



English Schools' Football Association

# Membership Matters

## A message from the Chairman

### Reminders and useful dates:

**ESFA AGM part 2  
– Thursday 1st  
December**

As we conclude another academic year, you have proved – once again- that intra-school, inter-school, inter-district, inter-county and international schools' football really is for everyone. For my part, having been involved in schools' football for over 30 years, it is an honour to find myself having the opportunity to lead this unique organisation for 2022/23.

I am well aware of the challenges we all face, particularly with inter-district and inter-county football. There are many concerns that have the potential to create issues for those of us who value schools' representative football and the educational benefits it offers. I am determined to do all I can to support the great work that is being done by colleagues throughout the country, and to look at ways to ensure it continues and flourishes in a way that was very much in evidence at the National Plate Finals last month which I had the pleasure to attend.

I have no doubt the wonderful staff team in Stafford, led by Andrea, will be presenting some ideas as the new season unfolds - but I would welcome an input from Membership, especially from Districts and Counties who offer innovative and extensive programmes despite the challenges they face. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with colleagues, to watch matches and to support in any way I can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to provide such unique and special experiences for young people, wish you a restful summer and look forward to a great academic year ahead.

Stuart Botham  
ESFA Chair 22/23





## ESFA AGM Part 2

Part 2 of the ESFA AGM will take place on Thursday 1st December, beginning at 18.30 for a 19.00 start. The meeting will take place online. Meeting invites will be sent out closer to the date. The meeting will cover the ESFA Annual Report and the accounts.

## ESFA Council Minutes

Mark Hignett, Chair for 2021/22, welcomed Council Members to the final Council meeting of the season. Members were thanked for their contribution to the AGM and it was determined that the second part of the AGM would be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm, online.

Council received their report from the CEO, and noted that The FA had written to CFAs to encourage them to support the appointment of match officials to schools' football fixtures. In some parts of the country, this had been helpful. Further work was required to add to the national volunteer taskforce for safeguarding. Council received expressions of interest from within their number to serve as ESFA rep on The FA, on SAFIB, on the National Council for School Sport (NCSS) and on Sport and Recreation Alliance (SARA), with nominations to be put to an email vote. Viability of rep football competitions had been assessed and as most competitions were reaching a point of affordability, the deadline for entries would be extended and Membership encouraged to enter. A new closing date of 22<sup>nd</sup> July had been set. Council were pleased to welcome the players who had captained the U15 international girls' team to the meeting, to share their views of the international programme. A written report from the boys' captain had been received. Players were effusive in their enjoyment of the opportunity and most wanted increased chances to play.

The Rep Committee had reviewed international resourcing and operations and agreed a new operational meeting structure to streamline and quality assure processes. Management team appointments were confirmed and vacancies agreed, with adverts to follow. The Committee placed on record its thanks to Owen Aiston, outgoing Council Member, for his 6 years of dedicated service to the Committee.

The Football Governance Committee had welcomed Lloyd Wilson, Governance Manager, to the ESFA. The Chair again placed on record his thanks to the National Working Group for SCORY in developing a set of rules consistent with FA requirements but contextualised for the ESFA. The SCORY was under consideration by The FA. The Committee had received its routine discipline report, wishing to focus on E20 cautions next season. Members noted that CSFA administrator funding for 22/23 was conditional on compliance with sanctioning policies, and expressed its determination to review national practice for the administration of discipline.

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## ESFA Council Minutes Continued

The Football Development Committee received an update on the take up of the Development Fund, the Disability Festivals and the volunteering strategy, and were pleased to welcome back Dan Smith, Football Projects Manager, following his absence from work due to injury.

The Competitions Committee received a report on the National Finals, including the very positive reaction of PlayStation, players and teachers to the events. Members gave further consideration to eligibility for age-bound football by those on decelerated learning programmes, and determined that further consideration was necessary.

On top of matters reported elsewhere, Trustees reported on their full review of the Association's business plan. Members noted the financial monitoring being undertaken by Trustees against the budget, the feedback from sponsors and partners at year end reviews and the annual review of policies and the staff handbook.

Council Members paid personal tribute to the significant contribution of outgoing Council Members Mike Spinks and Owen Aiston, who thanked colleagues and staff for their help and support.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking Members for their contribution this season and with good wishes to the incoming Chair of Council, Stuart Botham and Vice Chair, Marvin Robinson

## Rep Football Competitions

The extended deadline for entry into our national rep football finals closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. We will assess financial viability and groups at the earliest practical opportunity, with announcements to follow shortly afterwards. In the meantime, a reminder that the dates for the 22/23 competitions were published in advance last year, and you can find them [here](#). Although these were based on the Champions' Cup format, knock out cups would follow a similar date structure.

