



# Clackmannanshire Council

## Clackmannanshire Football Partnership Meeting Notes From Meeting of Monday 25th February 2013, Tommy Downs Room, Alloa Town Hall

Present:	Councillor Ellen Forson	Elected Member and Chairperson
	Councillor Bobby McGill	Elected Member
	Andrew Gilchrist	Scottish FA
	Atta Yaqub	Scottish FA
	Michael McPake	Scottish FA
	Jennifer King	Scottish FA
	Marjorie MacFarlane	Sports Development Manager
	Graeme Henderson	Football Development Officer
	Stephen Crawford	Clackmannanshire Council
	Stephen Morrison	Clackmannanshire Council
	Ian Ash	Alva Academy
	Keith Chaplin	Lornshill Academy
	Kenny Mitchell	Forth Valley Welfare League
	Tom Hunter	Dollar Glen FC
	Robert Horne	Clackmannan Colts FC
	Kevin Hislop	Clackmannan Colts FC
	Alex Brown	Wasps Community FC
	Greig White	Horseshoe Bar FC
	Jay Dawson	Alva Swifts
	Gary McCheyne	Hillfoots Community FC
	B. Duncan	Hillfoots Community FC
	George Goodwillie	Sauchie Juniors FC
	Graeme Liveston	Alloa Athletic FC
	Davy Reynolds	Tullibody Community FC
	Graeme White	Tullibody Community FC
	Alex McLuckie	Tullibody Community Ams FC
	Eddie McNeill	Hollytree FC
	M. Taylor	Oakwood FC
	Mark Keye	Tillicoultry Ams FC
	Darren Abercrombie	Star Inn FC
	Brian Reid	The Bank Bar FC
	Neil Cunningham	Gartmorn FC
Apologies:	Alan Morgan	Scottish FA
	Robert Paterson	Clackmannanshire Council
	Grieg Strang	Wasps Community FC
	Darren Young	Wasps Community FC
	Alex Blyth	Alloa Saints FC
	Fraser Duncan	Sauchie Juniors FC

1. Meeting and introductions round the table, meeting was chaired by Councillor Forson.
2. Notes of meeting of 22nd October 2012 were reviewed.
3. Matters Arising -

#### Facilities

Stephen Crawford, Head of Facilities Management addressed the previous matters regarding facilities. He explained that budgets would play a role in any decisions on facilities.

Willing to listen to suggestions regarding home pitch status, however there is the possibility that it may limit pitch usage.

Wouldn't say no to the idea of a community buyout of pitches as any proposal would be looked at on it's merits.

Clubs were urged to explore funding themselves in order to assist with any proposal.

#### Pitch at Clackmannan Primary School

Marjorie MacFarlane has investigated the possibility of storing goals at Clackmannan Primary School. She will now speak to Robert Paterson regarding the marking of the pitch.

#### **Action 1; Marjorie MacFarlane to speak to Robert Paterson and feedback to Robert Horne by 1st April 2013.**

4. Scottish FA Equity Officer -  
Atta Yaqub was introduced as the Central Region's Equity Officer

#### Objectives and Targets

The equity project was set up following research by BEMIS (Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland).

Increase in knowledge and perception of grassroots football for diverse community groups in Scotland.

Increased participation in football from people with a BME background.

Increased opportunities for people from BME background in football.

#### Progress

Targeted specific community and religious groups including Stirling Mosque, MARCA, Motherwell Community Trust and Central Scotland African Union.

These groups weren't engaging with Scottish FA or community clubs and were offered taster sessions before trying to integrate.

Bespoke coach education courses also offered.

#### Survey

73% of respondents were interested/very interested in football.

71% play football at least once a week.

71% had no awareness of any Scottish FA programme.

Most popular format of game 5-aside.

### Strategy

Offer more opportunities for people from BME background to participate in football.

Participation centres to be offered to BME communities and then linked to community activity.

BME champions to be identified.

Local clubs linking in with BME provisions.

Sessions already delivered in Alva Academy and Atta keen to work with Polish and Pakistani/Muslim community in area.

