



## MINUTES OF THE England & Wales Football Council (EW24)

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
**TIME:** 12:00 to 15:00  
**LOCATION:** The Camden Room, Lower Ground Floor, CAN Mezzanine,  
49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH

**Present:** Neil Le Milliere [NLM] (Chair), Peter Martin [PM], Tim Hartley [TH], Oliver Holtaway [OH], Brian Burgess [BB], Tim Hillier [THR], Malcolm Clarke [MC] (for item 13) and Katrina Law [KL].

**In Attendance:** James Mathie [JM] (SD Club Development Manager) and Nicola Hudson [NH] (Casework Officer)

**In attendance via Conference call:** Peter Lloyd [PL]

The council meeting started late at 12:40pm due to transport issues.

**1. Apologies:** Hilary Clifford [HC]

### **2. Minutes of the EW23**

It was **agreed** that a report of minutes from previous meetings to be published on SD website.

Following this it was discussed whether we should publish the Premier League and Championship Group's minutes or report in the same way that the SD Board Meeting Report is published.

The minutes from the previous meeting were **accepted**.

### **3. Matters Arising from these meetings**

Actions from the last meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

Minute	Description	Who	Deadline
3.	Supporters Direct Organogram to be circulated and put on website	LK	Next meeting
3.5	Send Ambassador spec and names to group	FH	ASAP
3.5	HC and JM to follow up with TH re: Keir Starmer MP	JM/HC	ASAP
5.1	Circulate most recent Championship and Premiership group minutes to the group	NH	ASAP
5.1	Agreed to explore mechanisms for engaging with fan groups who met a set of kitemark criteria with the express aim of inviting them to become Trusts.	HC/JM	Next mtg
5.2	Circulate campaign information for the wider PL Group to then discuss and adopt a position.	NH	ASAP
5.4	Feedback after meeting with Bill Bush	JM	ASAP
5.5	Feedback to PL and Championship groups any progress on Fans Fund application	JM/HC	ASAP
6.1.1	KL to email NH re: Rules and issues	KL/NH	ASAP
13.1	MC to circulate paper he provided to National Council	MC	ASAP
13.1	FSF and SD to discuss joint submission to Minister and any other following Governance review	JM	ASAP
7.2	Share Exeter governance agreement for use as model for others to follow.	NLM	ASAP
7.3	Find out when FL AGM would come and keep groups informed on progress in order to implement a plan based on progress.	JM	ASAP
7.3	NLM to try to get copies of FL AGM papers from the Exeter representative and circulate.		ASAP



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8.1	Feedback following meeting	JM	Next meeting
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**Task 3.5** TH asks are we continuing to source and pursue ambassadors. He comments that it might be wise for us to look away from the headline acts and look at more political figures to form an alternative network. JM comments that we are considering establishing a Public Affairs special interest group. JM discussed reaching out to existing APPFG to see if they are still active and this will be an agenda item for the Public Affairs special interest group.

**JM** to reach out to Clive Betts regarding the APPFG to enquire whether it is still active and report back to E&W council and Public Affairs group.

Next E&W Council meeting to set out potential ambassadors recommendation on who SD will approach for these roles in a focused and structured way.

**Task 5.1** Reports on the minutes of the Premier League trusts group and the Championship trusts group to be compiled and published on the SD website. **NH** to send existing minutes to **JM** for guidance with the Chair's of both groups (NLM & RP) to give final approval.

**Task 5.1** **JM** to explore mechanisms for engaging with fan groups who met a set of kitemark criteria with the express aim of inviting them to become Trusts. Carried over from last meeting's matters arising.

KL discusses FSF engaging with Premier League supporters groups and the need to show more fan groups the positives and benefits of converting to Supporters Trusts.

PL feels we should be looking to create more Supporters Trusts and examine why some groups are put off by the process and to analyse existing supporters groups to establish whether they fit the necessary criteria to convert to a Supporters Trust.

THR joins the meeting at 12:57pm

KL happy to do some peer to peer coaching and establishing new Supporters Trusts should be a priority for Supporters Direct.

**Task 5.2** *Actioned*

**Task 5.4** JM to provide feedback from meeting with Bill Bush later in agenda.

**Task 5.5** *Actioned*

**Task 6.1.1** *Actioned*

**Task 13.1** Item carried over from last meeting, MC to circulate paper he provided to National Council.

JM discusses joint paper prepared regarding FA governance review, FA have currently halted the process of their governance review and appointed a new Chairman.

JM details the policy coming from the government stating that organisations receiving public money must meet a certain level of governance criteria, policy to launch next month. The joint paper is ready to release/submit at an appropriate time.

**JM** to recirculate the joint paper on the FA Governance review.



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**Task 7.2** Item carried over from last meeting, NLM to share Exeter governance agreement for use as model for others to follow.

NLM states that it has now been agreed that Exeter will now have a Supporters Trust representative at every EFL meeting including the AGM, attending alongside the Club Chairman.

JM discusses the EFL AGM papers, the Whole Game Solution proposal and structured dialogue.

