



# Membership Matters

## A Message from the Chair

November/ December 2022

As we move through the academic year, it is great to hear of so much schools' football being played across the country. The feedback we receive through the competitions' department about the matches taking place is a testament to your hard work and dedication.

I also like to read the 'tweets' that schools, Associations and Counties post to share with [@schoolsfootball](#), schools, parents/carers and wider family members. Social media, when used well, is a powerful tool to promote the good work of both staff and students and although not there in person, you get a sense of the true spirit in which the game is played. Thank you to [@ConyersPE](#), Aldershot Schools FA, Sutton Schools FA, BTH PE Dept, King James Academy Royston PE, South Hunsley PE and many, many more who have posted information about their results and recent performances.

The Panini Classroom Challenge is up and running again with a brand-new 'design a football kit' opportunity for your primary school to win a £2,000 cash prize. The deadline is the 19th December, so please registration get your registrations in quickly.

I'd also like to remind you to register your activity for Schools' Football Week in partnership with Pro:Direct Soccer. Once again, another opportunity to celebrate all things "Schools' Football". So please tell us what you are planning for the week from the 6th – 12th February 2023. I'm also delighted to announce that the Chair's Charity, Sport in Mind is supporting Schools' Football Week as it falls on the same week as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and Sport in Mind will be providing the ESFA with some mental health resources to schools to coincide with the SFW campaign.

The International programme is taking shape and I would like to welcome some new additions to the coaching staff. Abi Urmston has been appointed to the role of physiotherapist for the girls under 15 squad and Liam Parkinson takes on the same role for the boys under 18 squad. Matt Atherton has been appointed to the role of Assistant Manager to the under 18 boys' team, and I wish them all well in what I'm sure will prove to be a long and successful season. I would also like to welcome Mike Mackenzie to the role of ESFA Project Manager as he supports the administration of the international season.

The AGM Part 2 was well attended, and I thank membership for your time in thoughts during the meeting. I would also like to thank the team from the ESFA HQ in Stafford for ensuring the meeting ran smoothly.

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# Membership Matters

## A Message from the Chair (Continued)

In order to get closer to the regions and take on your views, I along with Vice Chair, Marvin Robinson, will be holding some regional meetings via Teams in the new year. One of the key things for me, as Chair is to listen to the regions in order to find out what we do well and, more importantly to see what we can do to improve. Please watch out for the Teams invite in the new year.

Finally, I wish you the very best for the festive season. For those colleagues, like myself, who have been on the front line in schools, it will be a particularly welcome break. For all of us, it will be an opportunity to spend time with family and friends. A chance to recharge our batteries after a hectic and challenging year.

Best wishes, stay safe and thank you.



**Stuart Botham**

Chair

## Spotlight on: Haydn Evans-Wood, National Competitions Co-ordinator

Having only recently joined the ESFA, I am already surprised by how much I have learnt & how great the office team have been. When the opportunity to work within football came up, I had to jump at it. The sport is my entire life & the significance of being able to say I work for a National Governing Body in football is not lost on me.

My role at the ESFA has similarities to my previous employment in hospitality & football coaching, specifically, my people skills & the need to be clear with my messaging. I predominantly look after the Champions Cup, Inter-County competitions but I'm very happy to support anything and everything I can. Since joining in October 2022, I have also supported the Schools Football Week & Hotshot campaigns; helping colleagues to not just achieve, but to surpass our targets. The Pokémon Schools Cup has also provided me with the opportunity to liaise with different people away from my day-to-day Champions Cup duties. I'm very keen to complete a project & look back in pride to say, 'I was a part of the team that achieved this...'. Already, I have overseen the transition from group stages to knockouts in the Champions Cup, pushed participants to ensure compliance & prepared as well as I can to set up what will hopefully be a smooth & competitive knockout phase.



I came into the role after a severely interrupted set of studies, successfully achieving a 1st class degree in Football Coaching, Psychology & Development. This is despite the 3rd & final year of my course being cancelled at late notice, followed by a significant injury which resulted in me taking a year out to recover. I used that time productively to seek the reinstatement of my final year, and having been successful in that, I have been able to redirect my motivation and energy to matters off-field.

I am determined to ensure that my competitions achieve their goals & to ensure that I add something to this area of work. I hope that it is clear that this really matters to me, I take a great deal of pride in working here and the importance of the work to both the numerous school-aged children who play & to the volunteers involved.

Joining in October presented challenges for me; but my new colleagues have been superb in their support of me since I started.

