



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

November AGM Report

The ESFA AGM was held in Stafford on Saturday 25th November, when 51 Associations were represented.

Changes to ESFA U15 Girls' Squad Final Trial:

Due to the recent snowy weather in Stafford, the Girls' U15 Final Trials were cancelled on Sunday 10 December.

The trial has now been rescheduled for **Sunday 14 January** at Stafford Town FC

CENTENARY SHIELD FIXTURES

The two England home International dates have been confirmed:

Friday 16 March

England v ROI
Luton Town FC
7pm KO

Friday 23 March

England v Scotland
York City FC
7pm KO

Prior to the AGM, a workshop session discussed the challenges in recruiting volunteers to serve on Council, given the time constraints felt by very many in the current teaching profession. The audience was reminded that there remained 3 elected member vacancies on Council and noted the challenges in fulfilling local Council member responsibilities in areas which were "short staffed". Members articulated similar concerns locally, and encouraged the Council to take active steps to help resolve the problem.

Over lunch, the Chairman presented long service awards to:

George Fleetwood, Oxfordshire CSFA, for his 40 years' service;
Jeffrey Todd, Humberside CSFA, for his 40 years' service;
John Williamson, Nottinghamshire CSFA, for his 50 years' service; and
Rod Hirst, Nottingham SFA, for his 50 years' service.

The Chairman then opened the AGM with a minute's silence to pay respect to members of the ESFA family who had recently passed away.

During the course of reporting to the AGM, the chairman accepted questions regarding funding for Associations, eligibility to serve as a Council member if new rules were adopted and around relationships with key funders. The Chairman of Trustees announced a doubling of funding for CSFAs from that planned, to up to £2000 this season, subject to completion of data returns and SLA compliance. The AGM accepted all of the proposed appointments in the agenda paper and moved on to consider rule changes.

The AGM accepted, unopposed, the following rule changes:

- Alteration of Competition rule 11, 'Mixed gender matches shall be played in line with current FA regulations.' To be amended with:
 - 11(b) I However, in all ESFA competition matches in the U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16 age groups which may involve players of mixed gender then only players from the same chronological academic year group shall take part.
- In the event that an eligible nominee for elected Council membership is not identified in an area, Council may, for a period of no longer than one year, co-opt a schools' employee who does not hold QTS but who is a member of an affiliated Association in the area, as long as the co-opted membership for that area does not exceed 1 member.
- Council shall from time to time co-opt members with specific expertise to the Council for a fixed period, to be no greater than 3 years. Any co-opted member shall be eligible for co-opting to serve as a Trustee, subject to AGM approval. Co-opted members shall be eligible to vote and their number shall temporarily add to the size of Council, to a maximum of 3 co-opted members

Council agreed to clarify the date by which future rule changes should be submitted, in advance of the AGM to be held next October or November, in Stafford.

This report is not intended to replace the minutes of the AGM, which will be made available as usual in due course.



November Council Meeting Update

Don't Forget

The ESFA office will close for Christmas on Thursday 21 December, re-opening on Tuesday 2 January 2018

Following approval by the AGM of the regulation to co-opt additional members to Council for specific purposes, Joshua Charalambous, a sports lawyer and governance expert, was welcomed to Council. Joshua had been identified as a possible co-optee by the Honorary Auditors who recommended his appointment to Council (subject to AGM ratification) after the selection process for the Independent Council Member.

Council members reflected on AGM workshop discussions about stimulating volunteers to serve on Council, and re-affirmed their commitment to supporting volunteer recruitment, recognition and reward. The substantive agenda item at the January Council weekend, following the presentations from personnel at The FA, would focus on the development of a volunteering strategy for the Association.

Council were pleased to hear from the Chief Executive that The FA had convened a group to support the development of a joint strategic plan for schools' football post 2019, and that the ESFA had thus far been a major contributor, for which The FA had been grateful. Council confirmed the importance of continuing to have a significant influence in this review, and were gratified to hear that representative football was part of the discussions.

The Competitions Committee reported back on the very good progress in all rounds of all national competitions, noting the significant reduction in unplayed fixtures due to the proactive chasing by the NCD, with the addition of the graduate interns to the team. The Committee was pleased to receive the analysis of national competition entries by County, and noted that, following a brief research project, teacher time and availability are the primary causes for schools electing not to participate, along with the cost of travel. The Committee heard of the late change in sponsor for the U12 football fives, and thanked the new sponsor, Running Imp.

