



**Title:** Briefing paper explaining proposed changes to London FA Articles

**Meeting:** London FA AGM

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## INTRODUCTION

This item commends to our members resolutions for change which gained majority support at the London FA AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, but not the support of more than 75% of eligible voters required for the resolutions to pass and the Articles to be changed. At its meeting in February 2021, the new London FA Board agreed that these resolutions for change should come back to members at the earliest reasonable opportunity, following consultation with the London FA Council and London FA members. These resolutions were amended based on this consultation and the changes set out below gained approval of the London FA Council at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

The first 8 resolutions are to change the roles and responsibilities of Vice-Presidents, to end future elections of Life Members and to create (in their place) up to 10 new posts for Life Vice-Presidents, to increase the rights of the London FA President, to increase the rights of (existing) London FA Life Members, to increase the rights of the FA Representative and to clarify the rules on nominations to Council. The changes would amend Articles 36, 37, 51, 52 and 53 and add an additional Article 36A.

The final resolution (resolution 9) is a simple amendment to clarify that neither a London FA employee nor the employee of any other County Football Association can be appointed to serve as an appointed London FA Council Member or elected to a post which gives membership of the London FA Council.

Each resolution is set out below, including the detailed Article changes (in red). A clean version of the current London FA Articles is also enclosed with these papers: London FA AGM 2021 #7 – Current London FA Articles (last updated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 AGM)

## ITEM 9A RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 1: Rights of the President, Life Members, Vice-Presidents, appointed Council members and the FA Representative, and arrangements for election of President.**

1.1. Insert New Article 36A as follows:

36A. All of the following - the President, Life Members, Vice-Presidents, appointed Council Members and the FA Representative - shall be entitled to vote in the elections for Council-elected directors and to stand for election as Council-elected directors, except that no person who has been a director for three successive full terms of three years is eligible to stand for election until four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term of office as a director.

## 1.2. Amend Article 51 as follows:

51. All candidates for election as President shall be nominated in writing by two Council Members by such date as the Board of Directors shall prescribe. Only Council Members may nominate persons to the office of President. The President shall be elected by the members (excluding the Affiliated Clubs) at the annual general meeting in each election year. At each annual general meeting in an election year the President shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election ~~for~~ **subject to a maximum period in office** of three continuous terms of three years. ~~The President shall have~~ **The President has the right to receive notice of, attend and vote at all Council meetings and this includes the right to vote in elections for Council-elected directors and to be elected as a Council-elected director, except that no person who has been a director for three successive full terms of three years is eligible to stand for election until four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term of office as a director.** The President shall have such **other** rights and privileges as the Board of Directors shall from time to time prescribe. Any vacancy in the position of President shall be filled in accordance with the same procedures as those for election as President set out earlier in Article 51 above, **except that the vacancy shall be filled at the next general meeting or annual general meeting.**

## Resolution 2: Rights of the FA Representative

### 2.1. Amend Article 36 as follows:

Article 36: The Council shall comprise

- (i) the President;
- (ii) the Chair and all other members of the Board of Directors;
- (iii) the Life Members;
- (iv) the Past Presidents;
- (v) the Vice-Presidents;
- (vi) the openly recruited and appointed Council Members (appointed Council Members);
- (vii) one representative nominated by each of the Professional Clubs appointed in accordance with Article 42;
- (viii) the Honorary Vice-Presidents;
- (ix) **the FA Representative.**

### 2.2. Amend Article 53 as follows:

53. The Board of Directors shall decide, by an open and transparent process which involves Council, which person should be the FA Representative from each election year. The person chosen to be the FA Representative must hold an active position in the London FA and the London FA may appoint only a person who complies with all the requirements at the time of the Football Association. As the FA clarifies and redefines its requirements in the future, the London FA will comply also with any new requirements in force at the time of each election. The FA Representative shall be appointed for a three-year term and on such conditions as the Board of Directors think fit. **For the period of the appointment the FA Representative shall be a Council Member and shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote on Council business at all Council meetings and this includes the right to vote in elections for Council-elected directors and to stand to be elected as a Council-elected director, except that no person who has been a director for three successive full terms of three years is eligible to stand for election as a director until four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term of office as a director.** The person appointed as FA Representative may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors. Any casual vacancy arising in the office of FA Representative will be filled by the Board of Directors by an open and transparent process which involves Council and according to the same requirements set out above in Article 53.

