

Surrey County Football Association Limited

General Meeting

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Monday 15th February 2021 at County Office commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

County Members:

Peter Ashdown, Sue Aspinwall, Lawrie Baker, Colin Barnett, Nick Drew, Gordon Harrison, Graham Keable, Ray Lewis, Tony Loveridge, Oli Moore, Victor Olisa, Les Pharo, Brian Reader, Vic Rolland, John Waddelow, John Wallis, Phil Whatling, John Young

Staff:

Emma Barnes, Danielle Boyd, Anne-Marie Cliffe, Bob Dick, Andrew Dickinson, Richard Garland, Ashley Gumbrell, Sally Lockyer, Chloe Longdon, Nicola Novell

Clubs:

Albury, Berrylands United, Blenheim School, Byfleet Village, Cage United, Castle Hill, Caterham, Chiddingfold Youth, Ditton Dons, Dundonald United, East Surrey Hawks, ECS Classic XI, Godalming Town, Gold Coaching, Gordon's Camels, Hersham, Hindhead Athletic, Josh Evans Soccer School, Junior Elite, Kew Park Rangers, Lingfield, London Brookes, Meadow Sports, Merstham, Mole Valley Girls, Mytchett Athletic, New Life, Oxted & District, Seale, Sporting Club Wandsworth, Tooting & Mitcham United, Victoire, Virginia Water, Wandgas Worcester Park, Westfield, Windlesham and Chobham, Windlesham United Youth, Woking Cougars, Woodham Victoria, Worcester Park Colts, Worplesdon Rangers

Leagues & Competitions:

Morden & District Sunday League (Jeff Martin), Surrey County Intermediate League Western (Derek Stovold)

Apologies

County Members:

Soye Briggs, Bryan Croucher, Barrie Hogan, Alan Holmes, Richard Ireson, Mike Jerney, Tony Newman, Bob Woods

Clubs:

Ash United, Beecholme Belles, Bourne Blades, Dial Square, Mitcham Park, New Elm, Reigate College, Roehampton Rangers, Sutton United, Walton Casuals

Leagues:

Surrey & Hants Border League

1. Apologies

The County President, Ray Lewis, chaired the meeting, introduced himself and welcomed those present. Andrew Dickinson read the apologies as above.

2. To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020 and the reports of the charity trustees and auditors

Nick Drew reported that despite the challenging and unprecedented situation the world finds itself in, the Trustees are again pleased to report that we remain in a strong financial position at the end of 2020.

The year closed with available funds of £615K as at 30th June 2020 and £627K as at 31st January 2021 (both amounts including £70K in Sinking Fund for Meadowbank pitch replacement).

Covid-19 impacted Income in 2019/20 by over £100k against plan, but this was largely covered by Governmental Furlough grant funding. Income levels allowed £1.3m to be re-invested into the grassroots game in Surrey and, as targeted, we delivered a net break-even in 2019/20 as all Income was re-invested back into the Game.

The future remains uncertain, particularly around on/off restarting of the grassroots game and centralisation of FA Education.

Other key information from the report was the resignations of Sheila Pink and Laura Smith from the Board of Trustees, as well as confirmation from the Auditors that the financial statements give a true and fair view, have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Surrey FA's vision is to be recognised as the leading County FA / Governing Body and our strategic priorities were outlined. Nick gave an overview of the Benevolent Fund and asked that players were made aware of available funds.

The County have now incorporated the impact of FA funding cuts, effective from the start of 2020/2021. Governmental Furlough grant funding is continuing to be utilised and transition to the centralisation of FA Education continues. Actions have already been taken on cost base to re-balance the ongoing position.

Nick added that he is looking forward to the return of the grassroots game, once it is safe to do so.

Ray proposed that the Accounts be approved, and all agreed.

3. Strategy Update Presentation 1st July 2020 to 31st December 2020

Sally Lockyer gave an overview of the current situation, advising that since she started in post a year ago, she has instigated a COVID strategy with direction from the Board of 'cash preservation' along with ensuring a balance of financial need, operating the business and wellbeing of staff. Sally thanked the staff for their support during the year.

There has been a great deal of scenario and recovery planning, including County Cups, and we are expecting an announcement from The FA regarding an extension to the season. There has been over £1m in financial support for clubs in Surrey.

During this period, there has been a big move into digital space, to engage and support our stakeholders, which enables us to be in a better place for recovery.

Participation figures were outlined for male, female, disability, Wildcat Centres, coaches and referees.

Sally highlighted numerous events involving referees, clubs, coaches and a range of other stakeholders; great feedback has been received and over 100 people have registered for the online introduction to refereeing.

Support for the workforce has been introduced and further information is available on our website under Technical Area for Coaches, The Fifth Official for Referees and Clubhouse for Volunteers.

Surrey FA are the first County FA to launch an e-County Cup for our clubs; the live finals will take place at Meadowbank on 16th May 2021 and will be streamed live.

Referring to Surrey FA's Governance Vision, Sally updated the meeting with the proposed compliance timeframe, and this will now be brought to the AGM. The areas of evidence and compliance that have been completed were highlighted along with those which will be finalised before July.

Details of the members of the new Partnerships & Funding Advisory Group were given, and the Referees Working Group and Player Pathway will be restarted.

The FA have introduced their new strategy 2020-2024 and Surrey FA will have a Stakeholder Consultation for our new strategy 2021-2030, which will be regularly reviewed.

4. Any other relevant business as admitted by the Chair

There was no other business.

Ray referred to Sheila Pink's resignation as a Trustee following her move to Devon. The Trustees have proposed to make Sheila a Life Vice President, and this was agreed.

Ray thanked all present for attending, adding that he looked forward to seeing everyone at the AGM in July.

5. Closure

The meeting closed at 7.31pm.