

ANNUAL REPORT 2016– 2017

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP, OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT

1.1 MEMBERSHIP

A total of 429 Associations were registered for affiliation in Season 2016-2017.

1.2 CHAIRMAN

Alan Johnston has continued to maintain the excellent traditions of the ESFA during his year as Chairman. He quickly established a good working relationship with our Chief Executive, Andrea Chilton, during her second year in post. He has travelled over 12,000 miles both here and abroad during this year representing ESFA at Council Meetings, ESFA/FA Meetings, Boys and Girls Internationals, National Finals, Festivals, Long Service Awards and other ESFA events throughout the country. Alan also attended the U18 Boys International training camp held at Bury FC before leading the delegation to Porto, which included the newly appointed U15 Girls International Management along with the U15 Girls International Squad, for warm weather training during February half-term, sponsored by InspireSport. The highlight of the Chairman's season in office was undoubtedly when he represented ESFA at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace where he was introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh.

During his time as Chairman of ESFA Alan has also maintained an active role within Durham County Schools' FA attending regular executive committee meetings, acting as assistant manager to the U16 County Boys Team, and also assisting in the organisation of end of season County Cup Finals. Alan's work at both local and national level in school's football has been greatly appreciated by all during his year as Chairman of ESFA.

1.3 VICE-CHAIRMAN

Throughout his year as Vice Chairman, Owen Aiston has shown a very positive attitude, approached challenges with an open mind and has applied his legendary attention to detail in planning and preparation when organising ESFA competitions or when representing the Association. Owen has attended numerous ESFA events during the season, including National Finals and Internationals. Owen attended the SAFIB Meeting in Valencia earlier this year and will be Vice Chairman of SAFIB next season. As a working partnership, he and the Chairman, between them, have attended the vast majority of ESFA functions where the presence of a senior officer of the Association was anticipated. Owen, together with Stuart Inger and the Chairman, represented the ESFA at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. Owen has proved to be a valued member at meetings of the ESFA Officers and Trustees and has chaired the Competitions and the Development Committees during his six years on Council. He is an NSCAA 'A' Licence Coach and Coach Educator, has an encyclopaedic knowledge of football history, is a keen football memorabilia collector and can point-out an ex professional footballer in a crowd! His experience gained over nearly 35 years in Schools' Football in Northumberland will be an ideal foundation to serve as ESFA Chairman during 2017-18.

1.4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Andrea Chilton is approaching the end of her second year as ESFA CEO. She has continued to be a strong and effective leader and has been largely responsible in restoring the image of the ESFA in the eyes of many of our Partners. Andrea's relationship with these Key Partners now means that the ESFA is, once again, viewed as being 'fit for purpose' and as a more valued part of their planning. Her professional approach to the management of furthering the ESFA as a meaningful football organisation means that the ESFA is now in a much stronger position to access additional funding sources in the future. Her hard work and guidance continues and is clearly shown in how far the Association has moved forward in the past two years. The ESFA Chief Executive deserves great credit for her work and she is to be congratulated for achieving so much in such a short time.

1.5 STAFFING

Kieran Laverick joined the Football Development staff this season as FDO and quickly established himself in this position. Together with Andy Weston they met with colleagues throughout the season offering advice and guidance, especially with SLA compliance. Ben Brookes also joined the staff last year in the role of Competitions Department Intern. Ben has gathered valuable experience during his time with ESFA and leaves at the end of the season having gained much from working with the highly motivated and talented staff within the Competitions department. As usual Darren, Sarah and Ed, assisted by David, Sue and Lorna managed to arrange and organise another very successful series of National Competition finals. Darren, despite being faced with many unfortunate and unforeseen challenges (including inclement weather and specific venue issues) managed somehow, in conjunction with the competitions team, to rearrange many postponed finals seamlessly – notably the prestigious PlayStation finals. For this, he and the Competitions Team, warrant specific thanks. David continues to manage the Premier League District Programme with great skill and despite initial teething issues the International Programme continues to develop. Lorna and Sue are to be congratulated for their assistance and experience within the International Programme planning. Sarah Kearney has continued to raise the profile of ESFA in terms of PR and Comms whilst Dawn's diligence and attention to detail have provided Officers and Trustees with regular financial updates and budgets. Martin and Sarah, as National CWO's, have been particularly busy recently, playing their part in *Operation Hydrant* information gathering.

Andrea's careful management of the team has resulted in a highly efficient unit; one which is a credit to the Association.

1.6 AUDITORS

The ESFA's Honorary and Professional Auditors continue to provide the Association with advice and an independent, critical eye.

The Honorary Auditors, Neil Pont (Northumberland), Mark Warren (Staffordshire) and Allan Reed (Durham), all well-respected and greatly experienced schools' football colleagues, visited the ESFA's Offices on a number of occasions to prepare for, and deliver, their annual audit. They have gathered information from ESFA minutes and accounts. Discussions with the Chief Executive, Finance Officer, Chairman, Chair of Trustees and selected staff have taken place and the Honorary Auditors have produced a challenging but realistic series of targets and observations. This forms the basis of their attached report which was presented to Council at their June meeting.

Mark Ashton, of Lancaster's & Co, continues to perform his professional duties on behalf of the Association with due diligence. The long-standing relationship with the ESFA is greatly valued.

Council wishes to record its thanks to our Honorary and Professional Auditors for their work on behalf of the Association

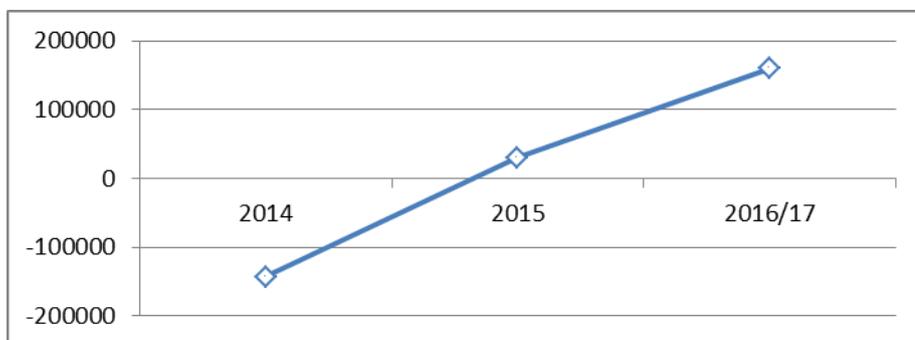
SECTION 2 – FINANCE AND SPONSORSHIP

2.1 FINANCE

This year's financial report is unusual in that it covers an 18 month period. This is due to the change in the financial accounting and reporting year previously agreed with membership at the AGM. This change has required careful management but the association is already seeing the accounting and cost forecasting benefits of this move.

Following a return to a position of relative financial stability in the 2015 accounts (small surplus of £30,100) it is pleasing to be able to report that careful management of the association's finances mean that this trend continues, with a projected surplus of £161,752 for the 18 month period (Jan 2016 to June 2017) being expected. Within this figure is a projected surplus of £120,471 for the 2016-17 playing season and new financial year.

