



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

**Clackmannanshire Football Partnership Meeting
Notes From Meeting of Monday 19th October 2015
Alloa Town Hall, Alloa**

Present:

Councillor Robert McGill	Elected Member (Chair)
Marjorie MacFarlane	Sports Development Manager
Martyn Buckie	Sports Development
Andrew Gilchrist	Scottish FA
Stephen Morrison	Clackmannanshire Council
Danny Paterson	Wasps CC
Laura Connor	Tullibody CFC/Sauchie Juniors
Kenny Mitchell	Dollar Glen FC
Gary Horne	Kincardine AFC
David Stanners	Kincardine AFC
Callum MacAulay	Sauchie Amateurs
Scott Mitchell	Sauchie Amateurs
Paul Robertson	Alloa Saints
Peter Clark	Alloa Rovers
Gary McCheyne	Hillfoots CC
Martyn McDonald	Clackmannan Athletic
Dale Gray	Clackmannan Athletic
Kenny Blyth	Clackmannan Community Ams
Alan Brown	Alva Swifts
Sean Black	Alloa Athletic Supporters Club

Apologies:

Alan Morgan	Scottish FA
Kerry Kennedy	Scottish FA
Davy Reynolds	Tullibody CFC/Sauchie Juniors
Chris Spence	Cairn FC

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies were given by Councillor McGill. Martyn Buckie added apologies for Kerry Kennedy (Scottish FA) and Chris Spence (Cairn FC). Laura Connor passed on apologies for Davy Reynolds (Tullibody CFC)
2. Councillor McGill along with Andrew Gilchrist presented both Alloa Rovers and Sauchie Amateurs FC formally with their Quality Mark Standard Award. Afterwards Councillor McGill encouraged other clubs in attendance to strive towards Quality Mark and receive formal recognition for good practice aswell.
3. Minutes of previous meeting 15th June 2015 were discussed and agreed.
4. Matters Arising
 - MB informed clubs that the new Regional Committee meeting date is Monday 7th December 2015.
 - Information regarding Coach Mentoring programme was issued by Alan Morgan and Martyn Buckie to all clubs.
 - MB did not receive school team acceptance letter issued by the school, therefore could not follow up on the matter further.
 - Stephen Morrison highlighted that he/a member of Leisure have inspected venues when and where possible to check the quality of nets, changing facilities, goals etc. Sauchie Amateurs expressed that the nets at Lornshill Academy were needing updated however SM believes they are brand new.
 - A number of clubs shared their struggles in attracting new volunteers to their club. Danny Paterson informed all that there is a link on the SYFA website that provides details of volunteers (not necessarily football specific) that clubs can contact directly.

Actions:

SM to check nets at Lornshill Academy.

MB to forward on link for SYFA volunteers database.

5. Football Development Update - Martyn Buckie
 - MB gave an update on Coach Education courses within Clacks. Numbers have been excellent and an additional 1.1 and 1.2 courses for the children's pathway were put on throughout the October break.
 - Danny Paterson and MB reminded clubs that head coaches at each age group are required to have a 1.2 qualification minimum to register with SYFA and their local league. SYFA are also going to introduce that each age group will be required to have their own secretary aswell as their own first aider.
 - Spaces still available on the 1.3 Coaching in the Game course on 15th and 22nd November. Anyone looking to book on should contact MB directly.
 - There have been 940+ children attend across 4 different football festivals between September and October. One festival being a

Girls Only Fun Fours Festival which highlights the interest in Girls Football within Clacks. Any club interested in developing a girls pathway should contact MB.

- Tesco Bank programme has ran successfully within schools throughout the Alloa and Hillfoots cluster schools receiving 6 weeks of coaching aswell as a cluster specific festival. All pupils involved in the P2/3 programme received information on local Quality Mark clubs within their cluster aswell as information on local Soccer Centres.

6. Facilities - Stephen Morrison

- Changing rooms at Fairfield Park closed due to tile damage in the showers. Opening date TBC.
- SM reminded clubs it is their responsibility to remove any rubbish from the facility after their use. Photo evidence of the mess was provided to highlight the extent.
- Astro turf at Lornshell and Alva Academies to be replaced. Expected to be during Summer 2016 however date TBC. Focus of astro turfs will be for football and rugby use. MM explained the new astro turfs will have strict 'conditions of use' in place.
- Gary McCheyne queried whether Alva Academy grass pitch could be used for football aswell as rugby as it is a quality surface. SM explained that it falls under the schools decision and they are very precious of it due to the school's high demand in rugby.
- SM discussed the council's consideration into allowing pitches/facilities to be leased long term directly by clubs. A questionnaire was issued by MB however response was poor with only 3 clubs providing their views on the matter.