The Representative Committee reported back on progress towards organising U18 Boys' home internationals, to be staged at Luton Town (subject to pitch condition) on 16th March against Rol, and York City on 23rd March against Scotland. Processes for selection and communication were agreed and the Committee approved the proposal for the boys to travel to Valencia and the girls to PSV Eindhoven for the February preparatory camps. The Committee also reported the intention to release funding to the successful applicants to the PLCF U11 Rep Team project at or just after Christmas, following the panel's decisions in late November and subject to the receipt of funds from PLCF.

The Association Development Committee reported back on negotiations with The FA on the development of a schools-specific Standard Code of Rules for football, which was being considered by the appropriate committee of The FA in December. The Committee was pleased to hear that over £81,000 had been allocated in principle to the 65 successful applicants to the Development Fund, creating over 2,000 news teams this season, noting that some negotiations with applicants had yet to be finalised. The committee welcomed the invitation to the girls' Deaf Schools' Trophy finalists to participate in The FA's Disability Cup at St Georges Park in the summer.

The Trustees of the Association reported on the Association's current financial position, which was one of a reducing deficit in year, following planning to underpin the 17/18 season with a small proportion of the 16/17 surplus. The Trustees approved a fundraising policy for the Association, and agreed to sign up for a further season with ClubApp, the match reporting app used to good effect as part of the international programme in 2016/17. Trustees confirmed that the Association had fulfilled its statutory responsibilities for financial reporting, and that the professional auditors had congratulated the Association on aligning its financial year to its operating year.



ESFA Council—Meet our New Members

Joshua Charalambous



Name: Joshua Charalambous

Job: Solicitor - specialising in sports, intellectual property and commercial law

Geographic base: London

Experience/career highlights: If I had to pick one it would be advising a Premier League football club on various transfer matters involving player agents (all very confidential of course)

Personal football interests (eg coaching, governance, etc): For my sins I am a big Leeds United fan, being from the area. I love the sport and have a particular interest around governance, regulations and sponsorship/branding. I play 5-a-side and 8-a-side once or twice a week masquerading as a luxury attacking midfielder

Reasons for wanting to support schools' football: I have experience of working in schools when I was younger and my mother is a headteacher. I know how powerful sport can be to students (first hand) and an opportunity to contribute to schools' football whilst also gain additional experience was too good to pass up

Unrelated "fascinating fact" about yourself!: I am also a keen chess player with representative honours as a junior (now time commitments mean I play recreationally only)

Marvin Robinson



Name: Marvin Robinson

Job: Independent Member of the English Football Association Judicial Services Panel

Football related experience: An ex-U18 English Schoolboy International with 20 years experience in football as a professional player, first team coach, assistant manager and scout

Personal football experience: Marvin signed for Derby County FC after representing England as an ESFA U18 Schoolboy. He made his debut against Arsenal and full debut against Man United. Marvin then joined Stoke City in 2000 on loan but gained an injury leaving him unable to compete at a Premier League level. Since then Marvin continued to play at a number of lower-level clubs and progress into other areas of football.

Reasons for wanting to support schools' football: 'I believe that the opportunity to work for the ESFA will be a truly rewarding experience, will enhance my skills immeasurably and will enable me to make a positive contribution to your work'



From the Noticeboard...

School Sport Magazine -

Unbeaten runs and records

Everyone loves an unbeaten record, a perfect season or an even longer winning streak – and school teams are no different. Of course you will go a long way to beat Celtic's current 60+ run record in the Scottish Premier League but if you are proud of one of your school teams who are in the middle of a fantastic unbeaten run over one or two seasons (or even more), then let the magazine know. It could be football, netball, rugby or hockey - it doesn't matter what sport, just email us at info@schoolsportmag.co.uk with the details and they'll put your name in lights!

Competition match reports

School Sport Magazine are looking to expand our competition match reports both in the magazine and online. If you've got a short 50-100 word summary of a national game or competition, just email info@schoolsportmag.co.uk

13 Ways To Feature in School Sport Magazine in 2018

We're always looking for people and schools to take part in the many regular features in School Sport Magazine. Just take a look at the selection below and email info@schoolsportmag.co.uk if you would like to get involved.