ESFA Final Accounts 2014 – 2017 Indicating Profit and Loss



While these headline figures represent a welcome return to a more positive financial position for the ESFA it is important to be mindful that the budget for 2017-18 season does not currently look as healthy with an overspend of around £32,000 being predicted to maintain current staffing and activity levels. In addition to underwriting the projected loss in the next financial year, the 2016-17 surplus may be required to support additional projects where funding for the new season is, as yet, unclear.

National finances are still very tight and closely controlled but we are confident that the organisation can live within the budget set for 2017-18 as it reflects realistic cost expectations.

Supporting activity at county and district level remains a commitment of the association. In 2016 -17 this was exemplified in the distribution of £89,000 in administrator grants to associations, £81,603 in development funding, £88,000 in the form of direct grants to ESFA county associations and £8,000 of grant funding to associate members (regional associations).

The Officers and Trustees are very pleased to note the work of the ESFA Football Development team in moving the association to a position where investment has enabled more county associations to meet the minimum requirements of the Service Level Agreement (SLA). As previously stated the Officers and Trustees take their responsibility to make a core schools football offer available across the country very seriously, and it is good to see progress in this area.

26 county associations have been allocated ESFA county administrator grants since the project began. Two training events have been held in different areas of the country (Sheffield and Oxford) to support the induction of the administrators and were attended by 34 new appointments. While these appointments represent a few different models, the most popular way forward has been to use the grant to purchase an administration service from a third party, a county FA in most cases. The window of opportunity for counties who have expressed an interest in this project has been extended to enable all counties who wish to benefit from this funding to do so.

It is pleasing to report that the ESFA has been able to access all available grant funding from The Football Association during this financial period. The current ESFA / FA Business Plan has two years to run and the ESFA have been successful in either meeting the required Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or renegotiating them to reflect more realistic outcomes.

Finally, the Officers & Trustees again wish to place on record thanks to the our Chief Executive, Andrea Chilton and the Association's Finance Officer, Dawn Howard, for administering the ESFA's finances so diligently. Their insight, dedication and enthusiasm for the work of the ESFA are much appreciated.

2.2 SPONSORSHIP

The activities of the ESFA are reliant on financial support from grant funding and sponsorship. This requires us to meet the demands of funding partners and sponsors to maintain current agreements, as well as seek new opportunities and funding streams.

The ability of our National Competitions Department to deliver a high quality product is a key factor in the association retaining key sponsors. The Officers and Trustees recognise the role played by this excellent team.

The 2017 PlayStation Finals at Pride Park, the home of Derby County were very well received by participants and sponsors, despite the intervention of the weather. This partnership goes from strength to strength with the support of PR Company HPS Jardine. This was nationally recognised in 2017 with a national award from UK Sponsorship Awards. The ESFA remain grateful for the important financial support of PlayStation and the excellent work of HPS Jardine.

The DANONE Nations Cup Finals provides a great showcase for ESFA Primary football and the 2017 finals were held at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium. We are very grateful to Danone for their financial support and partnership in making these competitions and these prestigious finals possible.

The Premier League continues to support the work of the ESFA. In 2016-17 they have continued their sponsorship of the U16 Schools Cups and the U11 District Primary Festivals and Finals. We are grateful to the Premier League for their support of the competitions and for their financial help to promote U11 district football.

We are grateful to InspireSport who continued their financial support of the ESFA international programme and trial process in 2017, including organising pre-tournament preparation camps for both the boys and girls international squads.

Impact Trophies, our medal suppliers are also the sponsors of the Indoor 5-a-side tournaments, the Finals of which were held in Birmingham this year.

The ESFA has been delighted to form a new relationship with Pendle Sports to be our new international kit sponsor for 2017 and beyond. This relationship is of benefit to the international squads and to member associations as Pendle offer good quality kit at competitive prices and are already established in the school's football market.

The British Heart Foundation provided financial support for the live streaming of the ESFAs two home U18 Internationals this year. This is a partnership that we hope to develop as the two organisations seek to fulfil their charitable objectives by working together.

HUDL, sponsors of the five U18 Cups during the 2016-17 season have decided not to renew their sponsorship for the 2017-18 season despite a positive relationship with the company.

The Officers and Trustees are aware that the association needs to be constantly seeking new funding streams from sponsorship, grant funding and partnerships.

Mr John Scales, our agent in the negotiation of longstanding relationships with PlayStation and DANONE, has agreed to work with the association again to support us as we seek new sponsorship opportunities.

The Officers and Trustees are also exploring the possibility of grant funding with additional agencies (e.g. Sport England) as well as other avenues to diversify the association's income sources to ensure future stability.

SECTION 3 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 INTERNATIONAL MATCH, SELECTION & COACHING

The trials for the Under 18 Squad this year were extensive, with players being watched at Area days and Regional matches. A group of 32 players were invited to attend a weekend at Lilleshall in early January. After two excellent games against the RAF (1-3) and the Navy (2-0) the International Squad was selected. A further squad get together took place at the end of January which saw a victory over Australia (5-2). The squad then spent 4 days during February half at Carrington courtesy of Inspiresport. During this period they played games against Bury (4-0) and the Independent Schools' FA (2-1)

Victories over Scotland at Greenock (5-1), Republic of Ireland Ireland at Home Farm (5-2), and Wales at Bristol (5-2) and a defeat against Northern Ireland at Torquay (1-4) meant that England were joint winners of the Centenary Shield for 2017. The squad again visited primary schools before matches and carried out some excellent work as ambassadors for the ESFA. Ben Lavelle, in his first year as team manager, deserves great credit for the way the boys performed both on and off the field and for retaining the Centenary Shield. He was ably assisted by Richie Alderson, Matt George, Tony, Harris and Jimmy Kelly.

Following trials the Under 15 Girls Squad spent a weekend at Lilleshall in February, followed by a successful training week in Portugal, again courtesy of Inspire sport, preparing for their matches. The final opponents before the Bob Docherty Tournament, the Republic of Ireland, were victorious in the John Read Cup (2-1) at the AUL Complex, Dublin. The SAFIB Bob Docherty Cup was this year held in Dublin at the AUL Complex. In the group games England drew against Shelbourne (0-0), and were defeated by Northern Ireland (1-0) The 5th/ 6th placed play off paired England against Scotland, with auld enemy winning 7-6 on penalties following a 1-1 draw. A big "thank you" to the management team of Claire Robinson, Stephanie Libby, Will Smith, Dave Burns and Gemma Hopkin for their hard work this season. We also have to say farewell and congratulations to Gemma who is expecting her first child later in the year. We wish her and her partner every happiness.

3.2 COMPETITIONS

The ESFA successfully delivered 45 National Competitions during Season 2016-2017. The ESFA National Competition portfolio expanded to include two Boys' Elite Schools' Cups at the Under 12 and Under 13 age groups as well as a new Under 18 Elite Schools' & Colleges' Cup for those establishments that offer a football academy / development programme at sixth form level. After five consecutive years of increased participation, this season showed a slight decline as 6,746 teams registered to compete in the Secondary Schools' Cups, compared to 6,805 in Season 2015-16.