Atta agreed with Councillor McGill that young people could be used as role models in the area.

Atta's details: [atta.yaqub@scottishfa.co.uk](mailto:atta.yaqub@scottishfa.co.uk) or 01786 467165

## 5. School of Football at Alva Academy -

### Feedback

Ian read out some comments from the feedback on the School of Football at Alva Academy.

Pupils: "Enjoyed talks.", "Feel better person."

Parents: "Swapped disengaged child to one who complains that Wednesday is his only day off football.", "Enjoys recognition via monthly reports."

### Progress

Ian said that participants have enjoyed the extra activities that they have received including talks from Atta where there would not otherwise be engaged if it hadn't been for the football element.

They are a mixed group of participants and some can be troublesome however they have all improved their standards.

The three Schools of Sport have all been involved in joint sessions including mind setting, agility and strength and conditioning.

Paul Hartley took the pupils for a session on Thursday at Recreation Park.

Senior pupils have received coach education from Graeme and are now coaching within primary schools.

### Award

Sporting Futures won Clackmannanshire's Growing in Excellence Partnership Award through its links with Sports Development, National Governing Bodies and clubs.

Ian paid thanks to Sports Development and emphasised he is keen to take the programme forward with new year groups and sports.

Councillor Forson praised the projects fantastic work and commented that sport can help to raise a child's attainment.

Academic attainment at Alva Academy is currently being tracked and pupils are more engaged.

Andy Gilchrist explained the difference between Schools of Football and Performance Schools such as Graeme High School and that Schools of Football in other areas wouldn't get the funding they do from Cashback if they didn't raise attainment. Councillor McGill believes that we are now pushing an open door to use sport as a vehicle to help deliver education. Hillfoots Community FC offered pupils at Alva Academy the opportunity to coach at their club.

6. Lornshill PEPAS Faculty -

Keith Chaplin was introduced and started his role as Principal Teacher of the Faculty of PEPAS in November 2012.

Girls Football Academy

There is a Girls Football Academy based at Lornshill Academy which started in October as a pilot project and is run in conjunction with the Scottish FA catering for S1-S3.

Lornshill Academy also has links with Scottish Athletics and Y Dance. Similar feedback to Alva Academy School of Football with girls more confident and taking greater responsibility. Jen King was also praised for her delivery and held up as a fantastic role model.

Football

Keith keen to place a big focus on football in the curriculum from next year.

Wants to see pupils playing for school teams in order to help them reach 10,000 hours of practice.

The possibility of senior pupils at the school being directed to Welfare clubs was also raised and Keith didn't have an issue with this.

Wider Role

Hopes to create a leadership programme for pupils following on from Primary School.

Key focus is to create links to local clubs for pathway from curriculum time activity to lunch times to festivals to club.

Feels it is important for clubs to be within the school so that they are known.

Health week taking place at school on Friday 1st March and clubs invited to attend from Lornshill cluster.

Keith's role is not just PE department but also to ensure pathway to clubs and steps within it.

7. Council -

Graeme Henderson -

### Coach Education

Clubs were reminded that details of all Scottish FA Coach Education courses are now available online at [www.scottishfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk)

Courses in Clackmannanshire run the second half of the year from May - November or alternatively other courses are available across Forth Valley.

Adult clubs were encouraged to try and undergo the minimum of the main pathway 1.1 Development Activities course.

Andy Gilchrist also informed clubs that current coaches with the previous Youth Level 4 Award will have to undergo a separate 1 day course in order to be eligible to apply for the UEFA B Licence course. Those with a Youth Level 4 and Club Coach certificate do not need to attend this 1 day course.

Coaches with a Club Coach certificate will be able to apply for the UEFA B Licence course for the next 4 years.

Talks are ongoing with UEFA to hopefully accredit the current Advanced Youth Licence as an Elite Youth Licence UEFA course.

### Generation 2020 Development Centre

Centre is continuing to run with 14 players, all of which are showing improvement.

Scouting will begin shortly at the P5 and P6 age group in order to look for players to attend a trial for next years Generation 2020 Development Centre.

