

Minutes of the London FA Council Meeting	
Date:	Monday 4 th December 2023
Venue and time:	18:30 – 20:30 Meeting conducted face-to-face at the Keyworth Events Theatre, Keyworth Building, London South Bank University, Keyworth Street, SE1 6NG
Attendees:	Alejandro-Sanchez-Buitrago, Anita Poulman, Atik Ahmed, Bobby Bernini, Chris Conroy, Drew Patterson, Estella Dawson, Duncan Hart, Russell Howes, Ian Wallis, Michael Burke, James Middlehurst (Chair), Jenn Athill, Jo Hind, John McCulloch, Josh Pear, Kevin Wilmot, Lib Di Cesare, Lockie Bramzell, Martynas Stonkus, Yashmin Harun, Roger Fox, Serkan Poyraz, Paul Mortimer, Alexis Johnson, Gurjit Ghag, Shaz Nawaz, Andrew Ducille, Eddie Webb, Lakaydia Reynolds, Deri Asher, Setsoafia Kwame Asamany, Sagi Burton, Lester Newham, Mohammed Hussain, Rick Jones, Michael Stride, Abigail Ingram, Charlie Colwell, Abdul Yusuf, Chris Murray, Billy Grant, Mitchell Nelson, Michael Hanaway, Richard Siaw, Harry Cuthbert, Lewis Rice, Steven Ince, Tyra Mills, Sasha Crooknorth, Esther Elias, Tony Gilbey <i>London FA Staff:</i> Paul Bickerton, Amanda Lewis, Aquila Burgess, Nayim Ahmed, Neil Twitchett, Santiago Munoz <i>Guests:</i> Sir Simon Hughes (former LFA Senior INED), Victor Chamberlain (Electoral Reform Society)
Apologies	Nina Stewart, Alan Clarke, Benjamin Aidoo, David Wolff, Jordan Sapler, Graham Taylor, Abu Nasir, Sophia Axelsson, Nahimul Islam, Richard (Quam) Quamden, Isabella Borg, David Richbell, Graham Etchell, Tony Sharples, Ian Yearwood,



Item	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome	
1.1	James Middlehurst (JM), Chair of the London FA, opened the meeting and welcomed the new London FA Council to their first meeting of the 2024-2027 term. He reflected on the recruitment process for the Council Members and thanked them all for putting themselves forwards for such an important role. JM explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to elect four (4) London FA Board Directors to represent the London FA Council on the Board.	
2.	To receive and approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th October 2023	
2.1	Received and approved.	
3	An introduction to the London FA – Paul Bickerton, London FA CEO	
3.1	JM introduced Paul Bickerton, London FA CEO, to take the new Council through an introduction to the organisation and explained that PB would then lead the process by which the four Board Directors are elected.	

3.2	PB ran through a series of slides that explained the background to the Council review in early 2023, the purpose of the new Council, the activities they would be involved in throughout 2024 (for example Committees / Working Groups) and then the process by which the four Board Directors are elected from Council.	Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.
3.3	Two queries from Council members followed the presentation, as follows:	
3.3.1	- The facilities challenge in London and how important the new hybrid pitch recently laid at Regents Park will be.	
3.3.2	- Whether the disability participation numbers were currently of any concern. PB replied that those numbers generally increased throughout the season and London FA was confident of hitting its targets in that area.	
4	Elections to appoint Council-Elected Board Directors	
4.1	PB led the process for electing four directors from Council to the London FA Board. He introduced Victor Chamberlain (VC) from the Electoral Reform Society, who would count the votes, and Sir Simon Hughes (SH), a former London FA Board Director who designed the process. The following key points were made clear to Council Members:	
4.1.1	- Only appointed Council members, i.e., those recruited and appointed through the open recruitment process, are eligible to stand as candidates and vote for directors.	
4.1.2	- Council members are asked to elect the directors that they believe will best represent the London FA Council on the Board.	
4.1.3	- Voting will take place via a secret ballot and a preferential voting system. An independent representative from the Electoral Reform Society (VC) will count the votes and observe the process.	
4.3.4	- These four elected directors will be the first confirmed new board members for the new term. All elected and appointed board members (except the Chair who is part way through his term of office) will take office from 1 st January 2024 and serve until 31 st December 2027.	
4.3	8 Council members seeking election had been confirmed as candidates and their manifestos had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. PB proceeded to allow each candidate up to three minutes to address Council, and they were then asked to respond to one question, selected at random from audience members.	
4.4	Once all candidates had presented themselves, Council Members were provided with their unique ballot forms and submitted them to the CEO. This was a secret ballot using a preferential voting system. It was announced that the results would be declared before the end of the meeting.	
5	Council Buddying Scheme	
5.1	Anita Poulman (AP) presented on the newly introduced Council buddying scheme and how this has been working in practice.	Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.
5.2	The feedback on this scheme was overwhelmingly positive, with many of the buddies having already met up prior to this Council meeting and reporting that it had helped them settle into their new roles. One reflection was made regarding existing Council Members having been given more notice of their involvement in this scheme, which was acknowledged.	

6	Date / Time / Place of 2024 Meetings														
6.1	The full schedule of meetings for 2024 was presented to the Council Members, with the key dates and times set out below:														
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6.3	PB also explained that on Wednesday 31 st January 2024, the London FA would be hosting its Grassroots Heroes Awards at the London Guildhall. Several tickets would be available to Council Members on a first come first served basis and a communication on this would come out before Christmas.														
7	Any Other Business														
7.1	None														
8	Elections to appoint Council-Elected Board Directors														
8.1	At this stage in proceedings, the votes had been counted and the results could be declared. VC explained that the secret ballot and preferential voting system had been followed to his satisfaction, 45 votes had been cast and all those votes were eligible.														
8.2	The winners, in no particular order, were announced as follows: Yashmin Harun, Jo Hind, Tyra Mills, and Abdul Yusuf.	Candidates to be announced to all Council Members via email, along with notes of the meeting.													
8.3	JM congratulated all the successful candidates, thanked all those who had put themselves forwards and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas. For those interested, drinks would be provided at the Elephant & Castle pub round the corner.														