My ambitions within this role are to positively impact a number of areas:

- Supporting all competitions, registrations & associated administrative tasks
- Establishing myself within the ESFA, developing relationships of trust by simply doing a good job & ensuring people can come to me with anything knowing that I will ensure that the correct course of action is followed
- To improve myself and expand my knowledge to be versatile enough to support all areas the ESFA's work

## Spotlight on: Ray Brown, South West Representative

Now in my 3rd season as an ESFA Council Member, I am 1 of 4 Council Members serving the South- West. In addition to representing my own County of Cornwall, I am also the point of contact for the Channel Islands & Oxfordshire. Since joining Council, I have served on the following Committees:

- Association Development 2020-21, 2022-23 – assisting staff & Council colleagues to development the game
- Competitions Committee 2021-22, 2022-23 – assisting staff & Council colleagues to oversee the portfolio of National Competitions
- Governance Committee 2021-22 – assisting staff & Council colleagues on governance matters, including starting work on the new National Referee Strategy & Pathway

In addition, I am currently Chairman of the ESFA SW Counties. I have been involved in the appointment of match officials to all levels of Schools Competitions for over 30 years, recently assisting the ESFA competitions department with appointing referees for national finals. Furthermore, I am one of two ESFA council members who is not a teacher but is an accountant.

Off the field, I have served Cornwall Schools' FA Committee since 1992. My roles included: Referees Officer (1992-to date), Treasurer (1999-2009) & (2019 to date), Welfare Officer (2008-2011) & (2019 to date), Chairman (2014-18), Executive Officer (2018 to date) Representative to Cornwall FA (2021 to date). In addition, I served on the staging committee that arranged the International at Truro City FC in 2015, selling out the 3100-capacity ground. In the addition to my roles within the Schools FA & Referees Association, I have also served on League Committees: South-Western League (Supply League), Cornwall Sunday League, East Cornwall Youth League & Polkyth Works League.

On the field, I have regularly refereed since qualifying in May 1985. I reached semi-professional level until serious injury interrupted my refereeing career with a total of 6 operations. I still enjoy refereeing schools' football & helping to develop the next generation of referees. I have had the honour of officiating for the ESFA at all levels, my first national final was in 1992 & my most recent was this year.

I hope to continue to serve schools' football as long as I am able do so.



# ESFA Safeguarding Information

## FA DBS Applications

Currently some DBS application are taking up to 8 weeks to clear and some are taking even longer. This is because of the high volume of applications currently being submitted nationally. Association Welfare Officers and staff making applications for a new DBS are strongly advised to start the process early so that clearance is received prior to the expiration of their current DBS.

Associations are also reminded that verifiers of the documents for a DBS application can only do this if they are, in receipt of:

- 1.The ORIGINAL documents
- 2.Copies of the ORIGINAL Documents verified by the POST OFFICE

It is not part of the legal process of verification to do this with scanned documents sent via email

Applicants should also check that the date of Group B document(s) comply with the legal requirements: -

### Less than 3 months old

- Bank/ Building Society Statement
- Utility Bill (not mobile phone)
- Credit Card Statement
- Documents from Government Agency / Local Authority giving entitlement

### Less than 12 months old

- Mortgage Statement
- P46/60
- Financial Statement e.g. pension
- Council Tax Statement
- Work Permit/ Visa

If you are unsure, please check before you complete the form and send the documents

# Safeguarding Reminders

## Staffing ratios

There must always be a minimum of 2 staff members present when engaging with players. Follow the guidance note 5.5, found here: <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory>.

Any U18s who are helping with coaching/refereeing are counted as children in the staffing ratios. Participating teams should be reminded of this and be responsible for their own players during the event

## Personal data- ESFA Portal

A reminder to keep personal data up to date on the portal, including removing details of those no longer involved and adding new personnel as soon as they start with the Association - in whatever capacity. All involved must be registered.

## Safeguarding awareness course

Also, you will have seen on our social media channels that The FA have launched their parental safeguarding awareness courses. Please do share this with parents and carers - the course is free of charge and is short, and can be found below:

<https://learn.englishfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

## Sanction for overseas trips

Please remember that if you are taking an association/ school on a overseas trip you need to have these approved by the ESFA.

Application to participate in matches against foreign opposition can be found below, the form is to be completed in full and forwarded to the English Schools' Football Association at least 28 days prior to the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches.

[Application to participate in matches against foreign opposition \(Schools & Colleges\)](#)

[Application to participate in matches against foreign opposition \(Associations\)](#)

## Safeguarding tip of the month

You can download and print your own safeguarding card and write on the information for your local team or Association.

