

ENGLAND and WALES FOOTBALL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 20th September 2017

TIME: Midday to 15:00

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



REPORT

Present:

- Daniel Crawford [DC]
- Hannah Dawson [HD]
- Katrina Law [KL]
- Neil Le Milliere (Chair) [NLM]
- Peter Lloyd [PL]
- Roger Ellis [RE]
- Tim Hartley [THa]

In attendance:

- Ashley Brown (CEO) [AB]
- Deborah Dilworth (Network Manager) [DD]
- James Mathie (Head of England and Wales, and Club Development) [JM]
- Michael Green (board member) [MG]
- Nicola Hudson (Network Manager via Skype) [NH]
- Oliver Holtaway (board member) [OH]
- Tom Greatrex (Chair of SD Board) [TG]
- Vicki Goodfellow (Network Co-ordinator) (Minutes) [VG]

1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Ali Simcock [AS], Peter Martin [PM] and Tim Hillyer [THi]

NLM informed the council that George Bower has resigned from the England and Wales Football Council [EWFC].

NLM welcomed the new council members and members gave a brief introduction.

2. Election of EWF Chair

VG confirmed that one nomination was received for Chair of the EWFC from NLM.

A vote was conducted by a show of hands and NLM was voted in unanimously as Chair of the EWFC for two years'.

3. Minutes and report from the previous meeting

Change the wording in item four to:

Item 7: KL raised concerns about the board's stance on a SD / FSF merger as the majority of the Premier League trusts support exploring the possibility of one national organisation. NLM commented that the Premier League trusts are different from the rest of the movement and suggested that KL raised her concerns with the Premier League group.

Subject to above change the minutes and report from the EWFC meeting on 10th May 2017 were accepted.

4. Matters arising

Item 3: DC asked if there were any development with Clive Betts MP and SD's general lobbying work. JM confirmed that we are exploring different avenues and TG added that it would be discussed at the SD board meeting on 27th September. It was AGREED that information from any lobbying meetings would be fed back to the EWFC.

Item 3: A question was raised about the progress with the structured dialogue survey. JM said that we've worked hard to get all responses and met with the Sports Minister (Tracey Crouch MP) with 65 out of 72

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responses. Only one of the groups that hadn't responded was a trust. The results of the survey will be shared with the membership once all responses have been collected.

Item 3: KL confirmed that the Premier League trusts are meeting tomorrow evening before the Football Supporters Federation [FSF] supporters' groups meeting. NLM confirmed that the English Football League [EFL] trusts met on Monday evening again before the FSF meeting.

A question was raised about who was invited to the trusts meeting. JM said that the trusts primary contacts had been invited. We only had a short timeframe to set the meeting up as we only knew about the meeting last minute. It was AGREED that future invites would also be sent to the SD board and EWFC.

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 and Youth Committee.

5. Board report

AB reported back from the SD board meeting that took place on Monday 17th July 2017. Points for the EWFC to note:

- TG was elected as SD Chair
- THa and PL were elected as Vice-Chairs
- THi was co-opted to the board
- The board discussed the local incorporation of SD Scotland with an aim for them to transfer by the end of the year
- There was also discussion around our work in other sports and the FSF merger

6. KPI Updates

JM gave an overview of the KPI document.

JM gave an overview of the new SD Hub outlining why he thinks it should be a really useful tool for SD and its members, especially as we are looking to work more effectively in addition to giving one-to-one advice to our members.

JM confirmed that there is a degree of flexibility around the KPI's to change if necessary, citing the change we had approved with regard to savings schemes and crowdfunding given the current market.

JM informed the EWFC about the forthcoming supporter involvement guidance

6.1 Fans Fund

AB briefed the EWFC that at a recent meeting with the Fans' Fund that they informed us that they believe one organisation (a merger between FSF and SD) would better represent our constituents. The Fans' Fund confirmed that if we remain as two organisations then we will be competing for funding along with other supporter organisations and would be for a reduced amount of money. If the two organisations merge then the level of money will remain the same.

AB confirmed that there is not enough money in this three year funding cycle for SD to remain working at its current level.

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TG said that we are taking a cautious view of the merger and need to explore the possibility properly before committing to anything.

AB and TG confirmed that the SD board will be discussing at their meeting next week.

There was some further discussion around the potential merger.

6.2 (Power to Change)

JM confirmed that we will receive approximately £45k over 18 months from Power to Change for extra work with the community owned clubs. . We are delivering various meetings, club visits and webinars, as well as building an online community to help to connect our community owned clubs.

7. Divisional Reports

7.1 Premier League

Discussed in item four

7.2 EFL

DD reported that a meeting was held for EFL Trusts last Monday and felt it was really positive. Going forward we need to make it more clear that it is an SD meeting as there was a bit of confusion as our meeting was held directly before the FSF's meeting (which is for all EFL supporters organisations). DD confirmed that she would also forward future invites to these meetings to the SD Board and EWFC.

DD reported that we are still waiting for a confirmed meeting date with the EFL for their twice yearly meeting with SD/FSF and supporters organisations.

DD also confirmed that there was a good response to the structured dialogue survey from trusts.

DD gave an overview about potential SD membership for Trust Oldham. It was AGREED that RE would meeting with Trust Oldham to discuss if they would be willing to transfer to becoming a Community Benefit Society.

7.3 Non-League

NH said that our quarterly meeting with the National League is scheduled for 10th October. The agenda includes agreeing the structured dialogue trialists and the community champion award.

NH sent the National League, National League North and National League South the structured dialogue survey and will be investigating what does and doesn't work currently.

NH confirmed that Billericay Supporters' Trust have recently become a registered society and we are still working with Braintree and Sunderland supporters to look into the possibility of starting supporters trusts.

7.4 Clubs

JM reported that we are currently working with supporters at Cromer, Hartlepool and Basingstoke as well as a few others that he couldn't name to look into the possibility of community ownership.

JM confirmed that we have the set-up and support through SD Club Development to move quickly with crisis clubs if needed.

8. FA Supporter Representative Update

KL gave an overview of her report. Points to note:

- KL confirmed she is working well with Malcolm Clarke

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- KL and Malcolm are due to meet with the FA Chair, Greg Clarke, next month to discuss why two of their recent amendments were rejected
- KL confirmed that her seat falls within the Professional Game and Malcolm's seat within the National Game

9. Regulatory Reform Campaign

AB provided background into our campaign with SKINs and our club licensing paper.

We agreed to work with SKINs after they approached us via the Blackpool Supporters' Trust. SKINs have a history in campaigning on issues around ethics in sports.

The message was less aggressive than the message SKINs initially wanted as we wanted to focus on our paper and empowering The FA to become a fit for purpose regulatory body.

Although the roadshows weren't particularly well attended it attracted lots of media coverage, particularly via Sportf.

AB and JM also met with David Newton and Andy Ambler at The FA. Andy stated that we need to look at engaging with club owners and CEO's as he thinks there would be support for some elements of the proposal.

It was AGREED that SD representatives would join the FSF's working group on the paper.

10. Structured Dialogue – meeting with Sports Minister

Discussed in item four

11. Supporters Summit 2018

VG and KL talked to James McDougall at The FA about them continuing to support the Supporters Summit in 2018. James said that they would prefer to fund the event in the likely event that it was not held at an FA venue.

VG confirmed that she had circulated a survey about members' views on next year's event and its potential location. VG will circulate a report to the EWFC.

12. AOB

VG asked if any EWFC members are able to staff an exhibition stand at The Co-operative Party Conference in London on 14th and 15th October. OH confirmed that he may be able to assist.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be taking place from midday on Wednesday 8th November at CAN Mezzanine.