Actions:

SM to provide an update on Fairfield Park changing rooms.

MB/SM to keep clubs updated on the progress of the Lornshell/Alva Academy astro turf's.

MB to re-issue questionnaire on 'Facility Leasing' to clubs.

7. Scottish FA update - Andy Gilchrist

- There is continued good local support for football thanks to a new 4 year investment from Sportscotland to deliver programmes such as Quality Mark, Coach Education courses etc.
- AG reminded clubs that Quality Mark is a benchmark tool to help clubs gain access to funding and support from McDonalds.
- Quality Mark will be switching to an online system which should be easier for clubs to produce documents and easier for the Scottish FA to manage regularly.
- Scottish FA council has been disbanded and replaced by a "congress" which now includes representations from players union, managers union, media etc.

- Regional Committee within Central Region is changing to reflect all 6 associations, not just the youth game which it has been in the past.
- New Performance Director Brian McClair is now in post and is not focusing on clubs as strongly, but more focus on the Performance Schools and National Youth Squads.
- Coach In-Services are available throughout October via North Lanarkshire Leisure via Stephen Hamilton and Forth Valley via Alan Morgan. Great opportunity for coaches to pick up new practice and network further.
- Club Business Workshops are have been and are still available for specific club members to attend to help with the development of club infrastructure as opposed to coaching.

Actions:

**MB to forward on information on upcoming Coaches In-Services.
AM/MB to forward on information on upcoming Club Business workshops.**

8. Sports Conclusion - Martyn Buckie and Marjorie

- MB reminded clubs of the severity of concussion and the precautions that clubs should take towards their players who have received head injuries during training and matches.
- "If in doubt, sit them out" is the strap line coaches should always think about when a head injury occurs.
- MM reminded clubs that communication from coach to parent to teacher is very important and communication has to be 2 way going from teacher to coach.

Actions:

MB to forward on Head Injury cards to clubs.

9. Clubs/Schools Update - All members present

- Wasps CC - looking for more volunteer coaches. Standard of coaches going from level 1 coach education courses to level 2 would struggle with the demands.
- Hillfoots CC - Club currently in a strong position with a load of new players at the younger age groups, however need more coaches, particularly at the 2008 age group.
- Alloa Saints - Finding the u19's a difficult age group due to players age, other activities during the weekend, work commitments etc. They are now part of the Kilsyth league and are looking to recruit players for their 2001's.
- Dollar Glen FC lost 3-1 in the Scottish Cup v a strong Greenock team. Great experience however. Playing in the Summer League Cup Final on 1st November 2015 at Beechwood Park.

10. A.O.B.

- AG explained Over 35s League runs within Central Region out of North Lanarkshire but the Scottish FA are looking to grow this throughout the region. Over 50s Walking Football is also a recreational game that is growing throughout the region and nation, demonstrating the appetite to still play at older ages is there.
- AG notified all that Stirling University were playing Queens Park at Forthbank Stadium in the Scottish Cup and encouraged all to go and support.
- Danny Paterson explained from experience that the u21s is a tough age group to manage due to restrictions from local leagues across the country allowing new u21 teams to be part of their league. Kenny Blyth added he believes the FVFDA u21s section being disbanded has helped the Welfare League attract new players.
- Councillor McGill asked all members in attendance the best way to shape these forums going forward. Kenny Blyth voiced that he feels more content should be focused around the adult game. AG understood his reasons and ensured that adult content was coming but felt it was key for MB to feedback on the overall development of football within Clackmannanshire at all ages and stages. Danny Paterson added that if clubs have aspirations to grow and develop they need to know the bigger picture of what is developing within their area.
- AG advised clubs to look into the Scottish Football Partnership for additional funding opportunities around areas/projects on equity.
- Councillor McGill informed all that the council are looking into drastic savings over the next few years which is why it is important that groups such as the Football Forum have a voice and share their opinions when asked to help shape the future. An example was the school/pitch consultation at Tullibody Civic Centre recently where the council changed their original proposal ideas due to the large level of community feedback.
- First Football Forum date to be announced but future dates to be planned accordingly to fit in with other workshops throughout 2016.

Actions:

MB to look into more content around the adult game going forward for future forums.

MB to forward on the link to the Scottish Football Partnership and any other supporting documents.

MB to forward on all future forum dates for 2016 asap.

11. D.O.N.M

Monday 15th February 2016, 7-9pm - Alloa Town Hall