



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

Don't forget...

The final trials for the England U15 Schoolgirls is taking place at Stafford Town on Sunday 15th December.

The Office will be closed from the 23rd of December until the 2nd of January

AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting of the ESFA was held on Saturday 23rd November 2019 at the Beacon Centre in Stafford. 43 Associations were represented and Council conveys its thanks to Members for their attendance.

The Chairman opened the weekend's proceedings by introducing Ian Laithwaite, the ESFA's Commercial Director, who provided workshop attendees with an update on his work. With a brief to secure unrestricted income for the Association, the Commercial Director reported on his targets, his leads and his ambitions for the year, which included stimulating investment for representative football.

The workshop discussion then moved on to the need to re-invigorate representative football, with a model offered by the Chairman as a start point for the discussion. The model proposed changing the format of national competitions to increase opportunities to play (by using a Champions League-style format rather than a knock out cup format) and increasing the number of age groups accommodated by the current national competitions structure. Members offered valuable insight into local practice, as well as making suggestions to enhance the initial model proposed. Members debated the cost of alternative football provision impeaching on representative football, and many acknowledged that paying to play had become the norm, so should be considered.

Following long service award presentations and recognition of those in receipt of awards at local events, the Chair opened the AGM. The standing orders were adopted, and apologies announced. A minute's silence was held in respect of those members who had passed away since the last meeting. Scrutineers were then appointed, and minutes approved.

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AGM Report (continued)

The Chair took comments from the floor regarding the Annual Report, agreeing to include the names of those in receipt of long service awards, a discipline report and data on sustainability of projects funded by the Development Fund in future reports. Members reflected on the delay in funding for County administrators and sought assurances around future funding. The financial report was presented by the Chair of Trustees and both the Honorary and the professional auditors were thanked and re-appointed. Council members' appointments were reported.

Consideration was given to the proposed rule changes and with the exception of the option to revert to previous standing orders, all rules were passed as proposed. The AGM gave approval for Council to implement the enhanced eligibility categories for service to Council with immediate effect: the remainder would take effect in the 20/21 season.

The Chairman gave appropriate thanks to the contribution of staff, the outgoing Chairman, Council members and Association members for their work during the season, and in so doing, awarded Life Membership to Gerry Smith, outgoing Council member for the south west.

The Chair and Council members wished those present a safe outward journey and an enjoyable festive period.

Council Report

Phil Harding, Chair for 2019/20, opened the meeting by welcoming all members, and in particular Peter Clayton, re-elected to represent The FA, to the Council meeting. Ray Ashley, the potential specialist disability co-optee to Council was also welcomed to his weekend as Council observer. The Chair thanked Council for their contribution to the AGM, which was considered to have been a positive and productive meeting. Members reflected that the AGM workshop, with regard to the re-invigoration of representative football, had been helpful and influential and that further thought should now be given to the next steps.

Competitions Committee reported that national competition entries were now up by 133 teams overall, with the highest number of girls' entries ever recorded. Competitions were progressing well. The Committee wished to celebrate the achievements of the teams representing England in the Danone Nations World Cup finals, with all four teams winning the Fair Play award in their event. Those in attendance commented on the fantastic experience that the tournament provided for the players and Council heard of the extensive local press coverage which had been generated as a result. Members heard that Schools' Football Week would take place between 3rd – 7th February 2020, with one of the highlights being the PlayStation "Next Level Live" event, scheduled for the Monday of that week, at West Bromwich Albion.

Representative Committee updated Council on its reflections about the AGM workshop and recommended the commissioning of a staff project team to draft fuller proposals on representative football reforms, for consideration by wider Council and Trustees. A call for information about existing inter-District football activity was to be included in the next "Membership Matters". Further updates were provided about the international fixture programme, including friendlies and the preparatory training, which would take place courtesy of Inspire Sport. Consideration was given to the venue options for the Bob Docherty Trophy and a final decision referred to SAFIB for response. Interviews for the girls International Programme Co-ordinator were to take place over the coming week.



Council Report (Continued)

Association Development Committee reported on the progress of Association restructures, three of which had been considered and approved in the preceding week. Successful 19/20 development fund applications were noted, with nearly £20,000 allocated. Members were pleased to receive a new, detailed discipline report from the National Competitions Secretary and were impressed to learn that both John Martin and Mark Warren had been appointed as members of The FA's National Discipline Panel. Members were advised that the process to secure volunteer reward and recognition tickets for next calendar year from The FA was underway.

Trustees reported back on the current financial position, which was marginally better than anticipated, and on the sponsorship leads being generated by the Association's Commercial Director. A report on existing partnerships was given, and Trustees were pleased to see the educational opportunity given to UCFBs broadcasting undergraduates in enhancing the ESFA.TV YouTube channel as part of that partnership. Trustees gave their full support to the financial assumptions made to deliver the Player Passport and incorporated further work on this into the brief for the project team. Trustees were pleased to hear that the essential work to upgrade the ESFA's IT system was ahead of schedule and on budget.