**NH** to look at the SD response to the Whole Game Solution and EFL Trophy with regard to pushing for formal supporter consultation on these matters.

**Task 7.3** *Actioned*

### **4. Report of SD Board meeting 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

BB has agreed to continue as Chairman of the SD Board of Directors until next year and would like to begin looking at sourcing a new chair with a view to beginning the handover process in November 2016.

Vice Chair's named as Tim Hartley and Martyn Cheney, additional Vice Chair appointment to be discussed at the Board Strategy meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016.

SD does not currently have a Company Secretary in post though BB is currently in discussions with a very good candidate.

Tim Hillier was co-opted as the FSF representative on the SD Board of Directors as well as being co-opted into a finance role and will sit on both the Board and England & Wales Council.

SD Scotland are to nominate two candidates to join the Board as Scottish representatives.

David Little has joined the Governance Sub Committee.

Oliver Holtaway has joined the Staffing Sub Committee.

BB gave an update regarding SD Europe, with the feedback from the steering group being that they hope to launch by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016. Discussions between SD & SD Europe continue with a lot of detailed work to do before the split.

A financial taskforce has been set up looking at how we take things forward and they are due to report at the Board Strategy Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

NLM mentioned he had issues having with regard to elections at both Portsmouth and Hereford with their reluctance to follow model procedures. He stated he may not feel able to get involved as an independent overseer again in the future with these trusts.

Following the defeat of the motion put forward by Chester at this year's SD AGM, the power to suggest a threshold level for audits fell back to the SD Board. It was proposed at the meeting that the audit threshold be raised from



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£500,000 to £2million. The board decided to refer this matter to JM to see if there may be other options such as assessing the threshold on a case by case basis rather than set a blanket level.

### **5. Fans Fund – Last 3 years review**

JM presented a review of the last three years detailing our targets and level of achievement. See Doc B.

TH congratulated SD on establishing new Supporters Trusts and praised the hard work done by staff as well as discussing the possibility of a Welsh regional meeting. TH feels we can and should be making money out of events.

PM discusses corporate membership of Trusts and common annual fees associated with corporate members.

NLM highlights potential data-protection issues around corporate membership and discusses a recent example.

### **6. Fans Fund – Next 3 years**

JM goes through the Fans Fun application for the next three years and the mechanics of how the bid is put together and the KPI's in place.

PL asks whether we had to include KPI's that we did not want to deliver, JM clarified that everything included is what SD wanted to include and deliver.

JM expands on plans for the platform and how he sees members interacting with it.

Discussions between KL, JM and BB on structured dialogue and structured engagement between SD, the FSF and the PL.

JM states that structured dialogue between club leaders and supporters is something that was in our 2013 – 16 application, with increased structured dialogue targets for 2016 - 19 which have been agreed and are protected in our KPI's.

THR talks about the EFL document regarding structured dialogue and wants clarification on the definition of the EFL structured dialogue rules.

**JM** to send a note round to all member Trusts and Clubs in the EFL pointing at structured dialogue.

JM states that SD to track levels and report on structured dialogue. THR suggests we put together a structured approach to reviewing the implication of the rule changes and a formalised way of reporting success and failure. JM agrees and suggests something along the lines of an annual report from SD monitoring the success of the rule changes across the leagues.

TH asks whether SD could apply for further independent funding from a separate body to carry out this piece of reporting work. JM has been having discussions with Bournemouth University about the prospects of them getting involved in the process.

TH suggests we could possibly source a sponsor to help raise the profile of the report and discusses the possibility of this being a module within a University course.



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JM and KL gave update on the FSF Premier League group meeting with one fan rep from every PL club. Those in the room ranged from Supporters Trusts to Fanzines.

### **7. Fans Fund - Funding**

JM goes through 2016-2019 Fans Fund funding breakdown detailed in document B.

JM advises the council that he has been keeping the office of the Sports Minister up to date on our funding situation and that the EWG recommendations are at risk if SD is not funded adequately.

JM noted that the government has recently committed £8million to the parklife project with the FA and PL. NLM discusses the funding origins of SD (when funding came from three sources, namely Government/Sports Council, the FA, and the Premier League) and discusses the challenges we are having with the Fans Fund.

### **13. Malcolm's FA update**

This item was addressed out of order with the agenda due to the meeting running behind schedule.

MC provided the council with an update from the FA Council.

The last meeting was on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016 where a vote was held and a new Chairman ratified. Only three members of the council voted against ratifying the new Chairman.

Martin Glenn gave a review to the council.

MC advised that he was no longer on the Alliance Committee and was now serving on the Sanctions & Registrations Committee.

MC advised that there were quite a few changes on the board with a number of new members. Jez Moxey is no longer the divisional representative for the West Midlands as he is now at Norwich. Nomination forms were sent out for the vacant position but no nominations were received. Nomination forms have again been sent out. MC asks if we know of any potential candidates who are full member clubs and members of the FA.

