



LondonFA

Title: Chair's Report	Meeting: Annual General Meeting
Author(s): James Middlehurst, Chair	Date: 21/06/2021

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

We live in exceptional & challenging times and I envisage that we will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Throughout the last year we've been learning how to manage in this so called 'new normal', adapting to many different regulations and restrictions, whilst keeping our guard up against any resurgence in COVID-19.

As you no doubt will be aware a significant proportion of the London FA income comes from the FA in the form of an annual grant. The FA has suffered a significant shortfall in income from the COVID-19 pandemic which, in turn, is affecting all County FA funding in this financial year and for at least the next two years to come.

We've taken the necessary actions to address this shortfall and are confident we will be able to fulfil our 5-year plan for the support & regeneration of grassroots football for all in London (Harnessing the Power of Grassroots Football in London; 2020-25). We're very aware of the financial impact of the pandemic on our member clubs and have worked hard to support them as much as possible over the course of this season and into next season (see our Financial Report for more detail).

Paul Bickerton [CEO] will take us through the steps that have been approved by the Board for the 2021/22 plan as the business continues its support for grassroots football and adapts to the new COVID-19 environment. This plan will focus in particular on our work around equality, diversity & inclusion and we will be taking you through these detailed plans at the AGM. Paul will also provide an update on how he sees the London FA moving forward as we emerge from the shadow of COVID-19 and maintain our focus on the strategic goals and objectives set out in our five year plan (access this [here](#)).

Our overall objective as before will simply be to become as relevant as possible in supporting and developing grassroots football in London. Both the traditional game and in particular the emerging opportunities for wider participation for any & all wishing to participate in football in London.

Whilst COVID-19 will continue to pose challenges on what we can and can't do in the short term going forward, we are optimistic that with the roll out of the vaccination programme the worst will soon be over and we are all very much looking forward to a brighter & more inclusive future for Football for All in London.

Looking forward to catching up with you all again on the 21st June,

Best Wishes, James Middlehurst