed in producing a very good performance within the next two or three months.

Mr. Newton is being given every possible assistance, but he too is feeling somewhat 'cramped' in the time available for use of the hall for his rehearsals.

Several innovations to improve the amenities of the hall have recently been authorised.

A long unused wall-clock has been resurrected and put back into good working order, and will meet a much felt need.

To further assist Mr. Newton, it is proposed to instal a spot-light, and to fit detachable foot-lights for stage use, also an extra (collapsible) stage for the accommodation of orchestras or European visitors. The last mentioned has been badly needed for some time.

Now that the new store-room has been completed and the dressing-room cleared of stuff, work is to be put in hand to make this accommodation suitable for a committee-room, and permission has been given to have it fitted with a ceiling and to furnish it with a table, chairs and pictures. It has also been agreed to have a lock-up glazed cabinet made to house the numerous floating sports trophies.

2. AFRICAN FOOTBALL

On the 28th May a representative Bulawayo team beat Wankie at Wankie - by 5 goals to 1 in the first round for the Osborn Cup. The semi-finals and finals for this Cup will be played when the first-round winners (Shabani, Umtali, Salisbury and Bulawayo) meet in Bulawayo on the 9th, 10th and 11th July.

The ball situation, which has caused grave concern since before the commencement of the season, has now developed into a serious problem and, unless some means can be found to overcome the difficulty in the very near future, all organized football will cease.

Late last year we were very lucky in securing eighteen new footballs with which to start the season, but it has since been impossible to get further supplies. The situation has since been further aggravated because of the poor quality of both the covers and bladders which only last a fraction of the time of pre-war supplies. At the moment we have four new ball cases in stock BUT ONLY ONE new unpatched bladder, and a very large percentage of the balance are beyond repair.

3. FOOTBALL FINANCES

The gate receipts taken at the week-end league matches have substantially increased this season.

Last year the average takings from the opening of the season to date was £3. 9. 3d, whereas this season the average weekly takings have amounted to £6.19. 1d - an increase of more than 100%. This has been almost entirely due to the introduction of a system of admission passes issued only to those players who are scheduled to play, and requiring all others - whether active playing club members or not - to pay an admission. While the issue of these admission cards (120 of them) each week-end has considerably increased the work of this office, the results have proved very encouraging.

4. AFRICAN SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

The passing of a clause in the Referees new Constitution restricting the membership to non-active footballers has resulted in a number of resignations which reduced the Associations membership from 24 to 17; despite this however, the remaining members have responded magnificently and have been doing extraordinarily well, but are being sorely tried in their great efforts be certain (one in particular) obstructionist "sea-lawyers" amongst members of the Football Association who will either have to be eliminated from this Association, or against whom strong measures will have to be adopted to prevent further ignorant interference from them - if well-organized African football is to survive. This matter is to be brought up and threshed out at the earliest opportunity.

The suggestion, put up at the last Executive Committee meeting, that Mr. Doherty should be asked to become Patron of the Referees' Association was followed up, and I am pleased to report that Mr. Doherty has not only kindly agreed to this, but has also undertaken to do what he can to find other qualified volunteer referee helpers, and to himself join with them in giving instruction to the African Referees. It is hoped therefore that this difficulty may soon be solved.

5. AFRICAN WOMEN'S (SEWING) CLUB

Since it has been found necessary to limit the supply of funds to this club, Mrs. Gordon has found it increasingly difficult to continue with her work on the lines previously established by her, and the position has now reached a stage when the principles underlying the organization will have to be clarified, and the club reorganized to meet the situation. This, I understand, is now under consideration by Mr. Ibbotson.

N.D. CIEGG

Native Welfare Officer

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