



English Schools' Football Association

# Membership Matters

## Don't forget...

Schools' Football  
Week 3-7 February  
(More info on page  
5)

## Centenary Shield Home Fixtures...

England vs ROI  
Spennymoor Town  
F.C.  
Friday 3rd April

England vs  
Scotland  
North Ferriby  
Thursday 9th April

## Chairman's Statement

Welcome to the New Year and a new decade!

It is appropriate that I start by paying tribute to Malcolm Berry, who passed away on Christmas Eve. Few can match his record of service to schools' football at local, county, national and international levels. As a PE Teacher, County Secretary, Council Member, Chief Executive and Life Member he gave unstintingly of his time, talent and passion to young people, colleagues and everyone in the schools' game. There was standing room only at his funeral, with many colleagues from ESFA paying their respects alongside family and friends from his time in Stafford and his native North-East.

As always, the staff at ESFA HQ have been working extremely hard. Alongside the fantastic programme of competitions that involve thousands of young people, the business side of the organisation supports what we do at school, district, county and international levels. Securing new sponsorship is always challenging, so it especially pleasing that Utilita have joined us to enhance the international programme. That programme has got off to an excellent start, with both the Girls U15 and Boys U18 squads in action. The girls drew 2-2 against ISFA U16s, while the boys defeated the RAF 4-1 and drew 1-1 with Australia. Both squads will head to Eindhoven during the February half-term, courtesy of the excellent sponsorship deal with Inspire Sport.

The ESFA development staff have embarked on an ambitious programme of support for counties and districts, to enable them to govern their areas more effectively, to become more sustainable and to plan more strategically for the future. Having experienced first-hand the benefits that this exercise brings, I commend it to colleagues and strongly urge everyone to engage fully with it. It may seem daunting initially, but it is certainly very worthwhile.

The CEO informs me that the role of the ESFA Chairman entails over sixty days of full-time commitments to national finals, international matches, meetings, supporting sponsors and myriad other events. To this must be added supporting lots of other activities around the country to which the Chairman gets invited, so I anticipate it being virtually a full-time "job" over the next few months! I very much look forward to meeting as many colleagues and the wonderful young people who take part in our activities as possible.

Have a great season and thank you for all that you do to provide such unique and special experiences for young people.



## Council Report

Phil Harding, Chair for 2019/20, opened the meeting by welcoming all members, particularly Ray Ashley who was confirmed as the ESFA's specialist disability co-optee to Council. The Chair also reported the resignation from Council of Josh Charalambous, co-opted Member, and thanked him for his advice and support during his tenure. The Chair reported that the formal shirt presentation to the ESFA U18 boys' international squad was to take place mid-morning, with parents in attendance. Tribute was then paid to Malcolm Berry, former ESFA Chair and CEO, and a minute's silence was held to commemorate his life and his contribution to schools' football.

Council members held further discussions about the Player Passport and, given the levels of support expressed at the AGM, gave in-principle endorsement to the implementation plans presented. With the advice of the Association's Commercial Director, Council also discussed how the Player Passport model could be supported by sponsors and commissioned further research on the topic. Council members were pleased to be able to plan to progress the representative football reforms associated with the Player Passport.

The Chair of Competitions Committee updated Council on the advanced plans for national finals, which were close to completion. Council also heard about the PlayStation "Next Level Live" event arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> February at West Bromwich Albion, where participating schools' pupils would be offered the chance to take part in a range of educational and footballing activities, including some careers advice sessions from the ESFA's HE partner, UCFB.

Representative Committee updated Council on progress with the international programme: as part of this it was reported that England would now need to host the Bob Docherty tournament this season, with arrangements needing to be put in place quickly. Members heard that the change of date for the John Read Trophy, now potentially being held outside of the second weekend, may be problematic and the availability of girls to represent their Country was currently being assessed.

Association Development Committee reported on the progress of Association restructures and emphasised the need to progress these to timescale. Members heard that much of the Committee discussion thereafter had focused on the ESFA's sanctioning process, particularly for football offered by others. Council endorsed the recommendation that a working party be established to review procedures and communications.

Trustees reported that their work since the last Council meeting had been focused on the viability assessment of the Player Passport, and on further developing the commercial strategy with the support of the Commercial Director. Trustees thanked and congratulated the Commercial Director on the Utilita sponsorship, and Council endorsed these congratulations.

The Chair closed the meeting with an invitation to Council members to join the spectators at the u18 England schoolboys' fixture versus Australia, where a minute's silence was to be held prior to kick off for Malcolm Berry and the victims of the Australian bush fires.