The organisation of the national finals period commenced with hosting the Deaf Schools' tournaments, in conjunction with the National Deaf Children's Sports Association, at the Derby Powerleague on Tuesday 7 February. A month later, the ESFA used a new venue at PlayFootball Birmingham (previously the National futsal centre), for the National Finals of the ESFA U12 'Impact Trophies' Football Fives. The venue was an excellent facility and the ESFA will be hoping to return in 2018.

Meadow Lane, Notts County Football Club, was the host venue for a celebration of girls' football on Wednesday 22 March. The Girls' Under 18 Schools' Cup and Girls' Under 18 Colleges' Cup finals were held as a double header and were both broadcast live on ESFA TV, which attracted over 4,000 views on YouTube. Louise Quinn, Republic of Ireland Women's international and Notts County WSL player, made a personal appearance to support the event and present the medals and trophies, helping to promote girls' football.

On Wednesday 29 March, the impressive Keepmoat Stadium, home to Doncaster Rovers FC, played host to the Boys' U18 Schools' Cup final between Altrincham Grammar and Millfield School. Altrincham Grammar School's decision to close the school and transport all the pupils to the final created a tremendous atmosphere within the stadium. The second kick off of the day saw Farnborough VI Form College play York College in the U18 Colleges' Cup Final. Both matches were streamed live from the stadium racking up almost 12,000 views online.

The new U18 Elite Schools' & Colleges' Cup competition didn't disappoint in its first season, producing both a school and college to play each other in the final, with no fewer than five England Schoolboy internationals on show. Monkseaton School and Hartpury College were guests at Blackburn Rovers' superb Ewood Park stadium on Friday 31 March to complete the last of the U18 finals to be played before the Easter break, with 4,000 online views.

The four Premier League sponsored U16 Schools' Cup finals went ahead again in a two day event spanning the 24 and 25 April. The four finals were held at the Manchester Regional Arena, directly in front of Manchester City's Etihad Stadium, where all teams were treated to a post-match meal in the Directors' Lounge. The 8 teams all received Nike kits courtesy of the Premier League and the Schools' Cup for Boys final attracted the highest viewing figures to date on ESFA TV with almost 20,000.

The Ricoh Arena, home to Coventry City FC and Wasps RFC, hosted the U16 and U18 Inter County Boys' Finals on Saturday 29 April, where Staffordshire became U16 Champions on penalties and Essex were victorious over Durham in the U18 competition.

The next set of finals took place at Birmingham City's St Andrew's Stadium, hosting six finals over three non-consecutive days – Thursday 4, Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 May. All finals were, once again, streamed live from the stadium and also on the impressive big screen within the ground. A number of ESFA Long Service Awards were also presented alongside the events.

The fourth PlayStation Schools' Cup season was brought to a close with another fantastic PlayStation Schools' Cup Festival, which made a move from Reading FC's Madejski Stadium to Derby County's Pride Park from the 15 – 17 May. The partnership, supported by PlayStation's PR Company, HPS Jardine, continued its fantastic season-long work by once again showcasing 10 'Tie of the Round' events at schools across England, with appearances from Premier League footballers including Gary Cahill, Phil Jagielka, Nathaniel Clyne, Alex Iwobi, John Stones, Cesar Azpilicueta and a special 'Girls' Football Week' themed event featuring Man City and England Women's Captain, Steph Houghton. Once again, these events gained some fantastic coverage in a variety of National Press, not only in print but also through social media, television and radio.

The ESFA PlayStation Schools' Cup festival saw 13 out of 15 National Finals take place at Pride Park, with a waterlogged pitch unfortunately seeing the last two finals on Day 3, postponed. However, the event was a huge success with visits from Premier League players taking place across the three days. Everton stars Tom Davies and Leighton Baines as well as Stoke City and England legend Peter Crouch all made appearances at the festival and Women's Football Ambassador, Steph Houghton also came along to enjoy the atmosphere in Derby. As with all other finals, continuous live coverage of the events was streamed online with over 102,000 viewers enjoying the live action, a 70% increase on the previous season. Once again, ex-Liverpool and England star, John Scales co-commentated throughout the 3 days and he was joined by commentary legend Clive Tyldsley for his second PlayStation Schools' Cup appearance. Sarah Poplar, of Derby County Football Club, was highly commended for allowing this event to take place at Pride Park Stadium at relatively short notice.

The ESFA was delighted to once again host the U11 Danone Nations Cup Finals at a Premier League stadium for a second successive season; this time heading to Stoke City's stadium for the finals of the four Primary School competitions. Middlesbrough PSFA were crowned Inter Association winners and as a result will represent as Team England at the Danone Nations World Cup Finals, which will be hosted in New York's Red Bull Arena on 24 September 2017. Special thanks was given to Ravi Sharma and Andy Jackson at Stoke City Football Club for opening up the stadium free of charge and marking the 7v7 pitches out on what proved to be the most pristine playing surface of the season. The ESFA is also extremely grateful to Mark Harrod Ltd for donating four sets of age appropriate goalposts for this event.

Two remaining PlayStation sponsored Schools' Cup finals took place at Everton FC on Monday 22 May, with local Merseyside school, St Francis Xavier College, competing in both events. The postponed U15 Open final from Derby County FC also went ahead on 22 May at West Bromwich Albion thanks to the support of Simon Topper, the headteacher at Sandwell Academy.

Finally, the Girls' U14 PlayStation Schools' Cup final, which was unplayed at Derby County, took place at St George's Park near Burton on 20 June, with St Ivo School overcoming a spirited Rossett School from Harrogate on the pitch next to where the full England Women's team were training under the watchful eye of former ESFA U18 Colleges' Champion, Mark Sampson. The two remaining U12 Small and Girls' Cup competitions also took place at St George's Park's indoor dome and outdoor 3G pitch respectively, in July.

The National Competitions Department, led by Darren Alcock, has coped admirably with the demands of organising so many national competitions and events while maintaining strong relationships with all our major sponsors throughout the season. Sarah Kearney and Ed Mitchell are to be commended for accepting the additional workload and the team have gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping the ESFA to deliver another exceptional season. Thanks are also extended to Benjamin Brookes, who leaves the ESFA after successfully completing a 12 month internship at HQ and also to Garry Griffiths of 353 Photography, Adrian Battersby at 247 TV, Alex Wint for providing his services as a qualified physiotherapist throughout the finals and the army of referees that helped officiate at all ESFA fixtures throughout the season.

3.3 COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Continuing from last year's developments, the ESFA have continued to make improvements with how we present ourselves. Our social media profile continues to grow and becomes more and more important when communicating with schools, sponsors and the general public. We have also seen a number of improvements to existing initiatives as well as some exciting new developments.

Twitter - Followers have increased significantly from 11,479 to 14,100 and in the last three months alone we have averaged 110 direct tweets, over 30,000 profile visits and 445,000 tweet impressions per month. Twitter is an integral part of both our public image and communication strategy and has become hugely effective in advertising/promoting events, sharing successes and interacting with member schools. The use of hash-tags for international fixtures, cup finals, PlayStation competitions and initiatives, such as girls' football week, have helped to share our work and promote our successes. This is vital in terms of our existing and potential sponsors. Of particular note this season was the screening of an introduction and Q&A session with the Boys U18 international squad via Twitter live from The National Football Museum in Manchester.

