

Confusion as both Festive opponents pull-out

Contributed by John Walsh
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Workington Reds's festive opponents have both pulled-out of their games on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Reds should have travelled to Dunston on Boxing Day while Pontefract Collieries were due to visit Borough Park on January 1st.

Dunston issued a statement this afternoon in which the committee announced that they were not going to play over the holiday period.

It read: "Following a discussion by the club's committee, Dunston UTS FC have taken the decision to not recommence with our League fixtures as planned over the festive period.

"This means that our Boxing Day fixture at home to Workington and our away fixture against Marske United on New Year's Day will not go ahead.

"We understand the disappointment our supporters and also that of our opponents, may feel as a result of this decision, however this is in light of the current situation regarding Covid-19 within our area which still remains in Tier 3.

"The safety and well-being of supporters, players and officials is of the upmost importance.

"Over the course of the pandemic we have had three members of our club affected by Covid-19 and we do not wish to put anybody involved with the club in a position where they, too, could be impacted."

Workington also received news today that Pontefract Collieries had opted not to travel to west Cumbria on New Year's Day because of the Covid-19 situations.

The Northern Premier League had broken ranks with the Southern League and the Isthmian League last week to say that their clubs could play the regular fixtures as long as both clubs agreed. Brighouse and Workington went ahead with their game yesterday and drew 2-2.

The Workington board met this afternoon to consider what steps to take themselves in the light of the two postponements and it seems fairly certain that Boxing Day will be blank.

But there is a willingness to play at home on New Year's Day and efforts are being made to find suitable opponents who are prepared to travel.

Chairman Les Byers (pictured), who is standing down as chairman on January 1 to allow Dave Bowdon to take over, feels the situation is fast becoming a fiasco.

"From our meeting we are going to write to the League for clarification on one or two issues. It is a fluid situation, with changes all the time, but we are trying to come up with a game for our supporters on New Year's Day.

"Danny and his players are keen to play but we just don't know what is going to happen."

Reds are second, joint top on 19 points with Ramsbottom and Colne, but have played a game more than both of them.