### Resolution 3: Rights of Past Presidents

#### 3.1. Amend Article 52(ii) as follows:

52. (ii) Any London FA President who is either not re-elected or who retires is automatically becomes a Past President. The Past Presidents shall have such rights and privileges as the Board of Directors shall from time to time prescribe, but not including the right to stand to be elected as a Council-elected director or to vote in elections for Council-elected directors.

### Resolution 4: Rights of Honorary Vice -Presidents

#### 4.1. Amend Article 52(iv) as follows:

52. (iv) Honorary Vice-Presidents may be elected by the members at the annual general meeting in each election year and shall serve for life or until retirement. No person shall be eligible for election as an Honorary Vice-President unless they have served as a London FA Council Member for at least 20 years in total. Only the Council may nominate a person to be Honorary Vice-President. Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend all Council meetings but may not vote at these meetings. Honorary Vice-Presidents shall have such other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors shall from time to time prescribe but not including the right to stand to be elected as a Council-elected director or to vote in elections for Council-elected directors.

### Resolution 5: Creation of a maximum of 10 new officers as Life Vice-Presidents

#### 5.1. Amend Article 36 as follows:

Article 36: The Council shall comprise:

- (i) the President;
- (ii) the Chair and all other members of the Board of Directors;
- (iii) the Life Members;
- (iv) the Past Presidents;
- (v) the Vice-Presidents;
- (vi) the openly recruited and appointed Council Members (appointed Council Members);
- (vii) one representative nominated by each Professional Club appointed in accordance with Article 42
- (viii) the Honorary Vice-Presidents
- (ix) the FA Representative
- (x) the Life Vice-Presidents

#### 5.2. Insert new Article 52(v) as follows:

- 52: (v) LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS. Life Vice-Presidents are those London FA Council members who have given significant long service to the London FA. The Association may have a maximum of 10 Life Vice-Presidents at any one time. Life Vice-Presidents shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote on Council business at all Council meetings, but not including the right to stand to be elected as a Council-elected director or to vote in elections for Council-elected directors. From July 2021 until 2029, no person may be elected as a Life Vice-President unless they have been nominated for that election as a Life Vice-President by the Council and have served as a London FA Council Member in any capacity for at least 20 years in total. The London FA board and Council will in 2028 review the qualifications to be a Life Vice-President from 2029 onwards and will bring any proposals to amend this Article to the 2028 London FA AGM. Life Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the members at the annual general meeting in each election year and shall serve for life or until retirement, may serve on one Standing Committee if co-opted by the Board and a Division if invited by the Board. In the event of a casual vacancy arising for a position of Life Vice-President, such vacancy may be filled by the same procedure and subject to the same conditions as those set out above in this Article, except that the vacancy may be filled at the next general meeting or annual general meeting. As an exceptional transitional arrangement in 2021 only all

London FA Vice-Presidents already in office or nominated to be Vice-Presidents as of 31st March 2020, in recognition of their significant and excellent long service to the London FA and provisionally nominated by Council in March 2021 for election at the 2021 AGM as Life Vice-President, are eligible to be elected at the 2021 AGM without any requirement for any prior period of service as Council Member, Life Member, President, Vice-President or Honorary Vice-President. All such nominations will take effect immediately following agreement at the 2021 AGM to the insertion of new Article 52(v), and all members provisionally nominated shall immediately be held to be duly nominated and immediately eligible to be candidates for election as Life Vice Presidents by members at the same 2021 AGM, and those serving until the 2021 AGM as Vice-Presidents and elected by the 2021 AGM as Life Vice-Presidents shall immediately cease to be Vice-Presidents, and these Vice-President offices will immediately become vacant.