Facebook – The ESFA Facebook account isn't a social media priority of ours, however we have grown steadily since our last report and now have 1,474 'likes.'

Instagram – We have an Instagram account set up and still hope to implement the use of this and continue to develop our social media presence via this medium over the coming seasons.

Club App – We have continued our use of Club App at zero cost to the association. We have our own 'club' which has predominantly been used for international fixtures and gives us the ability to share team sheets, goals, results and statistics.

YouTube – Our YouTube Channel has grown and is used for a variety of events such as inter-county footage, filming of inter-school fixtures sent in by schools, cup finals, festivals and all other footballing activity. All International matches and National Finals from the 2016-17 season appear on here now. We now have 1,336 subscribers and a further 27 uploaded videos for 2016-17. Live views of the videos pulled a combined audience of 53,186 and replays of matches came in at 93,196. We have seen a considerable increase in the number of views of ESFA TV videos on the site and figures show a rise from 15,941 last year to 178,981 as at June 2017.

247.TV – Our work with this web TV company has continued and for the first time, this season has seen the ESFA broadcast all National Finals and International matches online via YouTube, live and completely free. The National Press picked up on the streaming of schools' sport finals earlier this year and ran some great stories on the ESFA's growing coverage, alongside that of other sports. The company are highly supportive of the ESFA and work tirelessly to ensure the work done together is of great quality. This season, the British Heart Foundation sponsored the live match coverage of the England U18 v Wales at Bristol Rovers FC, which allowed us to help promote the wonderful work of the BHF and their Nation of Lifesavers campaign.

Website – In the last twelve months our website has enjoyed over 1.8 million 'hits' with nearly 200,000 individual users. 45% of our viewers in this time period have been new users with 55% being returning users. Following last season, we have carried out research to determine the best way to deliver our aims. 2017-18 will see the 'front end' of the website redesigned to improve the appearance, content and usability of the site.

PlayStation – As with last season we have held ten extremely successful 'Tie of the Round' events at schools across the country with professional player appearances from the likes of Phil Jagielka, Alex Iwobi, John Stones and Tim Cahill. This has helped create some excellent national press coverage for the ongoing partnership with these fantastic sponsors.

International Squads – Last season's improved media exposure of our national squads and cup finals has continued this year. This has been both locally and nationally with both boys' home Centenary Shield fixtures being streamed online and a more involved Twitter following of the squads.

353 Photography – Garry Griffiths of 353 Photography has captured some excellent images from our cup finals and international fixtures as well as a host of other events. The relationship is a very successful one that has continued to grow throughout the season providing the association with a selection of images for promotional and press use.

Brand Identity – We have been working with a local business to help streamline the documents/fonts/logos etc. used across the ESFA. The branding guidelines will be circulated across all channels ahead of the 2017/18 season.

ESFA Brochure – An ESFA PR brochure has been created and circulated to help build the profile of the Association by being displayed initially at the National Football Museum and also sent to Football Clubs to help the National Competitions Department in securing venues for Finals. We hope this will help to build on awareness of the Association outside of the direct world of 'schools football'.

ESFA Certificates – These are now available and have been sent electronically to all council members for their use at local and regional events. Bulk hard copies are also available from the office for larger events. These certificates provide a consistent presentation resource and have proven extremely popular with the children who take part in and support our various events.

National Football Museum – Our relationship with the NFM continues to grow and develop and we have taken part in a number of events with them this season. We will be meeting with them over the summer to further our partnership for the coming season.

Opportunities to Promote Our Work ‘On the Ground’

All staff and council members now have ID badges with lanyards to wear at ESFA events. Similarly, each council member now has a ‘pop-up’ banner (in addition to those already in use by the staff) to display at the inter-county fixtures, festivals, cup finals etc. Each county schools’ association also has two; each containing the ESFA logo and contact details as well as the appropriate county schools’ logo. This has helped to promote ESFA as the national governing body through the wealth of local and regional fixtures and events that already take place.

As chairman of this committee I would like to extend my gratitude to my colleagues on this committee for their support and input and also, especially, to Sarah Kearney for her enthusiasm, hard work, professionalism and expertise.

3.4 GOVERNANCE

Governance has continued its part in the ESFA Constitution Review process through regular meeting updates and guideline production. The Governance Committee continues to monitor the suitability of The FA’s Whole Game System (WGS) as staff training and visits have continued with the aim to add to the smooth running of the ESFA. The Committee has worked closely with the CWOs to produce a more streamlined affiliation process for the future. This is a vital safeguarding component for all members of the ESFA family.

The Committee have regularly checked, monitored and adapted the Service Level Agreements compiled by all counties which are now vital for the future development of schools football. With the National County audit now complete further planning can be implemented as statistics and data emerge.

The Standard Rules for Schools’ Football (SCORY), following the FA’s Standard Rules policy was adapted by the committee and sent off to the FA for them to review. However after scanning our amendments to their policy the FA correctly decided to give us the opportunity to create our own due to the differing nature of schools football. This work will continue into the next season. Governance continues to monitor Discipline and have a positive impact on the Rewards and Recognition Programme recently initiated by the ESFA.

The committee continues to discuss issues which are regularly apparent nationally when counties and districts have a system and structure which are out of kilter with the ESFA Rules programme. A working group has been initiated to look at the future of the ESFA in the ever changing world of education and how this impacts on football both within and outside the curriculum.

3.5 DEVELOPMENT

The Football Development committee has been involved in a wide number of initiatives over the past season. First and foremost supporting the work of the Football Development team including our programme with the Premier League developing district football which has delivered a number of fantastic regional events up and down the Country and created 128 new district U11 teams.

There have been a number of notable achievements including the distribution of £77k into local organisations to support the development of schools football. This has resulted in 545 new girls’ teams, 572 new boys’ teams, 78 new disability teams and 496 new futsal sides.

The biggest success of this season has seen 31 Counties take up the administration grant offer. The ESFA thanks not only the County Schools’ Associations for their support in this roll out but also our partner organisations including County FA’s, County Sports Partnerships, Schools and School Sports Partnerships without whose involvement and commitment we would not have achieved this progress. Two very successful induction days were run during April in Oxford and Sheffield with 21 Counties attending in the first instance.

The Development committee has contributed to the early stages of discussions on a Girls Strategy, a Volunteer Strategy and Representative football all of which are now being undertaken by Council.

Sadly this season, we were unable to run our annual summer coaching programme at Repton. Numbers have been steadily falling over a number of years and with increased costs it was decided to cancel and review for future years.

We have also got involved in new partnerships to help provide further opportunities for children to play football in schools. This includes supporting The Association of Muslim Schools with their new competitions, The 8372 Srebrenica Memorial Football Tournament and working with the PFA on developing new regional events.

We now move forward to a new ‘Association Development’ committee which will build on and enhance the work that the current committee undertook and thanks go to all our colleagues for their contributions over the past season.

