

## ENGLAND and WALES FOOTBALL COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**TIME:** Midday to 15:00

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



### REPORT

#### Present:

- Daniel Crawford [DC]
- Katrina Law [KL]
- Neil Le Milliere (Chair) [NLM]
- Peter Lloyd [PL]
- Roger Ellis [RE]

#### In attendance:

- Ashley Brown (CEO) [AB]
- Deborah Dilworth (Network Manager) [DD]
- James Mathie (Head of England and Wales, and Club Development) [JM]
- Malcolm Clarke (Chair, Football Supporters Federation [FSF]) (for item 4) [MC]
- Nicola Hudson (Network Manager) [NH]
- Tim Hillyer (board member) [THi]
- Vicki Goodfellow (Network Co-ordinator) (Minutes) [VG]

#### 1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Hannah Dawson [HD], Michael Bradbury [MB], Peter Martin [PM] and Tim Hartley [THa]. Apologies were also received from the following board members: David Little [DL], Michael Green [MG], Oliver Holtaway [OH], Stuart Fuller [SF] and Tom Greatrex [TG].

NLM informed the council that MB has resigned from the England and Wales Football Council [EWFC] with immediate effect.

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

Change the wording in the following items to:

##### Item 4.3

KL also suggested that SD staff talk to West Ham Independent Supporters Association (WHISA) about why they elected to form an Independent Supporters Association rather than constitute themselves as a Trust. This could help SD understand the barriers to forming Trusts, which can be feed into future recruitment and acquisition processes.

##### Item 6.4

KL confirmed that she is on The Football Association [FA] Facilities Committee and Youth Committee.

##### Item 8

KL confirmed that her seat falls within the Professional Game and Malcolm's seat within the National Game

Subject to the above changes, the minutes and report from the EWFC meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were accepted.

#### 3. Matters arising

NLM confirmed that he had briefed KL on 4G pitches ahead of her FA committee meeting.

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#### 4. FA Supporters Representative Update

MC gave the EWFC his personal view on The FA's reform. He confirmed that Greg Clarke had said that there will be more changes to The FA's structure in January.

KL and MC are due to meet with Greg Clarke next week where they will discuss regulatory reform and other relevant topics.

KL is also working on the proposed changes to The FA Cup, particularly in relation to away allocation. The proposed changes to the away allocations will help smaller clubs. There was also discussion around kick-off times and the impact the scheduled TV fixtures have on travelling supporters.

MC reported that he has attended his first National Game meeting and that the format has vastly improved.

#### 5. Board Report (27<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

A written report was not available from the last meeting; however, AB confirmed that most of the items discussed at the board meeting were on today's agenda.

NLM reported that he asked the board to ensure that the EWFC have an input into the 'new organisation'. The board **confirmed** that they would seek the input of the EWFC at the appropriate time.

#### 6. KPI Updates

##### 6.1 Fans Fund

JM confirmed that we are currently in year two of a three year funding cycle. The key points to note:

- The Engage! guidance has been published and he thanked all who made a contribution
- The recent Board Member training, that took place in London, had been filmed and it will be used going forward
- We are under target for the number of Hub visitors but we are working to increase the numbers
- We are still providing a lot of support to members and JM highlighted two cases at Blackpool and Dulwich
- DD met with Ian Todd (FSF) about women's football. Ian has set-up one formal meeting with The FA with one further meeting planned
- NH reported that we are looking into a possible special interest group on heritage and that there is a possible link with The National Football Museum

##### 6.2 Power to Change

There was nothing to report

#### 7. Divisional Reports

##### 7.1 Premier League

AB reported that we had held a structured dialogue meeting with the Premier League trusts. The main topic was around kick-off times, in particular the proposed Christmas Eve game. AB said that the pressure from the fans helped prevented the game from going ahead at the proposed time and would now take place on a Friday evening which is more convenient for the travelling fans'.

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Bill Bush agreed to meet to discuss the contents of our Engage! publication. Subsequent to this conversation a meeting has been arranged with Kat Allen (Head of Policy and Supporters Services), Tommy Guthrie, Bill Bush, AB and JM.

There was discussion around when clubs have to publish their annual accounts and JM confirmed that he would raise a general point with The PL about clubs becoming more transparent.

AB reported that we have been asked for further information about The Football Lads Alliance. Following a discussion with the FSF AB confirmed that we will not be commenting publically on this issue at the moment.