### PCS

Positive Coaching Workshops have continued to be delivered in the area with all Quality Mark clubs having attended at least one form of the various workshops.

Workshops are still ongoing with open workshops taking place across Forth Valley or Graeme can organise club specific workshops.

Clubs encouraged to make sure any leaders, coaches or parents who haven't attended a workshop do so.

### Disability Provision

In association with Tullibody Community FC, the club have set up an opportunity for any young person with a disability to come along and enjoy playing football. This is thanks to Grow Our Game Funding which the club received for being a Community Quality Mark club.

Weekly sessions have followed on the back of successful festivals.

Sessions take place on a Tuesday from 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm at Lornhill Academy indoors and anybody interested is encouraged to attend.

### Quality Mark

It was reiterated that Quality Mark is now available to all adult clubs as well as children's and youth and clubs were encouraged to achieve the award in order to access greater opportunities and funding.

Any interested club should contact Graeme on [ghenderson@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:ghenderson@clacks.gov.uk) or 01259 452332.

Quality Mark is also available to schools and as yet no school within Clackmannanshire has a Quality Mark Award.

**Action 2; Clubs/Schools to speak to Graeme Henderson if interested in attaining Quality Mark Award.**

Funding

Graeme showed the Football Partnership a document he had received which detailed a vast amount of funding sources.

Marjorie McFarlane suggested that clubs should only receive the document if they are engaged in the Quality Mark process.

Stephen Crawford/Stephen Morrison (Facilities) -

Lets

Stephen Morrison reminded clubs that if they currently have lets which are up in the summer these must be renewed or somebody else may book these slots.

Football Partnership discount deal has been highly successful with 100% increase in adult bookings and 40% increase in youths bookings for astro turf pitches.

There is also a 5% increase in bookings for pitches overall (grass and astro).

Upgrades

Changing facilities have just finished being decorated at Clackmannan, Fairfield and Tullibody . Other venues to follow before summer.

Other

Council have budgeted £100,000 to go to parks and land services over the next 2 years. This will although some work to be carried out, however it is a relatively small amount of money.

The Council has also previously received money from seized money from the proceeds of crime.

**Action 3; Stephen Crawford to present plan for improvement for pitch improvements at next Football Partnership.**

Astro Turf Pitches

When asked if it would be possible to increase the number of astro turf pitches in the area, Stephen Crawford highlighted that there are still some time slots on the existing astro turf pitches which are not being used. The cost of an astroturf pitch is between £300,000 and £400,000 which would have to be full every time slot in order to try and pay for itself. This will also feature in Stephen's presentation.

Standard of the astro turf pitches is not as good as other areas due to the vast improvements which have taken place over the last 5 years.

The standard of the goal nets at the astroturf pitches was also raised. Access to the astro turf pitches this summer to be greater.

However this must be used as previously at the request of the Welfare Association an astro turf pitch was opened over the Christmas period and wasn't used. This results in additional staffing and costs. It was asked to fix the deterioration of the astro turf pitches at Alloa Academy and Lornshill Academy.

**Action 4; Facilities to investigate any deterioration.**

Other

The prospect of getting changed at the swimming pool at Alva before playing on the pitches was raised and Stephen Crawford felt that it was unlikely that OLE would turn people away.

The idea of clubs letting facilities as occurs in Stirling was raised in order to reduce staffing costs. Stephen Crawford agreed that they may help and is open to investigating suggestions.

**Action 5; Stephen Crawford to include any feedback on this proposal to his presentation at next Football Partnership.**

Upgrade to Coalsnaughton changing rooms is not off the agenda however will not happen in the short term. Structure of the building is still unsafe.

It was asked how much it would cost to fix the pitch at Tillicoultry.

**Action 6; Stephen Crawford to include feedback on this to his presentation at next Football Partnership.**

Suggestion was made to limit the number of bookings each weekend on grass pitches to maintain surfaces. However this may cause a problem of where teams can gain access to play. Councillor Forson reminded the Football Partnership that all clubs had the opportunity to input into the Council's Sport and Leisure Strategy and that issues raised in this will be the priority.