SECTION 4 – LIAISON

4.1 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mike Spinks was re-elected by his Council colleagues at their meeting in April 2017 to be their representative on the FA Council for Season 2017-2018. Mike has immersed himself fully into FA business, being on the following four FA Committees – Development, Disability, Women's and Girls and Youth. Mike missed a couple of meetings when he away on FA business but apart from those occasions he had a 100% attendance record.

4.1.1 The National Game Board

Mike Spinks has now completed the second of his 3-year stint as the education spokesperson on the National Game Board. The National Game Board only appears to discuss schools football when issues are raised by Mike himself. Most of the agenda during the year has continued to revolve around all aspects of the non-league game, with occasional references to youth football.

4.1.2 FA Development Committee

The Committee meets four times a year, and on a rota basis at each meeting, one of the educational partners (ESFA, Independent Schools FA, Association of Colleges, British Universities) makes a short presentation on its activities and then answers questions from the members of the Committee. Andrea Chilton and Andy Weston gave an excellent insight into the current activities of the ESFA.

4.1.3 FA Disability Committee

Mike Spinks was asked to join this Committee at the beginning of the season. As a result, he had to forego his place on the Referees Committee. The Disability Committee was particularly interested in the Deaf Schools Festival which the ESFA has been very successfully staging in Derby for several years. The winners of the girls' competition in February 2016 were invited to the FA Disability Cup Finals Day at St George's Park in May. Braidwood School for the Deaf from Birmingham lost the Final at SGP 6-4 to Derby County Community Trust.

4.1.4 FA Women's and Girls Committee

Mike Spinks had asked to join this Committee when he became an FA Council Member and at the start of this season his request was granted. It seemed logical to have someone from the world of education to speak when girls football was being discussed. In February Mike, along with FA Vice-Chairman Mervyn Leggett, was asked to accompany the Under 19 and Under 23 female squads to tournaments they were participating in at the La Manga Sports Resort in Spain. Plans can now be made by County Schools Secretaries for their Under 14 and Under 16 Inter-County Girls football leagues and cups to continue on the 2nd Saturday of the month in Season 2017-2018.

4.1.5 FA / ESFA Partners Working Group

This group meets on a regular basis at Wembley Stadium to address matters of mutual concern. Its Chairman is Peter Clayton, the FA representative on the ESFA Council. The ESFA contingent comprises its Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chairman of Trustees and FA Council Member. A meaningful link with The FA is of paramount importance to the ESFA.

4.2 FA YOUTH COMMITTEE

Mike Spinks has completed his second year on this Committee. He has attended all its meetings and given them the full details of the matches and trials organised for our Boys Under 18 International squad. As a consequence of The FA deciding to reduce the number of Youth Committee Ambassadors travelling abroad for tournaments from three down to two, the ESFA was not asked to send anyone to the Under 16 Montagu Festival in April or the Under 15 Delle Nazioni event in Italy in May. Mike will continue to press the Youth Committee Chairman to reconsider his decision to exclude ESFA members from FA tour parties.

4.2.1 Victory Shield

The Victory Shield is now competed for by Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Should the ESFA ever be in a position where it could run a boys' Under 16 team they would be a very welcome addition to the competition. In October 2016, an excellent tournament was staged by the Scottish Football Association over one week at their new indoor football complex in Edinburgh. The Republic of Ireland emerged as the winners, winning all three of their matches.

4.2.2 U16 Tournaments abroad with The FA

Mike Spinks was nominated by The FA Chairman to be the Head of Delegation for an England Under 18 squad visit to Qatar in March 2017. The travelling party had the opportunity to learn about the World Cup 2022 preparations and to visit the Qatar FA headquarters. Two matches were arranged against a Qatar Under 19 side and one with Saudi Arabia Under 19s. All three games were won. The squad was very ably led by Neil Dewsnip, a former schoolteacher in Liverpool. Mike also stepped in to assist the players with their school work when the FA Education Officer had to return briefly to England with an injured player.

4.3 THE ESFA PREMIER LEAGUE PROGRAMME

The programme had another successful year, with support from the Premier League in the form of grant payments. Please read below for additional information:

PLCF Investment: £103,000 in form of small grants to District Associations

Players engaged: Approximately 1,700

- 103 x Boys Teams
- 25 x Girls Teams
- 18 x New District Teams (12 Girls, 6 Boys)

The PLCF funding received is hugely valued by ESFA membership and results in a very positive perception of the organisation within ESFA membership. In around half of the cases from evidence collected, results in activity would continue being sustained (or expected to be sustained) beyond the life of the PLCF funding. It is important to note that there are opportunities for less successful Districts to learn from those Districts who successfully sustain activity. There are also opportunities to further capitalise on links between local Premier League Academies and Districts, building on good practice which exists in some areas.

The links between Districts and Club Community programmes is the least consistent aspect of the football infrastructure locally, although the successful models make a strong case for addressing this matter. With the introduction of the 'Premier League Primary Stars' resources, the main aims of Primary School support/funding has moved toward curriculum based support for schools (numeracy/literacy).

As the ESFA continues to fund County SFA's, as opposed to their Districts, it is important that the 'football network groups' being set up via the ESFA Football Development Team have District membership to voice opinions and ensure they are involved in decision making around Representative football activity and further issues.

The second edition (Boys) and debut season (Girls) of the U11 National 9 a side District competition has been extremely successful, with this seasons finals taking place at Derby County FC Academy. Congratulations go to Potters Bar (Boys) and Haringey (Girls) as they were crowned national champions.

4.4 CHILD WELFARE

Safeguarding Children is high on the FA agenda and the National Welfare Officers have worked closely with The FA to ensure Associations comply with FA policies and our legal obligations. To date, every Association running representative teams must have an FA qualified Welfare Officer with an in date (within the last 3 years) FA Criminal Record Check (DBS)

The National Welfare Officers have also worked closely with Associations to ensure every member of their representative coaching staff has an in-date accepted FA DBS and appropriate, recent (within the last 3 years) safeguarding training - either through their employer if they are practising teachers, or through The FA (for AOTTs). They must also all be named on the ESFA portal and attached to a representative team, in line with the Rule Change, which came into operation at the start of the season. Council strongly asks local and county Associations with representative teams to keep this section of the portal up to date throughout the season.

Unfortunately, there were a few Associations who did not fulfil this requirement and were suspended from competition because they either did not have staff listed on the portal, teams were listed without coaching staff or their team staff, were non-compliant for FA DBS or Safeguarding training.

Most Associations managed to comply and these suspensions were lifted but a handful of suspensions remained throughout the season. The National Welfare Officers continue to work with all Association to ensure compliance and re-enforce the ESFA policy that nobody must be coaching children on behalf of an Association without an accepted FA DBS and appropriate safeguarding training in place.

There have been a number of welfare concerns and incidents reported which have been managed by the National Welfare Officers, working closely with Association Welfare Officers or The FA Case Management team and Statutory Agencies where appropriate, to ensure children are safeguarded. National Welfare Officers have attended strategy meetings to discuss serious cases across the country when required. Risk assessments and some FA suspensions have been issued, with supervision or additional training required for some coaches.