## ESFA Hotshots - Intra School Football

ESFA Hotshots was a new initiative created by the ESFA, encouraging intra-school football. The project's aim was to encourage as many young people as possible into organised team sport, regardless of ability. The campaign was incredibly successful, with 31,564 children participating in activity, split between 12,512 Girls and 17,808 Boys. This equals around 4,500 teams.

### **School feedback: The Birley Academy – Winners of Boys' Secondary Competition**

"The Birley Academy was keen to participate in the Hotshots Interform Competition as soon as it was advertised. This is because we felt it would make a significant difference to the number of students who enjoy participating in Football and Interform competitions. As soon as we advertised the interform competition within school many of the students began taking an interest and expressed their excitement for the competition."

(Continued)



## ESFA Hotshots (Continued)

### What difference has this made to our students?

“While completing the interform competition and all sporting activities since, students have developed a sense of teamwork and communication skills and have taken pride in representing their form in various competitions. This has allowed them to demonstrate fantastic sportsmanship skills and develop friendships that otherwise would not have been formed. In addition to this, as a school we have seen an increase in the number of students who attend afterschool Football Clubs. The prize won will also provide our students with endless opportunities to participate in sporting activities that would otherwise not be available to them, including alternative sports for our Special Educational Needs students. I would like to express my personal thanks to the English Schools’ Football Association for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of such a fantastic campaign.”

## ESFA Council appointments and vacancies

The ESFA is delighted to announce the appointment of Richy Alderson as the new duly elected Council Member for the North. Richy was the England U18 Schoolboys’ team manager from 2018-2022 and we welcome his experience in Schools’ Football on the ESFA council. There remains one vacancy for the North region, interested parties should contact a north region council member or the CEO directly for a further discussion.

## ESFA HQ Shutdown

Please be aware that ESFA HQ will be closed from Monday 8th August to Friday 12th August. Staff will be able to respond to any queries upon their return to the office on Monday 15th August.

## Mike Spinks and Owen Aiston

In last month’s edition we paid tribute to two long serving council members who have now left the ESFA council, Mike Spinks and Owen Aiston. These tributes can now be found on the ESFA website [here](#).

## Safeguarding Children – Recertification

The FA contacted the ESFA sharing an update on the requirements relating to the Safeguarding Children course from England Football Learning. There has been a requirement for the Safeguarding Children course to be completed for re-certification every three years however, following The Sheldon Report there has been several changes to how we uphold our responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. One of the changes is that we must complete re-certification every two years, with immediate affect. This will not affect those individuals with a current, in-date three year Safeguarding re-certification. The FA will honour the exiting expiry dates of those who currently hold an in-date three-year re-certification and they will move over to the two-year renewal cycle upon the expiry of their existing qual/re-certification.

With immediate affect any learners wanting to re-certify should be directed to <https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/online-safeguarding-children-re-certification>.

The online course is free for learners who have previously completed the Safeguarding Children Workshop.

## Reward and Recognition

The ESFA has launched a new Reward and Recognition Campaign this week with the aim to reach out to and reward the army of volunteers that continue to dedicate their time, providing opportunities for school pupils across England to participate in local schools' football activity.

Recent findings have shown that there are volunteers giving up their time on behalf of the ESFA in local areas, via County and District Schools' FA's – without realising that their efforts are contributing to the countrywide mission of the Association. The work of volunteers is intrinsic to the continuation of the ESFA across local and representative football and its impact on communities throughout England. Therefore, it is important the Association attempts to make a connection with these valuable volunteers to both recognise and reward their contributions.

The ESFA plans to reach as many volunteers as possible, reminding them of how valued their input is and maybe even introducing some of them to the wider work of the English Schools' FA. The new campaign also ensures that volunteers are aware of some of the benefits that can be accessed as part of their ESFA Membership. The Association is therefore asking volunteers to spare a few minutes to fill out the below survey, ensuring their contact details are captured – <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YYHZBKP>

As part of the campaign, all volunteers that register via the link above will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 Pro:Direct voucher. There will be 10 chances to win in each of the ESFA's 4 regions (North, Midlands, South East & South West).

ESFA volunteers can already register for a Pro:Direct account as part of the ESFA's 'clubshop', via this [link](#). This registration will ensure volunteers automatically receive 12 months free [Elite Plus membership](#) to Pro:Direct including 12 months free delivery on all items and 10% off their next football boot purchase.

The ESFA's new Reward & Recognition campaign is designed to reinforce the importance of volunteering within Schools' Football and the Association plans to embrace this for the upcoming season and beyond.







## ESFA National Finals: Player Feedback

The English Schools' Football Association's player engagement campaign is aimed at increasing the amount of input that players have in the decisions taken by the ESFA. This feedback helps the Association to continue to provide schools' football opportunities that players truly benefit from.

ESFA National Final events were the perfect opportunity for us to collect this feedback directly from the players involved. Click [here](#) to read some highlights from the player feedback campaign for ESFA National Finals 2022.



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