The ability to clear snow from the astro turf pitches was also raised. Stephen Crawford informed the Football Partnership that this was a contractual issue. A machine had previously been looked at however this would compact the snow and turn it to ice. Covers would not be worthwhile due to the cost involved. Active Stirling has a salt machine for Forthbank, however this is still not playable all the time during winter.

On the subject of weather effecting football over Winter Andy Gilchrist commented that there is currently consultation on the timing of the season for non professional game and feedback from Amateur association has been open to change. The woman's game currently play a summer season.

It was asked to be confirmed if King George V Park was owned by National Playing Fields Project.

**Action 7; Stephen Crawford to confirm at next Football Partnership Meeting ownership status of pitch.**

Clubs were told that if they wish to access funding to improve existing or build new facilities then gaining a Quality Mark Award is essential in order to receive backing from the Scottish FA or Sport Scotland. 400 Quality Mark clubs across Scotland. Examples of clubs who have unlocked resources include Cumbernauld Colts who received £400,000 and Steins Thistle who also received support. Andy Gilchrist felt it would be worthwhile to invite Graham Wright of Steins Thistle to a future Football Partnership Meeting. Although clubs also need to be aware of what they are letting themselves in for if they plan to run facilities.

**Action 8; Andy Gilchrist to invite Graham Wright to future Football Partnership meeting.**

Callum has resigned from Welfare Association. The Scottish FA have not been invited to attend any of the local Welfare Association's meetings.

**Action 9; Andy Gilchrist to be invited to Welfare Association meeting.**

Robert Paterson (Land Services) -

Graeme Henderson updated on behalf of Robert Paterson.

Johnstone Park, Alva

It is hoped that both pitches will be available at Johnstone Park, Alva for the new season beginning in August 2013. Currently pitch 1 is still to be reinstated following damage incurred by the fun fair at Alva Games and remedial works are hindered because of poor ground conditions. Gary McCheyne asked why pitch 2 was not available to play on despite the pitch appearing in good playing condition.

**Action 10; Robert Paterson to inform Gary McCheyne of the availability of pitch 2 at Johnstone Park.**

Other

The Hollytree asked for the pitch at Menstrie to be rolled.

**Action 11; Robert Paterson to speak to club about if this is possible.**



8. Scottish FA -

National Plan

With the introduction of the Scotland United strategy two separate boards were created for the Professional and Non Professional Games. Everybody from the Non Professional Board has now in principal agreed to a new national plan and details of this should be released in the near future. Road shows about the new national plan are likely to follow. It is hopeful that this will lead to further examples of good practice such as the National Player Pathway.

**Action 12; Andy Gilchrist to present information on new national plan at next Football Partnership meeting.**

Online Database System

Future investment to associations will be linked to on-line registration and the Scottish FA are hopeful of receiving £2 million to invest in the game from the Scottish Government.

Player Pathway In-service

Those who attended the recent Player Pathway In-service for either the 4 a-side game or 7 a-side game were thanked. The next Player Pathway In-service is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at Lornshill Academy for the 11 a-side game and those from adult clubs are welcome to attend.

Other

Andy expressed his pleasure that the Football Partnership was opened up to clubs from all levels of the games.

Everybody was reminded of the Scottish FA's website and twitter accounts which are regularly updated with information.

9. Women's/Girl's Football -

Jennifer King was introduced as the Girls and Woman's Football Co-ordinator for Falkirk and Clackmannanshire.

Girls Football Academy

The Girls Football Academy at Lornshill is the only one of it's kind in the country and the development of the programme for next year is already being looked at. This programme has helped massively to improve the self esteem of the girls involved.

School to Club Programme

The school to club programme aims to increase participation in the girls game.

Tullibody Community and Wasps Community are currently the only clubs in the area which offer a provision for girls to play football. Jen is more than happy to work with any other club to create new provisions.

### Secondary School Leagues

The Secondary Schools Leagues take place every two weeks across Forth Valley and are split between S1 - S3 and S4 - S6. Jen is trying hard to get these girls who are playing into clubs, although girls tend to have limited interest in playing for clubs.