Incidents of non-recent child abuse in football have been the focus of media attention in recent months and the National Welfare Officers have worked closely with police and The FA to provide information as requested.

The National Welfare Officers continue to work closely with grassroots County FAs to ensure appropriate safeguarding training for coaches and Welfare Officers is accessible locally and Associations are now fully committed to the process which has become embedded in ESFA policy.

Quarterly newsletters have been distributed electronically to Welfare Officers and Association Secretaries with safeguarding updates on policies and information and guidance and explaining the affiliation requirements. The ESFA welfare pages of the website are kept up to date to ensure processes are shared to all those involved with ESFA and there is a section of downloadable bespoke ESFA policies and best practice guidance for Associations and individuals.

Priorities for the 2017-18 season will include supporting Associations to ensure all their representative team staff comply with ESFA affiliation requirements and adhere to ESFA/FA safeguarding policies. We will also continue to work with County and District Associations to make sure all referees appointed to representative matches are FA qualified and registered.

4.5 SAFIB

The Schools Association Football International Board is an organisation of affiliated countries from around the world who have an interest in promoting football in their schools. As well as representation from the United Kingdom and Ireland, many of the European countries are affiliated as well as Australia and New Zealand. Mike Spinks is currently the SAFIB Secretary and Dave Woollaston the Assistant Secretary. During the 2016-2017 season the ESFA Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended the SAFIB Annual General Meeting in Belfast in September 2016 and the Winter Meeting in Valencia in January 2017. Next season's SAFIB Annual General Meeting is being arranged by the ESFA at the Hilton Hotel Manchester Airport in September. Each season the ESFA nominates a boys' school team to go to the Allen McKinstry Under 14 Cup Tournament and a girls' team from the same age group to attend the Rod Houston Cup for girls' school teams. These tournaments effectively create the British Isles School Champions in a particular season.

4.5.1 SAFIB Under 15 Bob Docherty Cup for Girls National Teams

This tournament is for the Girls Under 15 International Teams from the British Isles and Ireland – England, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The event in April 2017 was staged by the Football Association of Ireland Schools in Dublin. The ESFA team did not do themselves justice being beaten in all three of their matches. It was an unfortunate start for the new team management duo, Clare Robinson and Stephanie Libbey, after they had recorded two emphatic victories during their warm weather training week in Portugal.

4.5.2 SAFIB Under 14 Allen McKinstry Cup for Boys Schools Teams

This tournament is for boys school teams from Great Britain and Ireland – the Champions from England, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The event in May 2017 was superbly staged by the Welsh Schools Football Association at the University of Swansea. The ESFA representatives at the tournament were Thomas Telford School from Shropshire who finished in third position behind the Champions from Scotland and runners-up from Northern Ireland.

4.5.3 Under 14 Rod Houston Cup for Girls School Teams

The inaugural tournament for the Girls Champion School Teams took place at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire just before the half-term break in October 2016. England with two teams, the Republic of Ireland and Wales competed. The event was organised by Mike Spinks and Dave Woollaston with support from ESFA office staff, utilising in particular the financial expertise of Dawn Howard. The ESFA is also grateful to Mark Warren, now an ESFA Honorary Auditor, for making the appointments of the match officials. It is very pleasing to report that the first ever winners of this trophy were St Ivo School from Huntingdon.

4.6 SARA

The Sports and Recreation Alliance meets in London twice a year to discuss matters of interest and concern from a wide variety of sports, not just football. It also arranges an Annual Conference on a topical issue. This year the main thrust of meetings has concerned safeguarding. Ray Carter, a former ESFA Chairman who passed away in March 2017, was a SARA Vice-President and well-respected member of the organisation.

4.7 NCSS 2017 report

The ESFA continues to support the work of the NCSS which aims to facilitate contact between all those organising school sport, including School Sport Associations and National Governing Bodies. It also connects its members with The Youth Sport Trust and The Sport and Recreation Alliance.

The NCSS is still the collective voice of extra-curricular school sport in England and through the ESFA membership and regular contribution at meetings we are kept informed of changes in government policy and funding.

The NCSS has its own website (www.ncss.org.uk) and produces an E-Zine on a regular basis.

The NCSS links with the International School Sport Federation (ISF – website www.isfsports.org) and offers school teams, and, in some sports, selected teams, the opportunity to compete internationally. 2018 will be the year when a futsal tournament is organised internationally and ESFA may consider entering a team. However, challenges for the NCSS and school sports in general remain and the ESFA wishes them every success in the future.

SECTION 5 – FESTIVALS

5.1 UNDER 11 JERSEY FESTIVAL (8-15 April 2017) : by John Martin (South West Council Member)

I was delighted to accept the chairman's offer to attend the Festival on his behalf this year. I have heard many positive comments about the event for a great many years but never attended previously.

After a trouble free travel plan I arrived on Wednesday 12th April in the late morning. Pat Cullinane, the Festival organiser, had booked all parties into the Mayfair Hotel, St Helier, Jersey. This was a more than adequate 3 star hotel with excellent facilities for the boys, association staff and other guests. They did everything they could with good meals, excellent service and positive support for all. A few boys became ill during the week but the Hotel and all District staff coped admirably.

The event takes place at the FB Fields (named after Florence Boot, founder of the chemist chain) about 10 minutes from the hotel, where 5 pitches had been marked and prepared excellently for the morning games. Pat organises a fleet of mini buses for the teams to use during their stay. 12 Primary District Associations attended this year with a few districts bringing 2 teams. Pat splits the teams into groups, trying to ensure they play districts they would not play normally in their local season. All teams play 1 game per morning for the six days of matches. Staff plan excursions around the island during the afternoons. On the Friday he has play-off matches where he alone decides the format. There are no trophies or league placing at the end. Results are published on the hotel noticeboard but not in any particular order.

Pat Cullinane has single-handedly organised, produced and directed this Festival for 43 years in his rather laid back, calm but very admirable style. He has very little presence at the Football, keeping out of the limelight, but every day runs incredibly smoothly with the help of Jersey Referees, catering from the local W.I and assistance from local teaching staff. Pat has formulated a superb model of good practice and I was very impressed with the atmosphere throughout each session of play. A fantastic example of Schools Football at its very best with teachers demanding high standards of sportsmanship and respect from their players. Words can't adequately describe how Pat has cultivated the generosity and enthusiasm that all Festival members shower upon him.

There is a special dinner on the Friday night with everybody, boys and staff in collar and tie to celebrate the Festival, sponsored by PWC Ltd from Jersey. Every boy and teacher receives a certificate and pin badge from the sponsors. I presented awards to a referee and teacher who had both attended the Festival for 20 years. This small presentation is indicative of the Jersey Festival. Everybody who goes loves the experience and comes back again and again to provide opportunities for thousands of boys over 43 years. The good and the great have played here and were richer for the experience. Pat Cullinane deserves the very highest accolade for what he has continued to create without fuss or grandeur. A pleasure to visit Jersey and be initiated into the Jersey Way.

