

Minutes of the London FA Council Meeting	
Date:	Monday 11 th October 2021
Venue and time:	18:30 – 20:30 Meeting conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams
Number of attendees:	37 (excl. London FA staff)



Item	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome	
1.1	James Middlehurst (JM), Chair of the London FA, opened the meeting and introduced the agenda for the evening. He explained that due to candidate availability, the Council-elected Director elections would be taken earlier in the meeting, following the presentation on the CALM partnership.	
2.	To receive and approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th October 2020	
2.1	Simon Hughes (SH) asked for a small typographic error to be corrected at item 5.6	PB to correct
2.2	Received and approved (proposed Anita Poulman, seconded Yashmin Harun)	
3	Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) Partnership	
3.1	Lewis Warren (LW), Designated Safeguarding Officer, was introduced and gave a presentation on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new London FA safeguarding team - Background to CALM as an organisation - An overview of the partnership between CALM and the London FA 	Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting
3.2	A question was asked about whether the support offered by CALM risked interfering with the disciplinary process. LW confirmed that it wouldn't, as CALM was an independent organisation and their helpline and web support was confidential.	
3.3	A question was asked about whether CALM's services were open to anyone. LW confirmed that they were but that the focus for this partnership would be on supporting victims that are part of any investigation.	
4	London FA Governance – Elections to the London FA Board	
4.1	Sir Simon Hughes (SH), Senior Independent Director, introduced and conducted the process for electing one (1) director from Council to the London FA Board. He reminded the Council of the following rules:	

4.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The rules governing eligibility to stand for election as a Council-Elected Board Director were updated at the AGM in June 2021. This election would be following these updated rules. 	
4.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council members are asked to elect directors with football and required business skill and experience 	
4.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voting will take place using an independent online platform (www.choicevoting.co.uk) which had been used successfully at both the 2020 and 2021 AGMs. 	
4.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The elected director will take office immediately and serve until 30 June 2023 	
4.2	<p>2 Council members seeking election had been confirmed as candidates and their manifestos had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. Simon proceeded to allow each candidate up to three minutes to address Council, and they were then asked to respond to three questions. The same questions were asked to each candidate.</p>	
4.3	<p>Once all candidates had presented themselves, Paul Bickerton (PB) reminded Council members how they could vote and then opened the online election, which was held by secret ballot using a preferential voting system. It was explained that the results would be declared at the end of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>CEO Update - presentation</p> <p>PB gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2021-22 season overview - The issues surrounding the FA's Player Registration and Full-Time systems throughout the affiliation period - Racial Equality Consultation - London FA's Coach Membership Scheme <p>Several reflections were made on the FA's Player Registration and Full-Time system issues, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frustration at the lack of communication throughout that period - A request for further information on why the testing for the system was inadequate - The impact of these issues on the health of the volunteer workforce <p>PB acknowledged how serious and difficult these issues had been for the volunteers administrating the system and confirmed that London FA were pushing hard with the FA to ensure that these issues are not repeated for the 2022-23 season. A further update would be provided to Council on the progress of these discussions at the next meeting.</p> <p>Shannon Hyner (SH), London FA Football Development Officer, then gave an update on Black History Month and the promotional work that London FA were doing throughout the month of October on that campaign.</p>	<p>Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting</p> <p>A full update on this work to be included in the CEO update at the next Council meeting</p> <p>Council members with possible content for this to contact SH directly</p>

6	London FA Divisions	
6.1	The Council were informed that the working group had concluded its work and a paper had been circulated to the London FA Council, proposing that the current divisional structure be amended to four geographical regions – North West, North East, South West and South East. The purpose of these new regional groups was set out in the paper.	
6.2	David Wolff asked what provision was being made for the youth division and engagement with youth leagues and clubs. PB responded that the working group had agreed that the youth division was not currently the right forum to engage with youth leagues and clubs and that a solution would be worked on further via the Board and London FA’s Clubs & Leagues Development Officer, with an update provided to Council on that work in the future.	
6.3	Drew Patterson (DP) asked whether any consideration would be given to re-instating the representative team. PB responded that the representative team did not fit with London’s elite player pathways and no plans were currently in place to re-instate that team.	
6.4	APPROVED – The Council approved the proposals set out in the paper, to amend the divisions to four geographical regions.	
7.	London FA Council Reports	
7.1	<p>The following reports were given to the London FA Council and members were offered the opportunity to ask questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair’s report (written) 2. Standing Committee reports (written) 3. Health & Wellbeing Officer Report (oral) 	
7.2	There were no questions on the reports	
8	Spirit of Football / The Ball	
8.1	Richard Hamilton (Spirit of Football / The Ball), Duncan Hart (London FA Council Member) and Farooq Mohammed (London FA Council Member) gave an overview of this particular initiative, which was being promoted and supported by London FA.	Slides to be
9	Future topics for Council meetings	circulated with the
9.1	PB asked that any further feedback be sent to him by email to consider.	minutes of the
10.	Date / Time / Place of next meeting	meeting and any
10.1	The CEO reminded Council of the following dates for 2021 Council meetings.	Council member
	- Monday 6 th December 2021	interested in getting
10.2	Council meetings will take place from 18.30 to 20.30 and government guidelines will determine whether they take place virtually or face to face. It was explained that	involved to contact Duncan / Farooq directly

	London FA would seek to hold the December Council Meeting in person if possible, to allow members to socialise and enjoy a Christmas drink together.	
11.	Any Other Business	
11.1	SH brought the Council's attention to the recruitment for the London FA Chair for the next three-year term (2021 – 2024), and also the recruitment for an Independent Director. Both positions were to be appointed through an open recruitment process and were currently being advertised through several channels. SH encouraged all Council members to circulate the adverts through their networks.	
12.	Elections to the London FA Board - RESULT	
12	PB announced that Anita Poulman had been elected as the new London FA Council-elected Board Director.	
12.2	JM congratulated Anita on her appointment on behalf of the Council and thanked both candidates for their participation.	