



Membership Matters

Edition #10 - July 17



National finals season comes to a close!

The national competitions finals came to a close with the three remaining fixtures being played at St George's Park in July. The traditional season-ending finals – the PlayStation U12 Small Schools' 9 a side competition for boys and the PlayStation Girls' U12 9 a side competition – were played out on 3rd and 7th July respectively. In the girls' contest, Thomas Telford (Telford & Wrekin) took the honours, beating Shenfield (Chelmsford & Mid Essex) 2-1. For the boys, Greneway School (North Hertfordshire) beat St Bede's (Manchester) by a scoreline of 4-3. St Ivo (Huntingdon) were the victors in the re-scheduled PlayStation U14 Girls' Schools Cup, defeating Rosset High School (Harrogate & Craven) 7-1. Once again, many congratulations to all of our finalists.



As part of the PlayStation Schools' Cup festival at Derby County in May, we asked both players and pupils to tell us about their experience. No doubt members will be unsurprised to hear that, overwhelmingly, and irrespective of whether teams finished as national champions or runners up, they were excited and proud to have reached a national final and generally said they had a great day! The experience of playing in a stadium was an important factor in both player and teacher satisfaction levels, although teachers were also appreciative of the social media coverage generated by the finals. Teachers were highly satisfied with the efficiency of the administration and organisation of the competitions, and thrilled by the experience it provides for their pupils. All schools consider the competition they enter to be good value for money.



It is therefore with great pleasure that we are able to confirm that PlayStation will continue to support our national competitions for a further two years, subject to a review at the end of 17/18. We place on record, once again, our grateful thanks to PlayStation and all of the sponsors and partners who make our national finals possible.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Case Studies

The Football Development Team will, by 19th July, have completed their round of visits to CSFAs and these visits, along with interactions with Districts, have drawn out some great practice being delivered by our Associations. We are starting to build up a bank of these case studies, in case the experience of others can help your Association, so take a look at our first cases here:

<http://esfa.co.uk/resources/?development/association-case-studies>

where you will see:

- Ideas for income generation
- The benefits of partnership working
- The impact of paid administration
- District operating models

We aim to expand our portfolio of case studies, so if you'd like to share your great practice, please contact Andy Weston, David Ebberson or Kieren Laverick, or download the "Good Practice Template" from the resources section of the website and send it in!

County Administrators

The vast majority of our CSFAs now have, or are in the process of getting, paid administrative support. Either through their own contacts or as brokered by our Football Development Team, CSFAs are benefitting from partnerships which have been secured with a number of different types of organisations who are acting to provide administrative support. Often this is the County FA, with partners citing the "joined up planning" as a key benefit to the arrangement: in other areas, School Games Organisers, supported by their schools, are fulfilling the role. Other CSFAs have opted for some support from self-employed colleagues and on occasion, the ESFA has acted as the employer. Administrators are deployed to suit the needs of the Association, with duties such as fixture secretaries, web developers, fund raisers, marketing officers or competition organisers. We thank our partners both locally and nationally for helping us with this development.

Technology

With the ever increasing use of technology to support sports administration, members have recommended a number of technological suppliers to us. If you're creating a new website, colleagues have been satisfied with:

www.progress.agency

<http://plantpotweb.com/>

hicklinchris@hotmail.com

If you're looking for fixture management software, colleagues have been happy with:

<http://full-time.thefa.com/>

www.peresults.co.uk

Football Participation

Thanks to those of you who were involved in the compilation of the data returns: we appreciate it is a huge task but are gratified to hear that it's been an exercise which has helped many Associations to identify schools in their area who aren't participating in their activities. And great news! Despite the challenges faced in some areas of the country, overall, schools' football continued to thrive through 2016/17:



73,667 teams played



No. disability teams
increased to 525



No. of girls' teams
increased by 5%



1387 new teams
created through ESFA's
development fund



NEWS FROM HQ

Website

We will embark on our next stage of redevelopment of the Association website over the summer. By the end of October we are aiming to have a new look to the website, with improved accessibility and visibility and, for us here at HQ, the ability to more quickly update information and so improve the quality of web content. This is the first phase of an 18 month programme which will see the modernisation of the technology to support the website, improved functionality, improved interactivity and greater security/stability in our data. No doubt this first phase will create debate amongst those with strong design preferences, but our intention is to make the website easier to navigate, with improved currency of information, so if you don't like how it looks, please do concentrate on what it does!



