

Surrey County Football Association Limited

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019 at County Office commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

County Members:

Derek Alldridge MBE, Peter Ashdown, Colin Barnett, Soye Briggs, Brian Carroll, Bryan Croucher, Nick Drew, Richard Garner, Gordon Harrison, Alan Higgins, Barrie Hogan, Richard Ireson, Mike Jermey, Michael Lawrence, David Letley, Ray Lewis, Roy Lomax, Anthony Loveridge, Jeff Martin, Oli Moore, Tony Newman, Victor Olisa, Les Pharo, Sheila Pink, Vic Rolland, Bill Savill, John Tasker, Brian Walsh, Phil Whatling, John Young

Staff:

Emma Barnes, Steve Bradshaw, Anne-Marie Cliffe, Bob Dick, Andrew Dickinson, Mike Gilham, Ashley Gumbrell, Chloe Longdon, Helen Ross (Company Secretary)

Clubs:

Copthorne FC, Parkside United FC

Leagues & Competitions:

Leatherhead Sunday FL (Robert Woods), Surrey County Intermediate League Western (Derek Stovold), Surrey Elite League, Surrey Youth League (Pam Lomax)

Apologies

County Members:

Sue Aspinwall, Alan Clarke, William Douglas, Les Edwards, Dermot Hennessy, Alan Holmes, Bruce McLaren, Ray Regester, Jez Taylor, John Waddelow, Brian Wakefield, Rod Wood

Staff:

James Chadwick

Clubs:

Chiddingfold, Frimley Green, Leatherhead, Mitcham Park, Virginia Water

Leagues & Competitions:

Combined Counties League, Redhill & District Sunday League, Surrey & Hants Border League

1. Apologies

The County President, Ray Lewis, introduced himself, welcomed those present and acted as Chair for the meeting.

Ray introduced Steve Bradshaw, the Chief Executive Officer, who then read the apologies.

Ray drew the meeting's attention to those members of the football family that had passed away during the previous year and he asked those present to stand as a mark of respect.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th July 2018** were agreed and signed.
3. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 10th December 2018** were agreed and signed.
4. **Presentation of Annual Report / Strategy Update**

Ray Lewis called on Steve Bradshaw to give members an overview of the Annual Report and Strategy Update July 2018 – June 2019.

Steve outlined Surrey FA's strategy indicating that it had been a year of change as well as many achievements. He thanked the work of the staff and looks forward to working with both staff and volunteers, adding that partnerships are the key for the future.

Football For All was highlighted and included reference to the development of women's and girls' football and opportunities for people with disabilities. Steve thanked Caroline McRoyall for her contribution as well as the Board and staff for their welcome. He stressed the importance of volunteers to the continued accomplishments by Surrey FA.

Steve mentioned the success of the facilities at Meadowbank including the hosting of the County Cup Finals. The aim for the year will be to become even more outward-facing in supporting our leagues, clubs and teams. Safeguarding continues to be a priority for Surrey FA, having achieved The FA's Safeguarding Operating Standard once again.

Finally, Steve highlighted the strategy KPI figures then handed over to Andrew Dickinson.

Andrew outlined staffing changes, as well as marketing, website viewing figures, digital County Cup final programmes, live streaming of Senior County Cup draws, the equality calendar and BSL match day signs. He highlighted the reach of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, ezine and the website. The top performing story was the Lucy Clark interview.

Referring to the key events and initiatives for equality, Andrew highlighted LGBT+, disability, women & girls, religion and ethnicity. Andrew also referred to safeguarding and the club visits that were made, as well as safeguarding for adults at risk, the online safeguarding for committee members course, CPD events and DBS integration onto Whole Game System.

There was a query regarding why the safeguarding for committee members course needed to be completed by county members as it was not considered to be relevant, so Andrew explained that it was necessary as part of the Safeguarding Operating Standards.

Andrew introduced Mike Gilham who advised that the primary role of Football Development was to accept money from The FA in return for achieving the required KPI targets. Mike highlighted the progress made in 2018-2019 season along with the figures for participation, coaching courses, refereeing, facilities & funding. Mike then outlined the priorities for 2019-2020.

A question was raised regarding the UEFA B course shortlisting process and Mike explained this process.

There was also a question concerning how successful Surrey FA will be with local councils. Mike replied that it was currently the best opportunity due to funding by councils and there was good engagement from all local authorities.

Ashley Gumbrell outlined discipline figures for 2017-2018 compared with 2018-2019. There has been a law change and sin bins are now compulsory. A member at the meeting commented that the message regarding sin bins does not always reach the players, so Ashley responded that if player registration was used this would not be an issue, as this reduces the reliance on leagues and clubs to advise players of any changes. Ashley highlighted that player registration will become compulsory from 2021-2022.

Discipline income was presented and Ashley indicated the need to diversify. Discipline recruitment is ongoing and information is available on Surrey FA's website; Ashley requested that this information be circulated.

Ashley highlighted the grassroots technology vision to 2021, including The FA's digital ecosystem, Whole Game System, Full-Time, and Match Day. He advised that next season there will be a new officer webinar and Surrey FA will regularly attend more league meetings and target player registration. Ashley outlined the work carried out by the Saturday Player Pathway Working Group which will continue this season.

There was a question regarding how the success of sin bins would be assessed and if they were being used correctly. Ashley confirmed that The FA is investigating this.

It was then stressed that players who go to academies and are then released do not carry on playing football. A suggestion was made that the academies should be contacted and Ray Lewis reported that The FA are looking at this specific area.

5. Overview of the accounts by the Finance Director in advance of the General Meeting on Monday 9th December 2019

The Chairman introduced the Finance Director, Nick Drew, who presented a brief overview of the accounts. Nick reported a strong set of figures with a turnover of c.£1.2 million for the year, including funds received from Mole Valley District Council, as compensation for the building work delays at Meadowbank. This will not be reinvested until opportunities are assessed. An audit will be performed within the next few weeks and these figures will be available in December. Nick also referred to the vacancy for a Finance Manager.

It was questioned whether larger companies were being approached as commercial partners. The response was that this was a major focus by the Board and Steve reported that he had engaged a marketing consultant in order to promote Surrey FA's activities and was putting together a sponsorship proposal to take to potential partners.

6. Appointment of the Association's Auditors

Taylorcocks was duly appointed for 2019-2020.

7. Announcement of the appointment of any Life Vice-Presidents, Honorary Members and Vice-Presidents

No appointments were made.

8. Election of officers

No appointments were made.

9. Appointment of Elected Trustees in accordance with Article 27

No appointments were made.

10. Notification of changes to County Cup Rules for season 2019-2020

These changes had been circulated prior to the AGM and Bob Dick highlighted the major changes which were temporary dismissals, removal of all extra time, increase in pitch fees, ages of players in the vets competition, and eligibility of players.

It was queried if the Competitions Officer should replace Challenge Trophies Committee and whether or not this was a conflict of interests. Ray advised that a Working Group may take over the appointments and Bob highlighted the right of appeal indicated in the rules.

There was a question regarding who would be on the Board of Appeal and Bob responded that Football Services would assemble a panel.

A discussion followed regarding amendments to the wording and it was agreed that these would be circulated to County Members.

Action: Circulate amendments to County Cup Rules to County Members for approval

11. Notification of changes to Articles of Association as approved by the Board

Ray advised that the main change was the Management Committee had changed its name to Executive Advisory Group and the Articles had been renumbered.

All agreed to these changes.

12. Any other relevant business as admitted by the Chairman

Les Pharo presented Ray Lewis with his Long Service Award.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.37pm.