


Minutes of the London FA Council Meeting		 <b>LondonFA</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021	
<b>Venue and time:</b>	18:00 – 20:00 Meeting conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams	
<b>Number of attendees:</b>	64 (excl. London FA staff)	

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.	
1.2	A minute's silence was observed to honour the passing of two London FA Council Members – Alan Nathan (Honorary Vice-President) and Cyril Rebak (Life Member)	
<b>2.</b>	<b>To receive and approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>	
2.1	Received and approved (proposed Simon Hughes, seconded Roger Fox)	
<b>3</b>	<b>Time for Change: the new FA Strategy 2020-24</b>	
3.1	Chris Pringle, Senior Regional Manager at the FA, delivered a presentation that covered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Available funding to support clubs and leagues</li> <li>- Grassroots football season restart principles</li> <li>- Time for Change, FA Strategy 2020-24</li> </ul>	Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting
3.2	A question and answer session followed the presentation, with the following points covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A request for access and information on the recently announced disability funding. Neil Twitchett (NT) shared the eligibility and further details with the Council via the Chat function</li> <li>- It was confirmed that affiliation support funding from the FA would be passed on in full to all London clubs and the affiliation window would open week beg. 17 May</li> <li>- The new player registration system is mandatory for next season onwards (2021-22) but uploading of player details has taken place throughout this season, to avoid a bottleneck over the summer affiliation period</li> <li>- Numerous questions were raised on the changes to the coach education programme; these were covered by CP and NT and NT will be engaging directly</li> </ul>	Coaching to be the main topic for the next meeting

	with Council members following the meeting to get further feedback on any issues at local level	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Restarting Grassroots Football in London – London FA’s plans</b>	
4.1	Paul Bickerton, CEO, delivered a presentation that covered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- London FA plans to complete the 2020-21 season and successfully prepare for the 2021-22 season</li> <li>- London FA staffing structure</li> <li>- Specific support to London FA clubs and leagues</li> </ul>	Slides to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting
4.2	A question and answer session followed the presentation, with the following points covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further discussion on coach education challenges. PB and NT highlighted London FA’s plans to develop a CPD offer for coaches across London and explained that specific London FA Council members could help with this</li> <li>- Staff were continuing to mostly work at home, with future working arrangements currently being developed. PB explained that staff would have greater flexibility in future and that government guidelines would determine any re-opening of the office.</li> <li>- NT had been liaising with Local Authorities extensively on facility access and London FA were meeting with London Councils in April to further discuss facility access issues. Any member wishing to discuss further should contact NT directly</li> </ul>	Neil T to reach out to specific Council members to work with London FA in this area
<b>5</b>	<b>London FA Divisions</b>	
5.1	Karen Greene introduced this item and explained that it would not be possible to make decisions on this item in a full Council meeting. A working group of Council members would therefore be convened, and Council members interested should express their interest to the CEO.	PB to contact council members following the meeting to open up expressions of interest
5.2	KG explained that the group’s remit would be to set out a proposal for the future of the Divisions and take that back to the London FA Council when ready.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Governance Report</b>	
6.1	Sir Simon Hughes (SH), Independent Director, gave a summary of the report which had been circulated, which set out the package of proposals which the London FA Board had agreed to take to members at the AGM in June. SH highlighted that, after consultation with members following last year’s AGM, the proposals had been separated out to allow members to express a view on each change.	
6.2	Several questions were asked in relation to the rationale for this change and the specific roles of the Vice-Presidents and Life Vice-Presidents. SH explained the background to these proposed changes, which newer Council members will not have been aware of. He also highlighted that the proposed new Vice-President roles were set out in the report.	
6.3	George Dorling asked if Ian Wallis, London FA Board Director, was eligible to serve his full term as Director. SH confirmed that he was, as IW was elected prior to his term limits expiring, in line with Article 59.	

6.4	SH clarified that those nominated as Life Vice-Presidents currently had the powers to vote at this meeting as they were still recognised Vice-Presidents until 30 March 2021.	
6.5	SH then proceeded to the two key items of business for the Council this evening; to nominate the proposed Council members to become Life Vice-Presidents at the upcoming London FA AGM and to nominate the proposed two remaining Vice-Presidents at the upcoming London FA AGM. SH was clear that these positions could only be confirmed by the London FA members at an AGM.	
6.6	<p>The following eight Council members were nominated to be Life Vice-Presidents at the upcoming London FA AGM (subject to the proposed changes being agreed by the members). Each Council member was proposed and nominated individually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graham Etchell</li> <li>- Clive Coleman</li> <li>- Colin Wheeler</li> <li>- David Wolff</li> <li>- George Dorling</li> <li>- Harry Whipple</li> <li>- Ian Yearwood</li> <li>- Tony Sharples</li> <li>- John Taylor</li> <li>- Roger Fox</li> </ul>	
6.7	<p>The following eight Council members were nominated to be Life Vice-Presidents at the upcoming London FA AGM (subject to the proposed changes being agreed by the members). Each Council member was proposed and nominated individually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Karen Greene</li> <li>- Duncan Hart</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>London FA Council Reports</b>	
7.1	<p>The following reports were given to the London FA Council and members were offered the opportunity to ask questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chair's report (written)</li> <li>2. FA representative report (written and oral)</li> <li>3. Standing Committee reports (written)</li> <li>4. Health &amp; Wellbeing Officer Report (oral)</li> </ol>	
7.2	The FA Representative updated Council on various coach education changes, the Steps 3 – 6 league decisions and the FA cup crowd pilots	
<b>8</b>	<b>Future topics for Council meetings</b>	
8.1	Members indicated that they would be interested to explore coaching and plans around the women and girls' game at future meetings.	
8.2	PB asked that any further feedback be sent to him by email to consider.	

<b>9</b>	<b>Date / Time / Place of next meeting</b>	
9.1	<p>The CEO reminded Council of the following dates for 2021 Council meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 (London FA AGM)</li><li>- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021</li><li>- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021</li><li>- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021</li></ul>	
9.2	<p>Council meetings will take place from 18.00 to 20.00 and government guidelines will determine whether they take place virtually, face to face or a mixture of both (hybrid)</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
10.1	<p>SH brought the Council's attention to the London Mayoral Elections and explained that London FA will be writing to the candidates. Council members should send any key feedback to be considered in this letter to the CEO.</p>	