

## NORTH EAST DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE 2019-20

Minutes of the North East Divisional Committee Meeting of the London Football Association held at Hackney Marshes Centre on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 commencing 7:15 pm

**Present**, Bobby Bernini, Jermaine Wright, Kevin Wilmot, Ian Yearwood, Aroz Miah, Tony Gilbey, Neil Twitchett, George Dorling

**Apologies for absence:** Harry Whipple, Yasmin Hussain, Yashmin Harun, James Middlehurst

**Not Present:** Louise McGing, Alf Brown, Emdad Rahman

### **Matters Arising**

George queried the sanctioning of the Champions Cup matches between Saturday and Sunday youth teams. Kevin stated this will be looked at the next cups committee meeting.

The AFA are not affiliating youth teams anymore.

Tony thanked Bob for organising the meeting in December and asked for this to be included in the minutes.

It was agreed to defer confirmation of the September & December meeting dates until after the Council Member elections in June.

### **Chairmans Report:**

Kevin stated the Divisional Forum was a useful event and the London FA have asked him to facilitate another one at the next council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Kevin suggested that the Division carry out a further forum and this was agreed. Kevin suggested topics to cover and asked members to add any ideas of their own. It was decided to do a session on mental health and hidden disabilities. Suitable venues were also discussed and Redbridge FC was suggested as the first choice.

### **LFA Update:**

Neil handed out a KPI report for us to view.

Participation numbers are up due to a number of factors including an increase in small sided football, participation programmes and youth AFA clubs now affiliating with London FA.

Playfootball partnership has been successful with new youth and returning adult male players.

Recreation providers are on the rise.

The female game is still growing.

Disability football is growing in London with over 600 players. Kevin asked why the London FA don't run our own disability league. Neil stated that we don't have the staff to do this on scale but are working with partners to expand the current leagues and set up youth and women's leagues next season.

A lot of partnerships are being established.

Futsal has grown.

Tony asked about walking football. Neil stated this hasn't been the priority this season but will be something we will be looking at as the demand allows.

The charter standard aim is to get 78% for youth and 31% for adults. We are on track to achieve these numbers. Aroz queried if numbers are being duplicated. Neil stated this is possible, but player registration will give a better account.

Wildcats: 5 to 11-year-old girls are above expected levels. 33 new wildcats' sessions for girls have been set up.

Coaches and referees numbers are up. Neil stated they are keen to retain as well as grow.

The 100fc program is designed to get 100 female coaches every year over the next two seasons. George asked about the grass pitch programme as numbers appear to be low. Neil stated that pitches are only counted once a second visit has taken place. There needs to be a 9 – 12 month gap between the first and second visit hence the lag in numbers. Neil stated that 217 pitches had received a first visit so we were on track to hit our year 3 number. The Football Foundation has put together a grass pitch fund of £2,500 per pitch for clubs or leagues to apply for.

The safeguarding report was out and the LFA has passed. Neil and other office staff have been going around league meetings discussing safeguarding for youths playing in an adult league. Any clubs with 16 or 17 year olds must have somebody at that club with a DBS check.

At the cup final on 29 March the LFA will host a Youth Council careers day where young people will be able to find out from expert speakers about development roles within football. Bobby asked why the office had a small number of staff on the discipline team. Neil stated two people, Richard and Ezekiel, had left at the same time and they were recruiting to replace the roles.

### **Correspondence and Secretary's Report**

Received confirmation from the office regarding the safeguarding of youths in the adult game.

Response from Jamaal received regarding county cups. Kevin stated these points will be raised at the next cups committee meeting.

### **Standing Committees**

Cups Committee - If you are representing London at a cup final you should be dressed appropriately. The cups are progressing well. No handshakes will be permitted at forthcoming matches. We are on track for reaching cup final dates.

Procedural issues have been brought to the committee's attention. We should offer clubs appeal hearings when charging them with offences for which they could be expelled from a competition. Adult and youth competitions are being looked at and many rule changes are being proposed.

Youth teams at cup finals need to print off team sheets and present them at cup finals if they don't play in a league which uses ID cards.

George highlighted London FA games should not clash with England games or Champions League games. Kevin said this was a learning point and will be discussed at the next cups committee.

George also stated that the FA are considering a proposal from next season to ensure all senior county cups are played on a specific week of every month

**Any Other Business:**

Kevin asked if Neil could ask Paul for an update on the new ID cards for Council Members.

Ian noted that the North West Division minutes stated that they were the only one following the protocol and emailing all other divisions the minutes from their meetings. He was assured that, apart from December, all North East minutes were sent to the other divisions. Jermaine also mentioned the North West was the only division sending us minutes and nothing had ever been received from the South East or South West divisions although their minutes were on the London FA website. Jermaine stated the Hackney Marshes Youth League had just started a girls league.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, To Be confirmed