

LONDON FA BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

- **Ruth Holdaway** - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ruth-holdaway-24478915/>



Named by The Independent as one of the 50 most influential women in sport, Ruth took up her role as Chief Executive of Women in Sport in November 2013. On joining the Charity, she set about creating and embedding a new vision to transform sport for the benefit of every woman and girl in the UK, backed by a new strategy and a bold rebrand which saw the charity change its name from the Women's Sport & Fitness Foundation to Women in Sport.

A passionate campaigner, Ruth has enjoyed a 13-year career in the voluntary sector fighting for gender equality; with senior leadership roles in communications, service delivery and business development for Breakthrough Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer UK and Women's Aid.

Prior to her charity career Ruth was an NHS manager delivering paediatric, cancer and older peoples services; roles which she cites as building her determination to drive social change and her resilience. Ruth has also had roles in media production and management at the BBC and the World Health Organisation, as well as a short stint in the US Senate.

Ruth sits on the Board of the English Sports Development Trust & has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of East London. She is also a regular judge for the Sky Sports Woman of the Year Awards.

- **Simon Hughes** - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/simon-hughes-277261105/>



Simon was appointed to the Board in November 2015 as the first independent Director for the London FA.

Simon has lived in London continuously since 1977 and is a barrister by profession. He was a Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Bermondsey and the northern part of Southwark from 1983 to 2015. Simon was Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties from 2013 to 2015, and before that his Party's Deputy Leader and President.

He is currently the President of the Liberal Democrats in London. Since leaving Parliament, Simon has worked as Head of Public Affairs for the Open University. He is also an Honorary Fellow of London South Bank University, Chair of Trustees of the London Bubble Theatre Company, Chair of Governors of St. James's CoE Primary School Bermondsey, Vice-Chair of Trustees of Bacon's College and Trustee of Millwall Community Trust.

He is a long-standing Millwall FC fan, and a supporter of the Welsh rugby and Glamorgan cricket team.

- **Kirstin Furber** - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kirstinfurber/>



Kirstin Furber is the People Director at BBC Worldwide. BBC Worldwide is the commercial arm, and a wholly-owned subsidiary, of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) employing approximately 1800 employees, across 14 countries. Kirstin is a member of the Worldwide Executive Committee,

incorporating responsibility across Organisational Development & Learning, Talent Management & Resourcing, Culture & Engagement and Reward.

Prior to joining BBC Worldwide, Kirstin held the roles of Executive HR Director at Twentieth Century Fox, VP of HR International at Discovery Channel and positions at Ziff Davis, Warner Bros and the Granada Media Group.

Kirstin is an accredited coach, has CIPD Fellowship status, is a Business Management graduate and a keen travel photographer.

FOOTBALL DIRECTORS

- **Vivienne Aiyela** - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivienneaiyela/>



Vivienne has over 15 years of experience working across corporate, public, not-for-profit and commercial sectors.

In addition to working at a senior level in Human Resources and People Development throughout her career, Vivienne has held the position of Chair and Co-Ordinator of the CIPD Diversity and Inclusion Special Interest Group, and is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Metropolitan Police Service and Co-Chair of BAME Challenge at Inclusive Employers.

Since 2013, Vivienne has held the position of Chair of the Footballer's Anti-Discrimination Disciplinary Panel for the FA. She's also a member of Women in Football, and has a keen interest and expertise in the sport.

- **Ian Wallis**

Ian joined the Council of the London FA in 2002 and has been on the Board of Directors since 2012. He also Chairs the Cup Competitions Committee, as well as the South-East Division and many Judicial Commissions.

Previously, he spent 27 years as General Secretary and 20 years as Chair of the London & Kent Border Football League, at that time comprising 120 adult Sunday teams and has therefore considerable experience with all aspects of football at grassroots level. He is also a founder and Trustee of the Charlton Athletic Museum.

- **Gabby Shirley** - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gabby-shirley-7186b4120/>



Youth Sport Trust London Region Development Manager, Gabby Shirley has an in-built passion for football. Having played from the age of 8, in the London Metropolitan 5-a-side league through to University first team representation and full colours, Gabby is well placed to support the development of the London FA strategy.