### Advanced Player Development Centre

Additional training for girls in P4 and P5. Programme starts in March and is based at St. Mungo's High School in Falkirk. Aiming to bring all local talent in to the one area. The centre will sit under the 2020 Development Centre and provide the first point of access to the women's game.

Jen's details: [jenniferl.king@falkirkcommunitytrust.org](mailto:jenniferl.king@falkirkcommunitytrust.org) or 01786 466485

### 2012 Girls and Women's Football Audit

Michael McPake provided details on the 2012 audit of Girls and Women's football.

580 girls playing football in central region.

45 clubs from 18 clubs playing in the central region.

145 coaches/volunteers involved in girls and women's football in central region.

4 girls are currently participating in the central regions performance school at Graeme High School.

### 2013 Targets for Girls and Women's Football

250 new players to be involved in the game this year.

3 new clubs and 10 new teams to be created in the central region.

30 new volunteers within the game of which a certain amount must be female.

### Other

Michael offered clubs the opportunity for players from the Scotland Women's National Team to come out to events.

Michael's Details: [michael.mcpake@scottishfa.co.uk](mailto:michael.mcpake@scottishfa.co.uk) or 01786 467165.

Strategy is to target girls young at U9's and U11's level and involve them on a weekly basis at clubs.

Girls Football Academy at Lornshill is providing the opportunity to hold on to the large amount of girl's who drop out from sport after primary school.

## 10. Clubs -

Clackmannan Colts have a new U10's team in place.

Hillfoots Community have teams from 2006 - 2003, U17's and amateurs. 10 teenager player's and 4 adults have been going through coach education recently.

Alloa Athletic have had 2 15 year old players from the youth provision feature for the first team and 15 players play some part in a reserve match.

Alva Swifts have 80 registered players at the club.  
Tillicoultry amateurs are hoping to put coach on coach education courses and then look at the possibility of creating a youth side.  
Hollytree asked if 17 and 18 year old players from the secondary schools could be encouraged to play in the Welfare League.  
Tullibody Community have created a disability provision which takes place on a Tuesday at Lornshill Academy from 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm and all are welcome. They have also been delivering activity in local nurseries. Work has taken place with Jen King to attract more girls to play for the girls U15's side. Amateurs are top of their league.  
Dollar Glen hoping to have a pitch to play on in the community in next couple years.  
Gartmorn's aim this season is not to finish last in the league.  
The Bank would like to see an improvement to facilities in the area.  
Andy Gilchrist reiterated that clubs with Quality Mark awards and who offer provision for both adults and youth will be have a better opportunity to access funding for facilities.

11. Gartmorn FC -

Reinstatement of Football Partnership Discounts

Graeme Henderson explained that Gartmorn FC had not attended any of the previous 3 Football Partnership Meetings and in line with the partnership agreement had lost their ability to book discounted facilities. Although the club were looking to have these reinstated as their secretary had left and not informed them of any of the meetings. The club stated that they were happy to accept any decision.

Tullibody Community said that they were happy to reinstate the discounts if the club were happy to attend all future meetings.  
Andy Gilchrist informed clubs that no other are within the central region has the opportunity that the Football Partnership provides and that they should be doing their best to attend all meetings.

All clubs agreed that Gartmorn FC's discounts would be reinstated, however this should serve as a warning to any other club who fails to attend 2 meetings per year that they will lose this privilege.

12. AOCB -

Stephen Morrison repeated that any clubs who are found to be booking pitches using discounts for any other club will immediately lose their discount privileges.

Letter will be sent out shortly detailing process of booking pitches.  
If a pitch is deemed unplayable, under no circumstances should a team play on it.

Graeme thanked everybody for their attendance which has been the largest at any Football Partnership meeting.  
Free bibs were distributed to adult clubs.

13. Date of Next Meeting -

Monday 17th June 2012, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm at Alloa Town Hall.

Note: Due to Alloa Saints FC, Alloa Mar FC and Tullibody Hearts FC failing to attend tonight's meeting they must attend the next 2 Football Partnership meetings in order to retain their discount privileges.