## Malcolm Berry– Obituary

An Obituary to ex ESFA chairman Malcolm Berry is available to view [here](#)

## ‘Tell Us We’ll Tackle it’ Anti-Discrimination Campaign

The FA have recently launched their “Tell Us We’ll tackle it” campaign that highlights the path to tackle any discrimination that may take place (See graphic below). It is important that we are all aware of these important changes and updates. Please be sure to familiarise yourself with the latest process and content. Thanks for your support in advance.



## Danone 7 a-side regional final information

|                   | School Teams   | Girls  | Small Schools  | District   |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>North</b>      | Wednesday 18 March 2020<br>Harrogate Town FC<br>Alan Johnston<br><a href="mailto:alanjohnston100@skny.com">alanjohnston100@skny.com</a>                        | Tony James<br><a href="mailto:tony.jam3s@gmail.com">tony.jam3s@gmail.com</a>   | Wednesday 11 March 2020 (tbc)<br>Walker Activity Dome, Newcastle<br>Owen Aiston<br><a href="mailto:owenaiston@aol.com">owenaiston@aol.com</a>                  | AFC Sunderland Academy<br>Tom Baker<br><a href="mailto:tombak6@aol.com">tombak6@aol.com</a>  |
| <b>Midlands</b>   | Saturday 28 March 2020<br>Riverside Sports Complex, Notts<br>John Williamson<br><a href="mailto:johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com">johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com</a> | Saturday 21 March 2020<br>Riverside Sports Complex, Notts<br>John Williamson<br><a href="mailto:johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com">johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com</a> | Saturday 28 March 2020<br>Riverside Sports Complex, Notts<br>John Williamson<br><a href="mailto:johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com">johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com</a> | Saturday 21 March 2020<br>Riverside Sports Complex, Notts<br>John Williamson<br><a href="mailto:johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com">johnclwilliamson48@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>South East</b> | TBC  | TBC  | TBC  | TBC  |
| <b>South West</b> | Saturday 21 March 2020<br>Somerdale Pavillion, Keynsham<br>Mike Coyne<br><a href="mailto:mike.coyne@icloud.com">mike.coyne@icloud.com</a>                      |  |  |  |

A quick reminder that that organisers need to submit Risk Assessments in advance of the events. The template can be found [here](#).

## Government funding opportunity

The UK government is looking to create more physical activity opportunities for children by helping schools open up their facilities outside regular hours – and during school holidays. You can find more details about this strategy [here](#).

## Association Portal Data

A reminder for all associations to check their list of registered staff and DELETE those no longer involved. Furthermore, can you ensure that all staff whose DBS is showing as out of date applies for a new one as soon as possible.

# Schools' Football Week 2020



We are delighted to announce that this season's Schools' Football Week (SFW), taking place from 3 - 7 February 2020, has encouraged football opportunities for over 22,500 school pupils across England.

Schools' Football Week, an ESFA initiative, is a countrywide campaign, designed to highlight the huge scale of Schools' Football in England and also an opportunity for schools, teams and clubs to showcase their talent, dedication and benefits of schools' football using their own experiences.

The ESFA invited schools, Community Trusts and Schools' Football Associations from across England to show their support for Schools' Football Week and to outline any plans they have in place for the event. Over 300 schools and teams registered their activity and the impact of Schools' Football Week has some impressive figures attached;

- We expect more than **2,704 teams** (boys, girls and mixed) to be taking part in activity between 3 - 7 February
- We expect more than **22,580 school children** in England to be involved in some kind of activity relating to Schools' Football Week

Former Schools' Footballers, [Michael Keane](#) (Everton and England) and [Tammy Abraham](#) (Chelsea and England) created some video content for the ESFA and talked about their own experiences within Schools' Football and why it was so important to them. The ESFA is delighted to boast such high profile supporters of the work taken out by the Association and hopes to continue to inspire future generations of English players in their professional careers.

Thursday 6 February will mark the Schools' Football Week "Game On" aspect of the campaign - we will be monitoring all activity on social media that takes place on this day to get a good snapshot of Schools' Football activity within one specific day. All schools or teams that use the hashtag #SFWGameOn on 6 February will be put into a draw to win a framed Panini sticker mock up collection, featuring their own players from their school or club team.

The ESFA will be promoting Schools' Football Week activity across all social media channels from 3 - 7 February and sharing as much content as possible received from participants.



Follow **@SchoolsFootball** on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to keep up with all the most up to date news from the Association