Office Closure

The office will be closed for a week during August so staff will be unavailable from 7-11 August. National Child Welfare Officers can still be contacted in the event of child welfare concerns during this period.



“Membership Matters”

And finally, this is the last edition of “MM” for this season. The newsletter will return in September, so please do let us know if you'd like to see any particular topics covered during next season. In the meantime, Council members & staff wish you all happy and restful summer!



Feedback from Council Meetings

On the recommendation of the Honorary Auditors, who will report back the findings from their annual visit to the AGM as usual, a summary of Council discussions will in future be included in each relevant edition of “MM”. The summary from the June 2017 meeting is provided overleaf:

JUNE MEETING OF ESFA COUNCIL

At the concluding meeting of the season, Council noted that the new Constitution for the Association, as mandated by the AGM, had been approved by the Charity Commission, and would therefore be in operation for the new season as planned. Consideration was then given to the Committee structure for the coming season, with Council agreeing that 3 Committees would be established. The Competitions Committee would continue; a Representative Football Committee would be established and that an Association Development Committee would also be established. Council mandated the creation of a fixed term working group to support the Association's PR and marketing ambitions, and approved the creation of an unpaid graduate internship position within HQ to support this important work.

Council nominated three Trustees to join the ex-officio Trustees (outgoing Chairman, incoming Chairman and incoming Vice Chairman) for next season. Mike Coyne, Dave Woollaston and Paul Rickard would be offered for election at the AGM. Council noted the resignation of Ciaran McCarten, the Independent Council Member, and placed on record their thanks to him for his contribution. The Honorary Auditors are in the process of seeking a replacement. Discussions were held about the importance of filling other Council vacancies, and it was agreed that the support of membership would be sought, via the AGM, to address this problem. Council agreed the approach to the Premier League for them to fill their newly created Council position.

In evaluating the season, Council expressed its delight at the success of the national competitions programme, noting with pleasure that PlayStation, Danone and the Premier League had reported very high levels of satisfaction with their finals. Council was also pleased to hear that the Premier League Community Fund was intending to continue with some level of funding for U11 District Rep football, although the detail had not yet been confirmed. Council noted that a review of the international programme had concluded, with recommendations received from both management teams. Council also noted that there had been insufficient interest in the summer coaching course, planned for Repton, and that it had been cancelled: it was further noted that work to consider options for refreshing this coaching course would take place over the summer. Council was pleased to hear that the ESFA had been invited to submit an article to School Sports Magazine regarding the state of the game in schools and agreed to comment on the draft being created by Mark Hignett on Council's behalf.

Trustees reported that 98% of CSFAs had submitted their data returns, although some were not fully complete, and wished to thank those involved for their attention in this matter. Council heard that it was the intention to make the data available in future to Associations through the ESFA's portal, and as such that this should be the last year where a manual data return was required. Trustees also reported the approval of administrator staffing grants for three more CSFAs, agreed the extension beyond the first year of operation for a further three, and noted that three additional expressions of interest had been received. Trustees reported that terms and conditions had been agreed with Inspire Sport to continue to act as our sponsor and international tour provider.

Council gave consideration to concerns raised about the inclusion of boys in girls' football teams, following the update to mixed football regulations, and wished to encourage membership to adopt the rule in the spirit in which it had been written – to afford girls greater playing opportunities.

Council heard that Mervyn Leggett had been appointed as the new FA Vice-chairman and that he had greatly enjoyed his experience when attending the PlayStation Schools' Cup Finals at Derby.

A minute's silence was held at the start of the meeting, to pay respect to members of the ESFA family who had recently passed away.