Gabby has 20 years industry experience across the education and community landscape of PE, Sport and Physical Activity. Following a sabbatical year as Athletic Union President, Gabby embarked on a career journey that has developed a highly driven, results orientated, strategic leader with strong project management skills. Sports Leaders UK, London Active Partnership (CSP) and Fast Track Sports & Events preceded her involvement in the delivery of the PE, School Sport & Young People strategy as Partnership Development Manager in one of England's now well renowned School Sports Partnerships.

At the Youth Sport Trust, Gabby implements its national strategy at a local level across London, engaging Headteachers, key stakeholders, policy makers, community leaders and Local Authorities. The impact of the Youth Sport Trusts' development work across the Capital has been substantial, providing a huge demographic of young Londoners the opportunity to change their lives using the power of sport.

- **Paul Mortimer** - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/paul-mortimer-0853ab68/>



Paul is a former English former footballer and has played for several London clubs including Fulham, Crystal Palace and most famously Charlton Athletic whom he played for in the Premier League of English football and has over 200 appearances for. He also had stints at Aston Villa and Bristol City.

After his playing career ended, Paul held coaching roles with Wimbledon, Arsenal, Torquay United and Brentford. In 2007, Paul returned to Charlton Athletic to coach the club's women's team.

Paul is currently working for Kick It Out, an organisation tackling racism and discrimination in football, as Professional Players Engagement Manager working with current and former professional footballers to bring them closer to the activities facilitated by Kick It Out. A core part of his role involves gaining a better understanding of the real issues affecting players and allowing them to feed into the delivery of the campaign's future strategies.

- **Louise Dorling**

Louise has recently retired after a lifetime in the teaching profession, where she used her mathematics, administration and people skills expertise to become a senior leader in a local primary school.

Louise also has over 40 years voluntary experience within both youth and open-age football. Having served as a league secretary and management committee member, undertaking roles including registrations, fixtures, cups, results and disciplinary matters for a large league over many years, she is currently secretary of the London Inter League Cup Competition as well as a trained Judicial Secretary and Chair. Louise has been a member of the London FA Council for over four years.

- **Derek Harris**

Derek, like many other volunteers, became involved in football administration when his son Paul joined a Youth Club in 1981 and has been involved in all aspects of a football Club, Team Manager, Club Secretary, Chair, Child Welfare Officer.

In 2002 he was invited to join the Tandridge Youth League as Disciplinary Secretary and after several years in the role also took on the General League Secretary role. Due to the lack of volunteers, Derek also covers as a Fixtures Secretary and many other tasks.

Derek was a Surrey County FA Council Member, serving on the League Representative committee and facilities Committee until he took up the post of Director at the London FA.

Having spent some 36 years in Youth Football, Derek is still very passionate at continuing to provide a safe, friendly and enjoyable environment for young people to play and enhance their skills.

RISK AND FINANCE DIRECTOR

- **Alistair Morgan**



Ali is an Engagement Director at the National Audit Office. In a public-sector career spanning almost 20 years, Ali has managed and led audits within the NHS, local government, and the charity sector as well as government departments. His current portfolio of clients are primarily within the justice system and include the Ministry of Justice.

He is experienced in successfully delivering change, most notably overseeing the financial reporting aspects of the complex reorganisation of the NHS in 2013. This involved over 400 organisations with a combined turnover of over £90 billion.

Ali's other professional areas of interest include governance and policy development. He has been editorially involved in national publications on both governance and audit. A qualified accountant, he is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Ali is a keen football fan and long-time Arsenal season ticket holder. One of his most cherished football experiences was going to the World Cup in 2014 – the achievement of lifetime ambition.

CHAIR OF THE LONDON FA

- **George Dorling**



George was appointed to the Board in 2001 and is a Vice-President of the London FA. He is also the London FA representative on the FA Council where he serves on the Alliance committee, Judicial Panel and Trophy Committee of which he is Vice Chair.

George held many positions within the footballing world including Chair of the AJY League, and is currently Chair of the London Inter League Cup. He was a senior referee and officiated in the Isthmian league, and refereed the London FA Senior Cup Final and London FA Sunday Challenge Cup Final.

George had a career in the manufacturing industry before becoming a Health & Safety Consultant in the construction industry.