



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

Chairman's Message

Don't forget...

The ESFA AGM is scheduled for 2 December 2020 at 7pm.

This season, the AGM will be held online via Microsoft Teams.

AGM paperwork and invitations were circulated via email on Friday 30 October.

Please ensure you RSVP to andrea.chilton@schoolsfa.com by 25 November 2020.

The ESFA will also be hosting a 'trial' AGM on 26 November at 5pm for anyone that wants to practice with the Microsoft Teams software ahead of the meeting on the 2 December.

Please email andrea.chilton@schoolsfa.com in order to book into the 'trial' AGM

Our ESFA family has over a million players, supported by their parents and countless volunteers who run teams at school, district and county levels, backed up by stalwarts, young and old, who carry out myriad administrative tasks behind the scenes. Our family also includes our wonderful staff who do such an amazing job on our behalf. No-one epitomises their loyalty, dedication, and commitment more than Lorna Blakeman, who is leaving the ESFA after 35 years. She has been the ever-present figure in the office, on the phone, at meetings, events, trials and matches, always upholding the high standards that make the ESFA such a special organisation. Her many years of service were marked ten years ago when she was made a Life Member, and in the time since she has continued to support and encourage colleagues in Stafford with her experience and expertise. She is, I believe, the longest-serving member of staff in our history, and I know that the ESFA family will all want to thank Lorna for all her work on our behalf and wish her the very best for the future, in the hope that she will keep in touch and that we will see her at many future events.

Recently, we have begun meeting with County and Local Association colleagues to discuss our exciting plans for the future – the Champions League format for next season's competitions, and the introduction of the Player Passport scheme, which has the potential to enhance financial sustainability and at the same time provide players and their parents with a range of attractive benefits. Our first meeting, with colleagues from Somerset and Gloucestershire, was very constructive and encouraging, with excellent feedback and a real sense of purpose. Over the coming weeks, these "Roadshows" will cover the entire country. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to virtually join us.

In the past few weeks, we have been able to play most of last season's National Finals. Darren Alcock and his team did a fantastic job in staging these at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, and I know that the players and staff involved appreciated the opportunity to play. Unfortunately, some of the scheduled finals had to be called off because they involved teams from Tier 3 Covid areas, and the trophies have therefore been shared. Congratulations to all the teams who reached this stage.

Sadly, we lost another member of the ESFA family recently with the passing of former Chairman Geoff Jennett at the age of 93. Following war service as a naval officer posted to Bletchley Park and in Hamburg with British naval intelligence (where his commanding officer was George Blake, the Soviet spy who escaped from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966), Geoff embarked on a successful teaching career, which culminated with a period as acting Head of Ecclesfield School, Sheffield. His lifelong principle was that sport is to be played rather than to be watched. He was an enthusiastic tennis player, golfer and cricketer and it was his wish to spread the passion for playing that drew him to schools' football - with Yorkshire Grammar Schools, then CESSFA and ESFA. After standing down from Council, he continued to work with Sheffield Schools and South Yorkshire Schools FAs into his 90s.

I'm delighted to announce that we have another new member of ESFA Council – Jon Foot from Lincoln is joining us as one of the representatives from the Midlands. We currently have opportunities in the North, the Midlands and the South-West, so if you are interested, or know of someone who is, please get in touch. You will have a warm welcome and get a real satisfaction in supporting the opportunities for young people across the country to play schools' football.

Finally, as I write this, the country is moving into another period of lockdown, with schools' football paused for four weeks. Many of you have had trials, started fixture programmes, and played your part in getting schools' football up and running. Others have delayed the resumption of activity for very understandable reasons. We will support you whatever you decide is best for you, your players and colleagues, and your districts and counties. There is not a "one size fits all" strategy for schools' football in these challenging times.

Best wishes, stay safe and well, and thank you.

Phil Harding



A welcome to new Council members

The ESFA would like to welcome two new Members onto Council for the 2020/21 season.

Jon Foot, of Lincolnshire and Gainsborough joins us as a Midlands Council Representative. Jon, who teaches at Branston Community Academy in Lincoln now provides representation within the East Midlands and will also sit on the Competitions Committee of Council.

Sion Portman also joins the ESFA as an Independent Council Member. Sion was recruited to the post by the Honourary Auditors, in recognition of his commercial expertise. It is yet to be determined which committee Sion will join.

There are still council vacancies in the North (1), Midlands (1) and the South West (1). If you, or any members of your association would like to find out more about joining the ESFA's Council, please contact andrea.chilton@schoolsfa.com for more information.

Sanctioning & Permission to Play

In September we announced in 'Membership Matters' that there had been changes to our 'Sanctioning' and 'Permission to Play' policies for season 2020-21. As football has slowly returned, we are increasingly receiving more requests from Associations for permission to play against non-ESFA affiliated sides.

