

Surrey County Football Association Limited

General Meeting

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015 at Leatherhead FC commencing at 7.30pm.

Present

County Members:

Les Pharo (Chairman), Peter Ashdown, Sue Aspinwall, Lawrie Baker, Brian Brackpool, Soye Briggs, Brian Carroll, Steve Cottingham, Bryan Croucher, Nick Drew, Les Edwards, Brian Fish, Richard Garner, Gordon Harrison, Dermot Hennessy, Alan Higgins, Barrie Hogan, Alan Holmes, Mike Jerney, Richard Jones, Michael Lawrence, Dave Letley, Ray Lewis, Bruce McLaren, Tony Newman, Hanna Newton, John Owen, Darren Pasley, Sheila Pink, Malcolm Randall, Ray Regester, Vic Rolland, John Tasker, Howard Taylor, John Waddelow, Brian Walsh, Philip Whatling, Colin White

Jon Burr, Anne-Marie Cliffe, Michael Green, Tom Holder, Caroline McRoyall, Kris Westbrook (Company Secretary)

Clubs:

AFC Brooklands (Jez Taylor), Brockham Badgers FC, Dorking FC, G4G FC, Woking Cougars FC

Leagues & Competitions:

Leatherhead & District FL (Robert Woods), Morden & District Sunday FL (Jeff Martin), South Surrey Youth FL, Surrey Primary Youth FL (Scott Brundish)

Apologies

County Members:

Derek Alldridge MBE, Emma Barnes, Paul Blair, Alan Clarke, Bob Dick, Rob Hardy, Richard Ireson, Graham Keable, Tim Lawrence, Pam Lomax, Roy Lomax, Tony Loveridge, Gerry O'Neill, Brian Reader, Bill Savill, Derek Stovold, Brian Wakefield, Gordon Worsfold, John Young

Clubs:

Abbey Rangers, Ashtead, Banstead Village, Beecholme Belles, Bourne Blades, Camberley Town Youth, Chertsey Town Ladies, Corinthian Casuals, Epsom & Ewell, Farncombe Youth, Keens Park Rangers, Meadow Sports, Mencap Allstars, Mitcham Park Girls, Mitcham Park Juniors, Mole Valley Girls, Mytchett Athletic, Mytchett Athletic Seniors, Virginia Water

Leagues:

Redhill & District Leagues, Surrey

1. Apologies

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

2. Adoption of the Accounts for the period 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015

The President called on the Finance Director, Nick Drew, to present the final accounts and Nick introduced Taylorcocks, the auditors, and thanked them and Kris Westbrook, Company Secretary for their work in auditing the accounts.

Nick advised that the process was more complicated as this was the first year incorporating Whole Game System. He stated that the accounts have been delivered as expected and outlined at the Annual General Meeting. Income and expenditure have been balanced and reserves remain unchanged. The balance sheet is healthy, allowing for strategic investment to enable growth at SCFA. A decrease in FA funding led to staff restructuring during the year and the aim for the future is for SCFA to be unaffected by any future FA cuts.

No queries were raised

Ray Lewis asked for someone to propose that the Accounts be approved. Howard Taylor proposed and Bob Woods seconded. Ray asked for a show of hands in agreement and all agreed

3. Adoption of the Benevolent Fund Accounts for the period 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015

Referring to the Benevolent Fund Accounts, Nick advised that we have had several claims throughout the year and even though expenditure has been greater than income, the balance sheet remains healthy.

Ray Lewis asked for someone to propose that the Benevolent Fund Accounts be approved. Brian Brackpool proposed and Brian Carroll seconded. Ray asked for a show of hands in agreement and all agreed

4. Charitable Status

Ray Lewis called on Caroline McRoyall, Chief Executive, to give members an overview of SCFA's aim to achieve charitable status.

Caroline gave a presentation outlining the benefits, impact and process involved, highlighting that whilst we are a not for profit organisation having Charitable status would give members more confidence as public perception of charities is

good as they are regulated by the Charity commission. She also outlined that it would help raise funding and cut costs.

Howard Taylor questioned what the effect would be on current income and Caroline responded that if we were a charity we could claim back £19,000 on the current level of our business rates, 25p in the £ for gift aid donations as well as opportunities for further grant funding. She estimated it could total up to £30,000.

Caroline asked for people comments or observations and asked if anyone saw anything negative about becoming a charity. Jeff Martin queried whether or not VAT would be added to club and league costs and Ray Lewis responded that this would not happen unless the government implemented it.

Caroline stated that the articles would need to be changed to come in line with Charity Status but this should not affect the current running of the association. The County are getting advice from Muckle on this and will be aiming to hold a general meeting in March to vote on the changes.

5. Strategy Update Presentation

Caroline McRoyall gave the meeting a strategy update presentation for the period July to December 2015. This included participation and referee figures, as well as highlighting recent awards achieved by the County and member clubs. Caroline then introduced Jon Burr, Football Development Officer.

Jon outlined the Football Development Team Structure and highlighted the key events of the season so far along with events throughout 2015. He finished his presentation by defining the upcoming priorities for 2016.

Tom Holder, Football Services Manager, presented an FA Whole Game System discipline update regarding Respect sanctions and thresholds. Michael Green, Football Services Assistant, followed this with an update on poor club and poor discipline records. A question was raised asking if this information had been distributed and Tom responded that it had been sent to clubs and was available on the Surrey County FA website. It will also be distributed to leagues in the near future.

Bob Woods commented that Whole Game System has been beneficial to clubs and leagues, and Les Pharo praised the Football Development team for their work.

Caroline concluded her presentation by updating the meeting on new staff and upcoming office closures, Meadowbank and Long Service Awards.

Jeff Martin referred to club affiliations and asked if there were concerns about the number of teams that had folded and 71 teams withdrawing from County Cups. Caroline responded that the number for teams folding was not as high and

County Cup withdrawals were a separate matter. She added that a survey was being produced in order to obtain feedback regarding County Cups.

Colin White queried the participation figures asking for defined figures. Caroline outlined that the figures were not finalised yet but provided indicative figures for Mini Soccer and Youth Male football. Caroline advised that there was a large increase in recreational football, although adult male had lost 40 teams and disability had lost 15 teams. The figures will be finalised in January and submitted to the FA; they will then be available to the County.

6. Any other relevant business as admitted by the Chairman

Ray Lewis advised that the FA Disability Committee is looking for talented players with disabilities that may be playing in mainstream football, possibly those with cerebral palsy, deafness or are partially sighted. He asked members to be aware and signpost anyone to him or the County FA.

7. Closure

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.