

England Deaf Football

Minutes from Annual General Meeting 2021

Date/Time: 29/07/2021. 7:00pm–9:00pm

Location: Zoom

England Deaf Football in attendees:

Jennifer Lynch – Development Officer & Covid-19 officer
Matthew Durant – Media Officer & Competitions Assistant (11a side)
Phil Gardner – Referee coordinator
Robin Lodge – Treasurer
Sean Noone – Head of Competitions (11a side)

Clubs in attendees:

AFC Darwen Deaf
Barnet Deaf FC
Birmingham Deaf FC
Bradford City Deaf FC
Brighton & Hove Albion Deaf FC
Bristol City Deaf FC
Carlisle City Deaf FC
Edinburgh Deaf FC
Exeter City Deaf FC
Farsley Celtic Deaf FC
Glasgow Athletic Deaf FC
St. Albans City Deaf FC
St. John's Deaf FC
Welling United Deaf FC

Apologise:

Joanna Raper – Futsal coordinator
John Litherland – Youth coordinator
Oliver Eadsforth – President
Steven Wynne – Vice President
Derek Rowley – