

## ENGLAND & WALES FOOTBALL COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday 16th February 2017

**TIME:** 12:00 to 15:00

**LOCATION:** The Angel room (Conference room), Lower Ground floor  
CAN Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH



### REPORT

#### Present:

- Brian Burgess [BB]
- Neil Le Milliere (Chair) [NLM]
- Peter Lloyd [PL]
- Peter Martin [PM]
- Tim Hartley [THa]
- Tim Hillyer [THi]

#### In attendance:

- Ashley Brown (CEO) [AB]
- Ian Neal (Assistant Secretary) [IN]
- James Mathie (Head of England & Wales, & Club Development) [JM]
- Malcolm Clarke (Chair, Football Supporters Federation [FSF]) (for item 5.) [MC]
- Nicola Hudson (Network Manager) [NH]
- Vicki Goodfellow (Network Co-ordinator) (Minutes) [VG]

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kat Law [KL] and Oliver Holtaway [OH]

#### 2. Minutes and report from the previous meeting

Both the minutes and report from the previous meeting were approved

#### 3. Matters arising

Item 3, point 1: THi asked if we have received a response from Clive Betts. JM confirmed that he and AB met with Clive last month and will be meeting again soon. The next meeting will be mainly discussing SD related work.

Item 3, point 6: PL asked whether we are still looking at issuing a kite mark for clubs. JM confirmed that we are looking at producing some guidance on what makes a good club/trust however this is not a KPI so will look at when we have more resource. It was **AGREED** that this would be brought forward.

Item 9, point 2: NLM asked how compliant we are with the new sports governance and whether it is an issue for the board or council. JM **CONFIRMED** it is an issue for the board.

#### 4. Board report

BB reported on the main issues from the meeting. These were

- SD Europe: The asset transfer is still ongoing but will hopefully be resolved soon
- Finance: The board agreed to a two month interim budget due to the uncertainties around our funding. The rest of the year's budget is due to be approved at next week's meeting

#### 5. FA supporter representative update

MC reported that the Football Association [FA] membership committee approved name changes for Beaconsfield and Darlington. The clubs have been notified although the decision still needs to be ratified by the FA Council.

MC's (along with a few other FA Council member's) conduct was raised after taking part in a Radio 5 interview about diversity within the FA. MC has been cleared of any wrongdoing.

There was discussion about the FA Council reform.

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#### 6. FA reform

AB informed the Council that he met with Damian Collins MP last week. He said the point of the Westminster debate was to let the FA know that the government are serious about an intervention if they do not reform.

It was **AGREED** that we would submit our own version of the FA reform paper as there were additional points that SD wanted to focus on such as the FA's regulatory role and elements of the revised FSF submission that we would have raised differently. It was **AGREED** that once the paper is complete that we would send it to the FSF for their information.

It was also **AGREED** that SD needs to be part of the discussion about having an extra supporter representative (s) on the FA Council.

#### 7. KPI updates

##### 7.1 Fans Fund [FF]

JM confirmed that we have just submitted our six monthly KPI's to the Fans Fund so we should receive our next six month funding once these have been approved.

The Council noted the report with the additional points:

- JM said that we need to be more effective with the one-to-one support we give to our members. The new platform, which is due to go live at the end of the first quarter, should help with this as it will have documents and how to guides.
- JM confirmed that the savings product has been parked for the time being but the FF are happy with the crowd funding platform as an alternative
- JM confirmed that we will survey the EFL/PL trusts every six months to check that their clubs are complying with the structured dialogue commitments agreed by the Expert Working Group
- NH confirmed that she will start collating SD's press mentions if it can be done easily and report at the Council meetings

##### 7.2 Power to Change

The Council noted the report.

It was **AGREED** that communications should be sent to the relevant council and to the board.

#### 8. Divisional reports

##### 8.1 Premier League

AB report on the last meeting that took place with the Premier League trusts which they called for themselves. He said that the trusts currently feel frustrated as their aims are different to the aims of the rest of the movement. The Premier League trusts would prefer SD and the FSF to merge if they had certain guarantees which they have been asked to submit to AB. They would also like us to look into getting supporters trusts at the seven clubs who do not currently have one. JM has sent out a survey to the current Premier League trusts to ask them their thoughts on the benefits of becoming a supporters trust which should help encourage the supporters of those Premier League Clubs without a trust to form one.

PL asked if we still call and chair these meetings. JM confirmed it had been agreed that PL Trusts would meet with SD before the FSF organised PL groups meetings.

##### 8.2 EFL

- NH reported that training is going well and that we hope to move this to a digital platform

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- Morecambe now have a registered supporters trust
- NH will represent SD at the FSF League One and Two meeting which is taking place in London next week
- JM said that Andrew Jenkin has been developing guidance on supporter involvement including structured dialogue

#### **Actions**

- VG to circulate the EFL and FSF minutes to the Council
- NH to circulate document on the minimum that is required of a trust (Trust Lite)
- JM to circulate structured dialogue guidance for comments with the Council

### 8.3 Non-League

- NH and AB have recently met with the National League. They are keen to implement the Expert Working Group recommendations to their clubs. We are waiting for feedback and confirmation of a follow-up meeting.
- We are planning to work with them on fan consultation for the play-off reformation.
- JM said that he is going to consult with them over 3G pitches
- NH confirmed that she is due to catch-up with Andy Walsh of the FSF about his work and volunteer training.

### 8.4 Clubs

- JM said that he is working to build up the network through the Power to Change programme discussed earlier

### 9. Report from FSF

PL reported on the recent FSF Council meeting:

- They are confident of receiving funding for a new London based member of staff which will be funded by the Fans Fund. PL is unsure of the job remit
- They are aiming to get a supporter representative on every Safety Advisory Group panel
- The Premier League are heading towards a full consultation on safe standing. The Government had recently stated they were 'unconvinced'
- Structured dialogue was tabled but not discussed
- PL thinks we need a full memo of understanding between the two organisations but BB thinks we have moved on from this point

### 10. Supporters Summit

- VG reported that St. George's Park is available on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
- The FSF would like a SD day and FSF day
- Our proposal for the event
  - Friday evening (from 5pm): Community Owned Clubs network session & social
  - Saturday: Supporters Summit with opening plenary, workshops, closing plenary
  - Saturday evening (5-7pm): SD AGM
  - Sunday: FSF day
  - We will charge a fee for the Summit
  - Looking into potential additional activities

It was **AGREED** that we would proceed on this basis (subject to final approval from the FSF)

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#### 11. SD membership renewal process

VG confirmed that we are looking to simplify our membership renewal process. NH also confirmed that the Financial Conduct Authority [FCA] are also looking at ways to simplify their submission process.

It was **AGREED** that we would look to share information with the FCA where possible.

#### 12. Lobbying/policy update

AB reported that we are due to meet with the Sports Minister, Tracy Crouch MP, with the FSF in mid-March.

#### 13. Any other business

BB raised the question about whether we need to review our election policy due to the ineligibility of a candidate's Council nomination. It was **AGREED** that this would be put to the board.

It was **AGREED** that VG would email the Council for Chair nominations, if there is more than one candidate then ask for short statements and take a vote at the following meeting. The process will start after the May meeting. It was **AGREED** that the election of the Council Chair would be postponed for one meeting to give the new Council members one meeting before voting on a Chair.