1. Our Life In The Week Of diary feature (a seven day Monday to Sunday diary with 100ish words a day on your sporting day both in and out of school, first-person present tense, your thoughts on the day, serious, fly-on-the-wall, humorous etc).
2. My Sporting Life. A fun q & a about your life in sport.
3. Nominate a sporting pupil to take part in our Pupil Diary (a seven day Monday to Sunday diary with 60-80 words a day on their sporting day both in and out of school, first-person present tense)
4. My Sporting View. A chance to write 700-800 words about any issue, sport or subject affecting school sport that you feel strongly about.
5. I Teach...And Play For My Country. We're looking for people who combine a teaching career with playing for their country (it doesn't matter in what sport).
6. Did you teach or coach a talented pupil who went onto international success? We want to hear from you to take part in an occasional but fascinating We taught... q & a.
7. Have you returned from teaching sport and PE abroad? Are you currently teaching abroad? Are you about to leave Britain to teach abroad? Take part in our sports teacher abroad q & a?
8. Sports swap. Are you a sports or PE teacher or head of department? We are looking for teachers in neighbouring state and independent schools to swap places for a day and talk about your experiences.
9. Are you a primary school proud of your sporting provision? Take part in our regular Why primary sport is important to us feature.
10. Are you particularly proud of your school's national success in a particular sport? Then take part in our regular Secrets Of Our Success q & a.
11. Don't be shy. Tell us about your progress or success in county, regional or national competitions by emailing us short match or competition reports. We'll guarantee to publish them in the magazine or on our website news pages.
12. Air your views or thoughts in our popular Letters page – 100-150 words.
13. Do you want to write a regular web blog about your work that would appear on It could be serious, funny, informative (or a combination of all three).



ESFA Talent Pathway Research

We are having some research undertaken through the University of Wolverhampton to better understand the following areas of our Talent Pathway;

- The current organisational model and activity
- Links between District, County and International level activity football
- Ongoing issues / perceptions

The research is being conducted by PhD student **Daniel Bennett** and he may contact some of you to further discuss these points. He is happy for any of you to contact him in order to develop his understanding of representative football further (d.c.bennett95@gmail.com / 07511034125).

The research has begun with initial data collection and interviews with ESFA staff taking place. From here a research plan will be formed and Daniel will begin to collect further data at natural opportunities (Council meetings / AGM) as well as hosting focus groups with collections of ESFA volunteers around the country. A number of telephone interviews are also being scheduled to ensure coverage across the country.

Anyone who would like to talk further with Daniel is more than welcome – especially those actively involved in representative football.

It is expected that this independent piece of research will be presented to ESFA Council in June, with any agreed recommendations going forward to the AGM for implementation. I hope that you will support the research and help to provide information / opinions where needed as we hope a number of the final recommendations will shape future delivery of ESFA representative football.





ESFA Continue Partnership with National Football Museum

The ESFA are thrilled to be able to confirm their ongoing partnership for 2017/18 with the National Football Museum. By bringing together two fantastic football-based charities, we plan to continue not only be able to offer our membership some great opportunities at the Museum but also to be able to work together to promote the past, present and future of football to all fanatics. The museum is FREE and well worth a visit. Look out for further information on how Schools and Teams can take advantage of this exciting new partnership - you can stay up to date by following @SchoolsFootball, @FootballMuseum and @NFM_learn on Twitter!

ESFA Confirm New Official Medal Suppliers for 2017-18

The ESFA are delighted announce Running Imp as the new medal suppliers for the 2017-18 season. Running imp have 30 years' of experience as an organisation and are expanding their work in football by partnering with the ESFA and through their sponsorship deal with Lincoln City Football Club. Running Imp will be providing medals and trophies for the majority of the ESFA's 45 National Cup competitions this season and as a result, ESFA participants will be seeing some brand new designs and ideas to help with the Association's aims to continue to modernise Schools' Football. As well as becoming our Official Medal Suppliers

Merry Christmas from the ESFA

The ESFA would like to wish all Membership and Schools a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing those of you still in competitions in January and hope to welcome you along to 2018's National Finals.

January 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5 -U18 Boys' International Last 32 Training Weekend	6—U18 Boys' International Last 32 Training Weekend	7- U18 Boys' International Last 32 Training Weekend
8	9	10	11	12—SAFIB Winter Meeting	13—SAFIB Winter Meeting	14— U15 Girls Final Trial: North v South
15	16	17	18	19—U18 Boys' International Squad Training Weekend	20—U18 Boys' International Squad Training Weekend - U15 Girls' International Squad Training Weekend	21—U15 Girls' International Squad Training Weekend
22	23—Area F Indoor Football Fives	24	25—Area F Indoor Football Fives	26—ESFA Trustees meeting - Area F Indoor Football Fives	27—ESFA Council Meeting	28—ESFA Council Meeting
29	30—Area E Indoor Football Fives	31				



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