

COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2019



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John Martin, Chairman, opened the Council meeting by welcoming members to Worcestershire.

Council welcomed Sarah DaCosta, National Child Welfare Officer, who provided the annual safeguarding training update for Council members, who then went on to adopt a Safeguarding Code of Conduct which outlined specific commitments and responsibilities in this regard. Council approved the procedure for Association suspension in the event of non-compliance with ESFA policy, and agreed to publish the procedure and a list of suspended Association rep teams on the ESFA website next season, to ensure that no member inadvertently played against suspended opposition. Council heard that there had been a mixed response to the survey of County Schools' FA's about their professional relationships with County FAs, and were advised the detailed report would follow. Council approved the release of guidance detailing eligibility for representative football in the U18 age group, in light of the changing nature of the post-16 education landscape: see "Membership Matters/April" and the website. Council further heard that a productive meeting had been held with the JPL and wished to remind membership that sanction from the ESFA was needed should Associations wish to take part in the opportunities provided by JPL or other third parties. Should any Association experience difficulties with their local JPL, Council invited membership to contact their ESFA Council member who would follow up accordingly. Members welcomed the advert for a disability specialist to join them on Council and were pleased to note that a fuller fixture list for the u15 international girls' team was planned for next season.

Representative Committee members recommended that the international management teams should adopt the same Safeguarding Code of Conduct as Council members had: this was approved. Further reports were given on the progress of the international programme and on PLCF regional hub funding, which would be discontinued at the end of this season, as originally contracted. Vacancies on the international management teams were to be announced in due course.

The Association Development Committee reported their recommendation that no amendments to County SLAs should be made for the coming season, in light of the work associated with local restructures, where applicable: this was approved. Council members were advised of the schedule for restructure discussions, and agreed the approvals process to be used in decision making. Council were pleased to hear that further match tickets had been made available to the ESFA from The FA, for use to reward and recognise volunteers.

The Competitions Committee reported on confirmed arrangements for national finals, noting the change in intended date for the Danone finals, and that the FA's national futsal finals would take place on 3rd May 2019. Members were pleased to hear about the significant increase in ESFA social media activity, and that congratulatory letters had been sought, and received, from MPs from whose constituency international players had been selected.

The Trustees reported that a balanced budget had been set, although noted that some significant income streams had yet to be formally confirmed. A small surplus was planned for next year. Trustees also reported the planned departures of Ed Mitchell, who had been successful in securing a new role elsewhere, and of David Ebberson, who wished to pursue his UEFA A licence: Council joined Trustees in thanking both members of staff for their hard work on behalf of the Association, and wished them luck in advance of their respective leaving dates.

The Chairman closed the meeting with his thanks to Paul Rickard, Council member for the Midlands and to Redditch United for organising a very well attended international fixture against Northern Ireland on the previous evening.