Either click on the link below or the image to be redirected to our website:

<https://schoolsfootball.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Copy-of-NATIONAL-SAFEGUARDING-WEEKEND-Business-Card.pdf>

**STAY SAFE IN FOOTBALL**  
**You can write the name of your local association  
and local Child Welfare Officer here**  
Keep it safe to stay safe

Association name:

Child Welfare Officer name:

Contact Telephone Number:



## ESFA Final Trial

The ESFA took the difficult decision to cancel the final ESFA International trials on Sunday 11th December due to bad weather conditions. We will provide updates on new dates for this event as and when available via ESFA social media channels @Schoolsfootball.

## Schools' Football Week 2023

This month, the ESFA launched Schools' Football Week 2023, which will take place from Monday 6th- Sunday 12th February 2023. Schools' Football Week (SFW), in partnership with Pro:Direct Sport, is an ongoing ESFA initiative providing the opportunity for schools, teams, Associations and clubs from across the country to embrace schools' football and the wellbeing benefits it provides to pupils and players. It celebrates the importance of schools' football, competitive or otherwise, to pupils across England and provides teachers and coaches with tools and a motivation to further discuss the benefits of schools' football within their educational environment.

This year, the ESFA is delighted to announce a new partnership with Pro:Direct Sport- The World's largest online specialist sports store, who will support the Schools' Football Week campaign and help raise more awareness of this initiative than ever before.



The 2022 campaign saw the ESFA embrace the growing participation in girls' football in schools – promoting the importance of equal access to schools' football for both girls and boys. In this season, following the incredible journey of the Lionesses and continuing the trend the ESFA has seen over the last two years, SFW is going to continue the ESFA's pursuit to celebrate girls' and all schools' football in 2023. The ESFA has seen the highest ever number of girls' entries into National Cup Competitions in 22/23, with over 120 schools entering girls' teams for the first time. SFW 2023 will continue to celebrate this growth and the many other positives that come for all schools' football participants.

The ESFA and Pro:Direct Sport will be encouraging schools, Associations, clubs and teams to introduce some football-related activity into their environments throughout SFW from the 6th – 12th February. From football-themed lessons, to inter-house or intra-school tournaments, the campaign is designed to celebrate schools' football, in a way that is inclusive to all pupils and players.

Schools' Football Week 2022 saw the ESFA reach huge new levels of participation –

- Over 142,000 pupils took part in SFW activity
- Over 10,000 teams were involved in SFW
- Over 800 schools registered for events
- Over 56,000 girls benefitted from schools' football activity during SFW

In addition to continuing to champion girls' football this season, Schools' Football Week is also:

- Airing live National Schools' Cup draws for the second season, on the ESFA's YouTube Channel, ESFA TV
- Providing more classroom resources than ever before, including a focus on children's mental health and the positive benefits of sport
- Offers three balls and a ProDirect Ball carrier for every school
- The first 250 schools to sign up will receive 15 SFW bibs for their schools' football activity

The campaign is designed to highlight the many ways in which school pupils can engage with football, not just through competitive play. For example, SFW aims to create opportunities for schools to bring football off the pitch and into classrooms, providing learning resources from other ESFA partners that can be useful tools to engage pupils in the wider world of football.

Stuart Botham, ESFA Chair 22/23 said "On behalf of the ESFA, I am delighted to see the Association further its partnership with Pro:Direct for Schools' Football Week 2023. Schools' Football Week has been, and continues to be, a fantastic platform on which to truly celebrate the many and far reaching benefits of schools' football. Working on this project alongside an organisation such as Pro:Direct, will allow the ESFA to share our passion for this campaign further than ever before. I look forward to seeing the many activities planned by schools across 6th – 12th February and to see how the campaign continues to grow for 2023."

Sam Baldock, Chief Brand Officer from Pro:Direct Sport said "We're really excited to partner with The ESFA on Schools' Football Week. We think that we can add significant value and hope to make this the most inspiring Schools' Football Week to date. We plan to provide lots of practical guidance and tools that will help teachers, coaches and volunteers, both during Schools' Football Week and beyond. We'll be using our extensive contacts in the game to make sure that there will be plenty of things to get the pupils excited too! This initiative, along with our continued work with the ESFA, gives us the perfect platform to build upon our mutual ambition – to get more children, of all ages and genders, playing football."

[Click here to register your Association or Schools' Schools' Football Week activity.](#)

[Click here to view our new website Schools'footballweek.co.uk to stay up to date with all SFW activity.](#)

## November's monthly photo round up



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