5.2 SOMERSET FESTIVAL

The Somerset Festival ran for the 2nd Year. The numbers went from 126 to 240 this year almost doubling in number. The teams came from as far South West as West Cornwall up to Derby.

14 teams covered the U14 and U13 team age group. The teams arrived Monday at Millfield School. The teams then dressed up for the restaurant meal followed by Bowling or Cinema.

The first set of games were held at Somerton Rec and Strode College. As always the games were hard fought and showed off a great deal of talent. All the local clubs were represented especially from Southampton who had a number of scouts attend every game. All the afternoon games were held at Millfield's pitches at Kingsweston which competes with any premiership academy centre. The teams again played a very high standard of football with some of the players being asked for trials after some outstanding individual performances.

The evening entertainment was again Cinema or bowling after another meal at the restaurant.

Wednesday was the same format as Tuesday however the closing ceremony was the evening entertainment which was held at Westland Sports and Social club. This facility has recently been redeveloped and was a fantastic area to have the ceremony. Guest of honour Nathan Smith (Yeovil Town FC Capt) and Gerry Smith (ESFA council member) were the guest speakers. Nathan gave a heartfelt speech to which he received very positive feedback at the ceremony and on twitter. The teams received their 'goody' bags with Southampton Schools FA winning the free kit in the raffle.

Thursday was the last set of games and the farewell to all the teams. It was good to see old faces as well as new. 8 districts have already confirmed for next year's festival.

It was another very successful festival with much positive feedback as well as constructive criticism. The date for next year is 3rd – 6th April 2018. Hopefully we will increase by even more next year.

SECTION 6 – COMPETITION RESULTS

U11 Schools' Cup for School Teams Final		
Sponsored By Danone UK		
Saturday 20 May 2017		
Stoke City Stadium, Stoke City FC		
Fair Oak Junior School (Hampshire CSFA)	0	
Victoria College Preparatory School (Channel Islands CSFA)	3	
U11 Small Schools' Cup Final		
Sponsored By Danone UK		
Saturday 20 May 2017		
Stoke City Stadium, Stoke City FC		
Baston School (Lincolnshire CSFA)	0	
Loyola School (Essex CSFA)	2	
U11 Inter Association Trophy Final		
Sponsored By Danone UK		
Saturday 20 May 2017		
Stoke City Stadium, Stoke City FC		
Middlesbrough PSFA (Cleveland CSFA)	1	
South Birmingham PSFA (West Midlands CSFA)	0	
U11 Schools' Cup for Girls		
Sponsored By Danone UK		
Saturday 20 May 2017		
Stoke City Stadium, Stoke City FC		
Greenside Primary School (Greater Manchester CSFA)	3	
Broadstone Middle School (Dorset CSFA)	2	
U12 Boys Indoor 5-A-Side Cup Final		
Sponsored By Impact Trophies		
Monday 6 March 2017		
PlayFootball Centre, Birmingham		
Poynton High School (Macclesfield & District SFA)	0	
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	4	
U12 Girls Indoor 5-A-Side Cup Final		
Sponsored By Impact Trophies		
Monday 6 March 2017		
PlayFootball Centre, Birmingham		
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	3	
Gordano School (North Somerset SFA)	4	
U12 Boys Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 15 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Northampton School for Boys (Northampton SFA)	1	
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	4	
U12 Boys Open Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Wednesday 17 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Riddlesdown Collegiate (Croydon SFA)	2	2(p)
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	2	4(p)
U12 Boys Schools Cup for B Teams Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 15 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Wright Robinson College (Manchester SFA)	0	
Whitgift School (Croydon SFA)	1	

U12 9 a side Schools Cup for Girls		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Friday 7 th July 2017		
St George's Park, Burton on Trent		
Shenfield High School (Chelmsford & Mid Essex SFA)	1	
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	2	
U12 9 a side Small Schools Cup		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 3 rd July 2017		
St George's Park, Burton on Trent		
St Bede's College (Manchester SFA)	3	
Greneway School (North Hertfordshire SFA)	4	
U13 Boys Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Wednesday 17 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
St Bede's Catholic Middle School (Redditch SFA)	2	
All Hallows Catholic School (Aldershot & Farnborough SFA)	0	
U13 Boys Open Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Wednesday 17 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Whitgift School (Croydon SFA)	1	4(p)
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	1	5(p)
U13 Boys Schools Cup for B Teams Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Tuesday 16 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Kingsdale School (South London SFA)	0	3(p)
Walkden High School (Salford SFA)	0	4(p)
U13 Girls Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 15 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
St Ivo School (Huntingdon SFA)	1	6(p)
Chesterfield High School Specialist Sports College (Sefton SFA)	1	5(p)
U13 Boys Small Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Tuesday 16 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Ibstock Place School (Richmond SFA)	1	
The De La Salle Academy (Liverpool SFA)	2	
U13 Inter Association Trophy Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Thursday 11 May 2017		
St Andrew's Stadium, Birmingham City FC		
North Kent SFA (Kent CSFA)	1	
Newcastle Upon Tyne SFA (Northumberland CSFA)	2	
U14 Boys Inter County Trophy Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Thursday 4 May 2017		
St Andrew's Stadium, Birmingham City FC		
Kent CSFA	4	
Berkshire CSFA	0	

U14 Girls Inter County Trophy Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Thursday 11 May 2017		
St Andrew's Stadium, Birmingham City FC		
Lancashire CSFA	0	
Kent CSFA	2	
U14 Boys Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 22 May 2017		
Goodison Park, Everton FC		
Beths Grammar School (North Kent SFA)	5	
St Francis Xavier's College (Liverpool SFA)	1	
U14 Boys Schools Cup for B Teams Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Tuesday 16 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Carshalton Boys' Sports College (Sutton SFA)	3	5(p)
Audenshaw School (Tameside SFA)	3	4(p)
U14 Boys Small Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Tuesday 16 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Bury Grammar School Boys (Bury Metro SFA)	4	
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School (Slough SFA)	3	
U14 Boys Open Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 15 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Ashfield School (Mansfield & Ashfield SFA)	4	
The Oxford Academy (Oxford City SFA)	2	
U14 Girls Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Tuesday 20 June 2017		
St George's Park, Burton on Trent		
Rossett School (Harrogate & Craven)	1	
St Ivo School (Huntingdonshire)	7	
U15 Inter Association Trophy Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Thursday 4 May 2017		
St Andrews Stadium, Birmingham City FC		
Swansea SFA (Welsh SFA)	1	
Wirral SFA (Merseyside CSFA)	2	
U15 Boys Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Monday 22 May 2017		
Goodison Park, Everton FC		
St Francis Xavier's College (Liverpool SFA)	2	5(p)
Little Heath School (Reading SFA)	2	4(p)
U15 Boys Small Schools Cup Final		
Sponsored By PlayStation		
Tuesday 16 May 2017		
Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Ellesmere Port Catholic High School (Ellesmere Port SFA)	0	
Langley School (Norwich SFA)	5	

