

Minutes of the London FA Council Meeting	
<b>Date:</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Venue and time:</b>	18:30 – 20:30 Meeting conducted virtually (via Microsoft Teams)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Abigail Ingram, Alejandro Sanchez-Buitrago, Alex Turnbull, Anita Poulman, Aroz Mia, Bobby Bernini, Christina Oshodi, Yashmin Harun, Chris Conroy, David Wolff, Derwent Jaconelli, Eddie Webb, Gemma Watson, Graham Etchell, David Hooker, Russell Howes, Ian Yearwood, James Middlehurst (Chair), Jenn Athill, Jill Berry, Jo Hind, Kevin Wilmot, Lib DiCesare, Lockie Bramzell, Luke Thomson, Oren Flynn, Paul Mortimer, Roger Fox, Serkan Poyraz, Tony Sharples, Tom Barnard, Ian Wallis, Louise Dorling,  <i>London FA Staff:</i> Paul Bickerton, Amanda Lewis, Aquila Burgess, Cary Sclare, Deryll David, Neil Twitchett, Priti Trivedi,  <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Peter Elsworth (Head of Referee Operations, The FA)
<b>Apologies</b>	Duncan Hart, Alan Clarke, Martynas Stonkus, Atik Ahmed, Clive Coleman, Graham Taylor, David Lando, Mark Deveney, Yasmin Hussain, Harry Whipple



Item	Minutes	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
1.1	James Middlehurst (JM), Chair of the London FA, opened the meeting and introduced the agenda for the evening. He explained that, following consultation with Council members, it had been agreed to hold two Council meetings per year virtually (March & October) and two Council meetings face-to-face (June AGM and December).	
<b>2.</b>	<b>To receive and approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>	
2.1	Received and approved	
<b>3</b>	<b>CEO Update - presentation</b>	
3.1	Paul Bickerton (PB) gave an update on the following:	Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting
3.1.1	- London FA's customer service arrangements	
3.1.2	- Staff satisfaction	
3.1.3	- An outline of the key priorities for the 2022-23 season	
3.2	Several questions followed the presentation, to include:	
3.2.1 3.2.2	- More detailed queries on the functionality of the Freshdesk system - How internal staff survey results were shared with the team and whether the surveys allowed for open questions to explain scores (it was confirmed that they were)	

<p><b>4</b></p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.3.1</p> <p>4.3.2</p> <p>4.3.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.4.1</p> <p>4.4.2</p> <p>4.4.3</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p><b>Football Item - Refereeing</b></p> <p>Peter Elsworth (PE), the FA’s Head of Refereeing Operations, gave a presentation on their draft strategy for refereeing. PE explained that as the strategy had not yet been signed off by the FA Board, it could possibly change before it is published; however, he was keen to take the Council through the proposed direction of travel.</p> <p>PE also explained that for this reason he would be unable to circulate the slides following the meeting, but would ensure that London FA can circulate the published strategy to all its members as soon as it is ready</p> <p>Deryll David (DD), London FA’s Referee Development Officer, then provided the Council with an overview of London FA’s refereeing plan for the upcoming season. The plan contained a particular focus of the following three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Referee Recruitment</li> <li>- Referee Retention</li> <li>- Racial Equality Refereeing Project</li> </ul> <p>Several questions followed the presentations, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A push for tougher sanctions against those that abuse or assault referees</li> <li>- An explanation of how the FA was consulting with County FAs and wider stakeholders on the new refereeing strategy</li> <li>- The importance of clearly communicating the current penalties for those that abuse or assault referees</li> </ul> <p><b>Affiliations - 2022-23 season</b></p> <p>Aquila Burgess (AB), London FA’s Interim Head of Football Services, updated the Council on the 2022-23 club and league affiliation process. He confirmed that London FA had seen further growth across its teams this year, with over 5,200 now affiliated. 1,009 clubs had been affiliated and 30 leagues had also been affiliated.</p> <p>AB also took the Council through the new portal for affiliation for the 2023-24 season, which was currently under development at the FA. It was asked whether the data from the Whole Game System would automatically transfer across on the new Platform for Football system and AB confirmed that it would.</p> <p><b>London FA Regions</b></p> <p>An update was provided on the four regional groups (formerly divisions). A summary of the recent meetings was provided by Kevin Wilmot (Lead – North East) and Ian Wallis, on behalf of Michael Burke (Chair – South West). Anita Poulman provided an update on the North West Region.</p> <p>All regions were reporting some difficulty with attendance of Council members and that there was still a lack of clarity regarding their purpose and what should be discussed in the meetings. It was agreed that PB would re-circulate the paper that had been developed when a small working group met in 2021 to review the Divisions and transformed them into Regions.</p>	<p>Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting</p> <p>DD to ensure this feedback is included with the FA’s consultation process for the refereeing strategy</p> <p>Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting</p> <p>PB to circulate original Region’s proposal with minutes of the meeting</p>
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<b>7.</b>	<b>London FA Council Reports</b>	
7.1	The following reports were given to the London FA Council and members were offered the opportunity to ask questions:	
7.1.1	1. Chair's report (written)	
7.1.2	2. Standing Committee reports (written)	
7.1.3	3. FA Representative Report (written)	
7.1.4	4. Health & Wellbeing Officer Report (oral)	
7.2	No queries were raised on the reports.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Date / Time / Place of 2022 Meetings</b>	
8.1	The date for the final Council Meeting in 2022 had been set as Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	
8.2	PB confirmed that this meeting would take place face-to-face at the Keyworth Events Theatre, The Keyworth Building, London South Bank University (near Elephant & Castle Tube Station). The meeting would comprise a shorter Council meeting followed by Christmas drinks and snacks, to allow London FA Council, Board and Staff to network and socialise together.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
9.1	None	