## **Resolution 6: To end the power of the LFA to elect new Life Members**

### **6.1. Amend Article 52(i) as follows:**

52. (i) ~~The President or Vice Presidents, having served meritoriously as a Council Member of the Association and having served on a Standing Committee, shall have the option of requesting Life Membership. Recipients of the Football Association 50 year Long Service Award may also be made a Life Member provided they have served a minimum of 10 years on the Council of the London Football Association. Life Members may only be proposed and elected by Council. Life Members have the right to attend Council meetings and will have the right to receive notice of, attend and vote at all Council meetings and this includes the right to vote in elections for Council-elected directors and to be elected as a Council-elected director, except that no person who has been a director for three successive full terms of three years is eligible to stand for election until four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term of office as a director. There may be up to six (6) Life Members at any one time. From 2020, and from the moment of the creation by the London FA of the office of Life Vice-President, no new Life Member shall be elected or appointed by the London FA.~~

## **Resolution 7: Rights, responsibilities and election of Vice-Presidents**

### **7.1. Amend Article 52(iii) as follows:**

52. (iii) Vice-Presidents are recognised as senior members of London FA Council, who following election will be given responsibility by the Board for a specific role and recognised portfolio within the London FA. The Association may have a maximum of 10 Vice-Presidents at any one time. Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the members at annual general meeting in each election year, ~~except as provided in Article 52(iii) below.~~ No person may be elected as a Vice-President unless they have been nominated for that election as a Vice-President by the Council, ~~served at least one full term as a Council Member, and with the exception of those who are already Vice-Presidents in 2020 and who in 2020 or later are re-elected, have not previously served more than three consecutive terms as a Council Member unless four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term of office as a Council Member. From 2020 no person elected as a Vice-President for three consecutive terms of three years is eligible for re-election as Vice-President unless four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term as Vice-President. From and including election year 2020, at least three Vice-Presidents must be female and at least three must be male. Vice- Presidents may serve on one Standing Committee if co-opted and a Division if invited. Vice-Presidents shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all Council meetings and this includes the right to vote in elections for Council-elected directors and to stand to be elected as a Council-elected director, except that no person who has been a director for three successive full terms of three years is eligible to stand for election until four years have elapsed since the end of their previous term of office as a director. In the event of a casual vacancy arising for a position of Vice-President, such vacancy may be filled by the same procedure and subject to the same conditions as those set out above in Article 52 (iii), except that in the event of such a casual vacancy arising during the 2021 London FA AGM, such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled at the 2021 London FA AGM,~~

and in the event of a casual vacancy or vacancies arising at any time after the 2021 London FA AGM, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled at the next general meeting or annual general meeting.

### **Resolution 8: drafting amendment to Article 37: Nominations to Council**

#### **8.1. Amend Article 37 as follows:**

37. Nominations for **all offices and positions which entitle the office holder to be a Member of the Council, except for the offices of Life Members and Past Presidents, and of Life Vice-Presidents once created,** shall be sought every three years (commencing from the first election year 2002) and shall be received in each election year before 31<sup>st</sup> May in that year, unless before January 31<sup>st</sup> in the same year the Board of Directors decides otherwise and informs the Council of the said date, except that in 2020 nominations shall be received on or before 30 November 2020. Council Members shall take office from July 1<sup>st</sup> in each election year except in 2020 when Council Members shall take office from a date before December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 to be decided by the Board of Directors, and shall serve for three years until June 30<sup>th</sup> three years later, except for those Council Members who take office in 2020 who shall serve for the remainder of the period until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023, and unless they resign or otherwise cease to hold office beforehand. Upon election, all Council Members must complete all the required safeguarding training, a declaration of good character, not be under any suspension from the Football Association and complete any other training / requirements of the Board of Directors / Football Association.

### **ITEM 9B RESOLUTION**

### **Resolution 9: amendment to Article 43: eligibility to be a LFA appointed Council Member or to be elected to a post which gives membership of the LFA Council**

#### **9.1. Amend Article 43 as follows:**

43. **With the exception of Honorary Vice-Presidents or Life Vice-Presidents,** no person shall be appointed to serve as an appointed Council Member or elected to a post which gives membership of the Council if they are a Member of the Council of any other County Association or a paid employee of **the London FA** or any other County Association, either at the time of nomination or election or after nomination, appointment or election.

***Sir Simon Hughes, London FA Senior Independent Director, May 2021***