U15 Boys Open Schools Cup Final Sponsored By PlayStation Monday 22 May 2017 The Hawthorns, West Bromwich Albion FC		
Nene Park Academy (Peterborough SFA)	2	
Sandwell Academy (Sandwell SFA)	4	
U15 Boys Schools Cup for B Teams Final Sponsored By PlayStation Tuesday 9 May 2017 St Andrew's Stadium, Birmingham City FC		
Thomas Tallis School (Blackheath SFA)	2	
Cardinal Heenan Catholic Sports College (Liverpool SFA)	4	
U15 Girls Schools Cup Final Sponsored By PlayStation Monday 15 May 2017 Pride Park Stadium, Derby County FC		
Heathside School (Woking SFA)	1	
South Hunsley School (East Riding SFA)	5	
U16 Inter County Boys Trophy Final Saturday 29 April 2017 The Ricoh Arena, Coventry City FC		
Staffordshire CSFA	2	4(p)
Greater Manchester CSFA	2	2(p)
U16 Inter County Girls Trophy Final Tuesday 9 May 2017 St Andrew's Stadium, Birmingham City FC		
Sussex CSFA	0	
Derbyshire CSFA	2	
U16 Boys Schools Cup Final Sponsored By The Premier League Monday 24 April 2017 Manchester Regional Arena, Manchester City FC		
The Windsor Boys' School (Slough SFA)	1	4(p)
Cardinal Hume Catholic School (Gateshead SFA)	1	3(p)
U16 Boys Small Schools Cup Final Sponsored By The Premier League Monday 24 April 2017 Manchester Regional Arena, Manchester City FC		
Gordon's School (Woking SFA)	1	
Church Stretton School (South Shropshire SFA)	4	
U16 Boys Open Schools Cup Final Sponsored By The Premier League Tuesday 25 April 2017 Manchester Regional Arena, Manchester City FC		
Ravens Wood School (Bromley SFA)	0	
Reddish Vale High School (Stockport SFA)	1	
U16 Girls Schools Cup Final Sponsored By The Premier League Tuesday 25 April 2017 Manchester Regional Arena, Manchester City FC		
Frome College (Mid Somerset SFA)	4	
Thomas Telford School (Telford & Wrekin SFA)	3	
U18 Boys Elite Schools & Colleges Trophy Final Sponsored By Hudl Friday 31 April 2017 Ewood Park, Blackburn Rovers FC		

Monkseaton High School (North Tyneside SFA)	1
Hartpury College (West Gloucestershire SFA)	2
U18 Boys Inter County Trophy Final	
Saturday 29 April 2017	
The Ricoh Arena, Coventry City FC	
Essex CSFA	2
Durham CSFA	1
U18 Girls Schools Trophy Final	
Sponsored By Hudl	
Wednesday 22 March 2017	
Meadow Lane, Notts County FC	
Durham Sixth Form Centre (Bishop Auckland SFA)	0
Barking Abbey School (Barking & Dagenham SFA)	4
U18 Boys Schools Trophy Final	
Sponsored By Hudl	
Wednesday 29 March 2017	
The Keepmoat Stadium, Doncaster Rovers FC	
Altrincham Boys' Grammar School (Trafford SFA)	0
Millfield School (Mid Somerset SFA)	2
U18 Boys Colleges Trophy Final	
Sponsored By Hudl	
Wednesday 29 March 2017	
The Keepmoat Stadium, Doncaster Rovers FC	
Farnborough VI Form College (Aldershot & Farnborough SFA)	3
York College (York & District SFA)	2
U18 Girls Colleges Trophy Final	
Sponsored By Hudl	
Wednesday 22 March 2017	
Meadow Lane, Notts County FC	
South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (Bristol & South Gloucestershire SFA)	1
Gateshead College (Gateshead SFA)	2
ESFA / NDCSA Senior Boys 5-a-side Cup	
Tuesday 7 February 2017	
Powerleague, Derby	
Woodlands School	2
Allerton Grange School	3
ESFA / NDCSA Junior Boys 5-a-side Cup	
Tuesday 7 February 2017	
Powerleague, Derby	
Woodlands School	1
Royal School for the Deaf, Derby 'A'	2
ESFA / NDCSA Girls 5-a-side Cup	
Tuesday 7 February 2017	
Powerleague, Derby	
Royal School for the Deaf, Derby	1
Oak Lodge	0

HONORARY AUDITORS' REPORT

The ESFA Honorary Auditors (Neil Pont, Mark Warren, Allan Reed) visited ESFA Headquarters on 3rd May 2017.

During their visit they had meetings and discussions with the Chief Executive, the Chairman, the Chair of Trustees, the Finance Officer and other members of staff.

Their visit concentrated on the following topics:

- Finance
- Governance and Development Planning

- Performance Management
- Communication
- Football Activities

Finance

In attendance: A. Chilton, M.Coyne, A. Johnston, D.Howard

Discussions ranged widely over the financial structures of ESFA so the HAs deepened their understanding of the various funding streams for ESFA and the restrictions that apply to the allocation of these funds. It was apparent from the discussions that the Trustees are seeking to loosen ESFA's reliance on funding from The FA. The on-going constitutional reform could make the organisation better placed to seek a more varied portfolio of financial partners.

It was stressed that, in their role as currently defined, it was not the HAs place to investigate the financial regularity of the organisation. This task lies with the Professional Auditors.

The HAs raised concerns from Regional Associations that there was no allocation of funding to these associations within the current budget stream.

Governance and Development Planning

In attendance: A. Chilton, M. Coyne, A. Johnston

The group considered the Development Plan as outlined on p.10 of the Governance Handbook, 2016/17. The CEO led discussions on progress being made on all 23 points of this plan. The HAs noted that good progress is being made across a wide range of initiatives that, together, form a coherent plan.

Performance Management

Discussions were held with 3 members of staff (K. Laverick, A. Weston. D.Howard) to investigate the process of Performance Management. The HAs are confident that robust processes are in place for the management of staff.

Communication

In attendance: A. Chilton, A. Johnston

Discussions concentrated on direct communication from Council to membership and the ESFA website. The HAs commended the "Membership Matters" newsletters. It was suggested that, after each Council Meeting, a summary of key discussions and decisions could be distributed to membership.

The Chief Executive gave a detailed explanation of plans to refresh the ESFA website.

Football Activities

The HAs had one-to-one discussions with A. Weston, D.Ebberson and D. Alcock about their work.

Frustrations were noted about the relationship with the Premier League - especially with the introduction of the heavily funded Primary Stars scheme into which ESFA had had little input.

The development of the role of County Administrators was discussed.

Issues were raised over some disciplinary matters (in relation to follow-up on reports of inappropriate behaviour by team managers).

SUMMARY

The Honorary Auditors would like to thank all staff and Council members involved in their visit for the warm welcome they received and the efficient and willing way in which all their queries were answered.

It is clear that the staff are well led and that the affairs of the association are being cared for in a thoughtful and positive way.

There are many difficulties and frustrations - especially with regard to the restrictive nature of the current funding streams. The organisation and place of school football in the wider football community is forever changing and the way forward is not always an easy one to see and negotiate. In particular, it is apparent that the role of representative school football is facing many challenges.

The Honorary Auditors are confident that the association is well-placed to meet the on-going challenges.

(N Pont / M Warren / A Reed)