The Chair closed the meeting with a reminder that the next Council meeting would include the U18 boys' international friendly against Australia at Stafford Town, and offered Council and all ESFA Association members best wishes for the festive season.

District Football - membership action required!

Members will see from both the report of the AGM and the report of Council that consideration is being given to re-invigorating representative football, and to help inform our thinking, we would be interested to hear what activity, beyond our national competitions, is taking place.

County Secretaries are therefore invited to email the CEO on andrea.chilton@schoolsfa.com, listing the inter-district competitions being run by their own Associations, by age group, with play on dates/deadlines and drawing out whether this is for boys, girls, or both.

Thanks in advance for helping us to formulate our plans.

Disability Co-optee to Council

We are delighted to announce that Ray Ashley will be joining Council as a co-optee with immediate effect. Ray's specialist role will be to advise on the development of disability football and on equality matters generally. Ray is currently the Head of Engagement at the Activity Alliance, where he leads a team of staff with responsibility for supporting the sports sector to achieve a high standard of disability equality in their work. With a career history in sports development, Ray chose to undertake some teacher training for his own personal development, and was awarded his PGCE from Nottingham Trent University in 2003. We look forward to welcoming Ray to Council

Sport England disability sport funding

Sport England are offering some great funding opportunities for disability sport as part of their Toyota Parasport campaign. Click [here](#) to see the funding application guidelines.

Boudens Partnership

Please be aware that our contract with our official transport partner, Bouden's, ceased during the first week in November.

If you have booked vehicles with them, you are free to continue to use them if you wish, or to cancel (if your terms with them permit this) at your discretion.

We have removed them from our approved partners communications and will not use this company in future.

Schools Football Week 2020

The English Schools' Football Association are delighted to announce full details on this season's Schools' Football Week, from 3 – 7 February 2020.

Running for the third season, the ESFA initiative is a campaign to not only highlight the huge scale of Schools' Football in England, but also an opportunity for schools and teams across the country to showcase the talent, dedication and benefits of schools' football using their own experiences. We are keen to draw attention to the wonderful world of Schools' Football in as many ways as possible and from as many different perspectives as we can, with a view to continuing to raise awareness of the English Schools' FA and what we are able to provide for school children across the country

Registration is now open

First of all, we want to know what *you* have in store for your pupils and players! Registration is now open so you can let us know what you have planned – from intra-school matches, to coaching sessions, from writing supporter songs to crossbar challenges and penalty shootouts, there are so many ideas you can get your pupils involved with.

If you're looking for some inspiration, then we've put together some ideas for you [here](#).

Schools' Football Week prizes and rewards

Registration rewards

A huge part of the Schools' Football Week campaign is making sure that we, at the ESFA, can understand the amount of activity taking place. Our registration page is now open (you can find it [here](#)) and here's the best part –

For every SFW activity registration via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SFWreg2020> the school, team or club represented will be automatically entered into a draw to win 30 tickets for a tour of Wembley Stadium, kindly donated to us by The FA. What a great opportunity!

SFW Game On activity

All teams that take part in SFW Game On activity will be in the running to win a fantastic prize, courtesy of Panini UK. Each player within the winning team or class will have the opportunity to have a Panini sticker version of themselves created, with Panini framing the whole team-set as a gift for the school or team.

Schools Football Week 2020 (Continued)

In order to be in with a chance of winning this completely bespoke prize, you must:

Register your activity for SFW Game On via our online portal (registration is open until Friday 3 January 2020)

Share social posts on Twitter and/or Instagram, tagging in @SchoolsFootball and using the hashtag #SFWGameOn

Pupil Survey

We have created a pupil survey that is available for all pupils from primary to college level to fill out –the purpose of the survey is to gain some valuable insight into the opinions of children on Schools' Football but also on the wider game.

The survey gives students the opportunity to also fill in which school they attend and thanks to our fantastic Kit Suppliers, Pendle, your school could be in the running to win a brand new team football kit (14 printed shirts + GK, also including shorts and socks)!

We are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to schools in England – so please encourage your pupils to spend a few minutes providing us with some feedback and giving themselves a voice within football. We will keep a record of all the school names entered by pupils and each of those schools will be placed into a draw to win this great prize!

You can share this link to pupils: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SFWpupilsurvey>



Futsal Funding

The FA has granted the ESFA a small sum of development funding to supporting futsal. Available only to CSFA's where there is no county FA competition, or who have not had development funding for this purpose this season, grants will be awarded through an application process notified to eligible CSFA's



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