#### 7.2 EFL

DD provided an update. Points to note:

- DD is continuing with individual casework
- We are looking for good news stories to publish on the Hub
- The EFL Fans' Forum is taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> December but is unsure of who has been invited
- We are currently discussing structure dialogue with the EFL
- DC said that he thinks that the Chairman's Charter (a document tabled by the EFL which all clubs have signed up to) should be publicised
- JM confirmed that we had fed our recommendations on changes to the rules on owners and directors to our EFL clubs and supporters directors

#### 7.3 Non-League

NH reported that she has met with the National League. They discussed structured dialogue and have decided to start a trial with some of their member clubs (Bromley, Chester, Southport, York, Wealdstone and Bognor). NH has written to the supporters' clubs/trusts at these clubs to ask them to engage with the process.

NH confirmed that we don't currently hold non-league network meetings. NH is looking into hosting digital meetings and a physical meeting at the Supporters Summit.

Mark Bradley (The Fans' Experience Company) is taking the lead on the structure for the National League's volunteer award but the award will also have branding attached to it.

NLM asked for an update on the situation with the trust at Lincoln City. NH confirmed that they are still unable to become members of SD.

As discussed at the previous meeting Trust Oldham would like to become our members but aren't currently constituted as a Community Benefit Society. RE fed back to the EWFC that he has met with Trust Oldham representatives. He is satisfied that they meet our membership criteria and that they have agreed to convert to a Community and Benefit Society as soon as it is possible. It was **agreed** that the board should decide whether Trust Oldham qualify for SD membership.

### 8. One Organisation & Independent SD

AB updated the EWFC on the recent work and discussions that have taken place on the subject.

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AB worked with Kevin Miles and Dave Rose [FSF] for two days where they primarily compared the two organisations. Dave Rose, Nick Igoe (SD, Finance Manager) and AB are to meet soon to discuss budgeting for a potential new organisation.

Some board members have been discussing different governance structures for a potential new organisation and this has been drafted into a working document. TG confirmed he would like to make a few more amendments to the paper before circulating it to the rest of the board and councils.

Kevin Miles and AB are due to meet with the Fans' Fund next week on the matter.

PL and OH drafted a document about an independent SD and how the organisation might be structured. This has been circulated to the EWFC and SD board.

AB confirmed that a timescale hasn't formally been agreed with the Fans' Fund but we are working towards presenting a decision to the members at the 2018 AGM. This timescale fits with the Fans' Fund funding cycle. We will also seek to consult with our members in advance of the AGM. NLM confirmed that the board will look to make its own recommendation to the members.

AB confirmed the following:

- FSF and SD will need to present identical resolutions to their members at their respective AGMs
- We will also present a resolution about an independent SD
- We will need an agreed approach on how to deal with any proposed amendments to the resolution at the AGM. AB is hoping that advanced consultation with our members will help to avoid this situation
- We are discussing creating a new organisation not merging the two organisations. A new organisation would have completely new branding (with sub branding for FSF & SD)
- We will continue to explore different constitutions and organisational structures for a new organisation and an independent SD

### 9. Regulatory Reform Campaign

AB said that the campaign with SKIN's hasn't progressed any further since the last meeting as Jamie (SKINs) is currently out of the country. We are due to meet with him at the end of November/early December so will provide an update at the next meeting.

The FSF have set-up a regulatory reform working group and it met just before today's EWFC meeting.

Greg Clarke is keen for us to present a summary of our paper to the FA board.

KL said that she can raise the topic with Greg Clarke at the meeting next week but would need a further briefing.

DC asked if there was any update on lobbying work with MP's. JM said we have requested to meet with Damian Collins MP and are waiting to hear back.

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#### 10. Standard Mark Consultation/ Discussion

NH informed the EWFC about the recent survey that we circulated to members on the subject.

KL raised concerns about creating too much extra work for our volunteer run organisations. She was concerned that if trusts don't meet the SD standard then it could potentially affect the trusts relationship with their club

#### 11. Communications and Media

The item was not discussed

#### 12. Trust Oldham SD Membership

Discussed in item 7.3

#### 13. Engage! How clubs can win with football supporters – guidance

Discussed in items 6.1, 7.1 and 7.3

#### 14. AOB

- AB confirmed that SD Scotland were on track to incorporate themselves in Scotland by the end of the year
- PL congratulated all involved in producing the Engage! publication. He reiterated the need to publicise the work further
- NH asked all EWFC members to ensure that they read the recent David Conn (The Guardian) article about Blackpool
- KL asked any EWFC members to confirm with her if they would like to attend the forthcoming FSF awards
- NLM asked if some information could be circulated about the situation with the trust at Lincoln

#### 15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

#### ACTION:

- VG to circulate potential 2018 meeting dates based on the scheduled board meeting dates