**MC** to send JM details of who is eligible for nomination and the criteria.

**JM** to investigate potential candidates.

KL discusses the Charlton supporter petition addressed to the FA and signed by approx. 5000 to date, requesting the removal of Katrien Meire from the FA Council. It was pointed out that the petition would need to be directed to the EFL rather than the FA as she is sitting in one of the EFL seats. **NH & KL** to link up over this issue.



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MC discussed the presentation regarding Non-League Finals day and MC brought up issues experienced by supporters on the day.

MC discussed the lack of consultation on the Women's Premier League moving to the summer. It is reported that the Women's Premier League Clubs appointed a "fans panel" who made this decision. JM enquires as to why there is a different set up for the women's game to the men's game.

MC discusses the lack of consultation over FA replays and states that the proposed EFL "Whole Game Solution" could not happen without approval from the FA Council and the "Leagues Committee" have just began a review of the leagues below the EFL.

PL asks about the progress of the FA Governance Review. MC states that the driving point will be the £30mil from Sports England and the government review on sporting governance which is out next month.

### **8. UK Network Review**

JM gave a brief update on the Network Review with more details to be available at the next meeting.

**JM** to share output from meeting with the group with the council.

### **9. Summit - Review and next year**

NH gave brief review of the Summit & Members Day.

**NH** to forward ideas and talking points for council to discuss at next meeting.

### **10. Casework update**

NH & JM gave casework updates per the key casework reports.

JM advises there has been an application for funding for a "peer network" for the Supporter-Owned Club network.

### **11. Feedback from PL/Champ group meetings & 12. FSF PL meeting & EWG update**

Agenda items merged.

JM provided feedback from PL and Champ group meetings as well as the FSF PL meeting.

SD no longer has specific KPIs to run the PL & Champ trust groups for next 3 years but still wants to run trust specific network groups..

JM discussed the idea of broadening the Championship group to be an EFL group including L1, L2 & Championship.

The EFL have made a commitment to meet with SD & the FSF twice a year. **JM** to work out the details of the meetings and this was noted in the EFL update on structures dialogue and commitments.



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It was proposed that SD re-establish point of difference with the FSF and make sure our meetings are on subjects that naturally sit with SD with a potential revised MOU looking at overlap and gaps.

KL says there is too much duplication between SD & the FSF and the PL Trusts want to know who is looking after them.

JM suggests we have 2 meetings a year (more if there is a demand) that are co-ordinated and structured and centred around SD subjects.

THR states that agendas for structures dialogue meetings need to be clear on who tackles each subject.

NLM discusses the FSF National Council. PL attended meetings in London with Robert Pepper attending meetings in the North.

Peter is no longer able to commit to attending as many meetings and there would therefore be a lack of continuity.

Tim Hartley said he could commit to attending two out of three meetings in Peter's place with Robert covering those he couldn't and this was gratefully accepted. One issue raised was that the FSF do not set meetings very far in advance which could and does affect possible attendances.

The next meeting is on 25th September 2016.

**NLM** to send Tim Hartley contact details for Robert Pepper."

### **14. Party Conferences**

The council decided we would try and get people to the party conferences if possible and to check the agendas for items relevant to SD in order to make submissions in advance.

### **15. Items to take forward to the board**

No items to take to the board.

### **16. Any other business**

NLM thanks OH and THR for attending the meeting.

NH provides update that STAR have offered to donate 5% of annual adult membership fees to SD resulting in approx. £450.

THR stated that he raised the levy idea which was discussed at the SD AGM on the Dons Trust forum.

### **17. Date & time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016 with the location to be determined by survey.

**NH** to send location survey out to council.



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**Council actions**

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
3	Reach out to Clive Betts regarding the APPFG to enquire whether it is still active and report back to E&W council and Public Affairs group.	JM	
3	Explore mechanisms for engaging with fan groups who met a set of kitemark criteria with the express aim of inviting them to become Trusts. Carried over from last meeting's matters arising.	JM	
3	<b>NH</b> to send existing minutes of PL & Champ group meetings to <b>JM</b> for guidance with the Chair's of both groups (NLM & RP) to give final approval.	NH/JM	
3	Circulate paper he provided to National Council	MC	
3	Re-circulate the joint paper on the FA Governance review.	JM	
3	SD response to the Whole Game Solution and EFL Trophy with regard to pushing for formal supporter consultation on these matters.	NH	
3	<b>NLM</b> to share Exeter governance agreement for use as model for others to follow.	NLM	
6	Send a note round to all member Trusts and Clubs in the EFL pointing at structured dialogue.	JM	
13	<b>MC</b> to send JM details of who is eligible for nomination for divisional representative for West Midlands and the criteria. <b>JM</b> to investigate potential candidates.	MC/JM	
13	Response to Katrien Meire appointment to FA Council	NH/KL	
8	Share output from Network Review meeting with the group with the council.	JM	
9	Forward ideas and talking points on future of Summit for council to discuss at next meeting.	NH	
11/12	Work out the details of the meetings between SD, FSF & EFL	JM	
11/12	TH contact details for Robert Pepper	NLM	
17	Next meeting location survey out to council.	NH	