FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022

TIME:	**6.00pm to 7.10pm**	
LOCATION:	**Online via Zoom**	
PRESENT:	**Malcolm Clarke (MC) Chair**	**Tom Greatrex (TG) Vice Chair**
	Sian Wallis (SW)	**Tracy Brown (TB)**
	Antony Wilkinson (AW)	**Tim Hillyer (TH)**
	Heather Alderson (HA)	**Nilesh Chauhan (NC)**
	Chris Paouros (CP)	**Christine Seddon (CS)**
	Steve Moulds (SM)	**Sachin Patel (SP)**
	Roger Ellis (RE)	**James Young (JY)**
	Richard Tomkins (RTo)	**Rach Major (RM)**
	Anielka Pieniazek (AP)	**Roger Titford (RTi)**
	Martin Cantrell (MC)	**Ian Bridge (IB)**
	Neil Le Milliere (NLM)	**Paul Corkrey (PC) FSA Cymru**
IN ATTENDANCE:	**Dave Rose**	**Deputy CEO**
	Richard Irving (RI)	**Secretary**
	Thomas Concannon (TC)	**Item 2 only**

Item	Action
Malcolm Clarke chaired the meeting. **1. Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from Kevin Miles (KM), Dave Pennington (DP), Jude Morris-King (JMK), Neil Dady (ND), Geoff Bielby (GB) and Sarah Stelling (SS).	
2. World Cup Fan Embassy Update TC joined from the FSA Fan Embassy in Qatar. PC was also on the call having recently returned from Qatar. TC advised the meeting that everything had run relatively smoothly to date with	

numbers attending from England only just beginning to increase in advance of the weekend's quarter final.

There had been no arrests and no reports of trouble involving England fans. There were some issues around the wearing of Rainbow hats but, more recently, security has eased up on their wearing and has shown more flexibility

PC had had a much busier time manning the FSA Cymru fan embassy. He had received over 200 calls to his phone and some 500 texts during his time in Qatar. Most of these had been to do with issues with the Hayya card which acts as a visa etc.

He had also had two deaths amongst the Welsh support to deal with which had, obviously, been challenging.

TH, also currently in Qatar, advised that a lot of accommodation was available and that plenty of buses for transport to the stadia had been laid on – even to Al Bayt, some 70 miles away where England will be playing.

His observation was that, in general, it had been a very peaceful tournament. He did, however, raise several concerns, the fact that the Hayya card is effectively an ID card, some of the policing by Pakistani army and police and the sustainability of the tournament given that several of the stadia are to be dismantled and shipped elsewhere in the world. In general, the entertainment laid on had, in his opinion, been of a good standard.

In response to a question from RTi, TC confirmed that around 2500 England fans had bought tickets via the usual channels with some 8-9,000 in total attending. There were also a lot of local people supporting England.

It was TC's belief that fans attending this and the previous tournament in Russia were generally very well behaved so the relative lack of alcohol was not a factor in good behaviour. In response to a question from HA, TC advised that discussions about fan arrangements at the World Cup in 2026 would begin two years ahead of the tournament. NLM advised that a contact of his had described very similar findings to those already aired. MC thanked TC, PC and TH for joining the meeting and giving their views.	
3. Minutes from 22nd August Council Meeting The above minutes were approved as an accurate record.	
4. Matters Arising There were no matters arising.	
5. Board Update An update had been circulated in advance of the meeting. DR pointed to the minutes of the 5th September Board meeting item 8 where it was stated that the FSA will make a bid for the FSE congress next y*ear. An update would be given at the next Council meeting. RI advised that all minutes approved at the last Board and Council meetings would be published FSA website shortly under the Board and Council section.	

6. Council Resignations RI advised the meeting that Pete Daykin had stepped down from the Board and Council in the summer. MC formally recorded the Council's appreciation for his services over many years, particularly on the issue of safe standing. RI further advised that since Thomas Concannon had now joined the FSA staff as Premier League Network Manager, he would also have to step down from his role as Associate Member tier representative on the Council. As a result of both of the above resignations, vacancies for their remaining terms will be filled in the elections in advance of the 2023 AGM.	
7. Fan-Led review Update TG gave a verbal update on the latest status of the Fan-Led Review (FLR). HA, TG, KM and CS met with the Secretary of State recently who had advised that the white paper is "imminent". There is a write round being conducted at present which will take approximately ten days. Parliament will be in recess from 15th December, so it is now likely to be published early in the New Year. TG and KM met with the new Special Adviser at No 10 who reiterated that the FLR was a priority. TG advised that the idea of a regulator led by football is pretty much dead. The PL weren't willing to agree with the FA proposal on the subject. The Professional Game Board meeting today reported on the FLR and admitted that there will be an independent statutory regulator.	

DCMS have advised separately that the FSA should not have concerns about the white paper. MC advised that KM had been invited to a meeting with the chief executives of the FA, PL and EFL which he saw as a real step forward for the FSA. RE asked that the ongoing consultation should include some options inviting comments and that the regulator should have powers of intervention in certain financial circumstances. DR advised that the EFL financial unit will present to a future Council meeting. It deals with financial management and change of ownership.	
8. Women's Game Review Update DR had circulated a copy of the submission in advance of the meeting. He further advised that it had been a challenging submission, given that the FSA team working on it had had only three and a half weeks' notice. It had been fortuitous that a vision day had already taken place within the FSA in advance of the call for submissions meaning that a large amount of the work had been done. DR thanked all those involved. The submission had four key proposals: - A clear pathway to independence - A central pot funded by football as a whole - Fans to be embedded in all decision making	

- A stakeholder group to be set up to oversee the evolution of the women's game. DR further advised that Deborah Dilworth had been building relations with Kelly Simmons at the FA and her team and that a first structured dialogue meeting in the women's game had taken place. Karen Carney will pick up the Women's Game Review upon her return from the World Cup. TH stated that the women's game should remain independent and not emulate the men's game with a Big Six etc. MC said that the submission was good on identifying the key issues but that much more work is needed to formulate clear FSA policy on those issues. MC then asked the meeting to receive the report, which was duly agreed, and thanked all involved.	
9. Network Updates The regular updates were circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no further comments.	
10. Future Meetings RI had circulated a plan for future Board and Council meetings in advance. Council agreed the dates and asked RI to work with others to define times for the meetings on those dates.	RI / DR

11. Any Other Business There was no other business.	
There being no further business, MC closed the meeting at 7.10pm.	

Minutes by Richard Irving
8th December 2022