Therefore, to summarise, the new process to play against non -ESFA affiliated teams are:

- An official request to the ESFA for 'permission to play' against English sides is no longer required by our members . We now only request that officials from representative teams or schools contact the parent County FA of the opposition to check they are affiliated. If they are affiliated you are free to play as long as the usual risk assessments and fixture procedures are carried out by the participating association/school side.
- Permission is still required to play against foreign opposition (forms are on the website)

The new 'Permission to Play' policy, which outlines what is required for the various types of request, as well as full information can be found on this [link](#).

Amazon Smile

Smile...Christmas is coming!

The ESFA is now a registered charity on Amazon Smile. This means that with every eligible purchase you make on Amazon (Christmas presents or otherwise!), Amazon will make a donation to your chosen charity...and we hope that you choose us!

All you have to do is go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and login to your usual Amazon account. You will be prompted to select which charity your purchases donate to (we hope you pick us) and then we will benefit from your orders.



Honorary Auditor Vacancy

The ESFA's Honorary Auditors work on behalf of Membership to act as a "critical friend" to the ESFA's Council and Trustees. A vacancy has arisen to serve as an Honorary Auditor, and you can find details of the role [here](#). Should you wish to discuss the role with a view to expressing your interest then we would be very pleased to hear from you; please note that any interested party must not have served on ESFA Council in the last three years - please contact Neil Pont or Andrea Chilton. In the meantime, Trustees, Council and the ESFA staff wish to thank the Honorary Auditors for their service and advice, particularly Terry Pollard, whose retirement from the role has created this vacancy.

Overseas Trips

Whilst overseas trips currently feel like a distant whim, as and when it applies, you can now find the supplement to the ESFA's risk assessment for this purpose.

The document is on our website, along with all of our other risk assessments and helpful documents, [here](#).

National Competition Finals - 2019/20

We are delighted to have been able to complete a large number of National Schools' Cup Finals over the period of 12th - 31st October 2020.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the ESFA team have worked very hard alongside competing schools, districts and counties to try and play as many of the 2019/20 National Finals, which have taken place at Lilleshall National Sports Centre throughout October.

The matches were all streamed live online via the ESFA's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/esfatv) and the matches are now available for replay too.

The ESFA have staged 15 National Finals with two more scheduled for later in the season (date TBC). A further 30 teams have been named joint National Champions, where matches were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions or issues which prohibited the opportunity to play.



International Trials

Just a reminder that trials for both the Girls' U15 and Boys' U18 England squads are on hold until the new year.

The ESFA is monitoring the ongoing situation and will inform membership of the necessary decisions made regarding this season's trials and international programme.

ESFA DBS Verifiers

The ESFA has a number of volunteers who act as ID verifiers for the purpose of DBS checks. Your local contact can be found on the table below. We continue to actively seek verifiers in parts of the country not yet covered, but in the meantime, please contact one of the ESFA's two national child welfare officers for this purpose:

Name of Verifier	Covering
Alan JOHNSTON	Durham/Northumberland
Barry SHACKLEY	Nottinghamshire/ East Midlands
Dave PROTHERO	Cleveland / Yorkshire
John ALLEN	Sheffield / Yorkshire
Martin DUFFIELD	West Midlands/Shropshire/Staffordshire/National
Michael McNEILL	Inner London/Hertfordshire/Essex/A10 corridor
Michael SPRINGETT	Kent/Inner London bordering on Kent
Sarah DaCosta	Bedfordshire/Cumbria

A heartfelt thank you

We are very sad to be losing Lorna Blakeman from the ESFA staff team after her 30+ years of service to the Association.

Lorna has been a valued member of the team and has provided assistance, support, information and excellent service to all of Membership during her time with us.

Lorna will be greatly missed by the office staff and wider team of voluntary staff and we both thank her for her service and wish her all the very best in her next venture.



Sharing our messages

As you know, Membership Matters and any other additional, important information is circulated via email to Secretaries of all affiliated ESFA Associations.

However, we want to make sure that everyone who needs to be updated on ESFA news is able to access the information.

We understand that Association Secretaries share the information we send with other relevant parties, but if there are additional email addresses you would also like us to send information to directly, to ensure that they are receiving updates immediately, then please follow the link below to register additional email contacts.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AssocComms>

This doesn't form part of your affiliation details, this is purely for the ESFA's Communications team to ensure that we have an up to date and relevant mailing list for all of our updates, news and information. We have also included a few questions on how you find the communications you currently receive from the Association - we would really value your feedback on this, even if you don't want to add extra recipients.

The survey will be available for completion until 1 December 2020.

DfE statement on suspension of schools' football

The Department for Education have now issued their specific guidance regarding football activity within schools during the lockdown scheduled from 5 November - 2 December 2020.

This will be posted to the ESFA website, but you can also read their guidance [here](#).



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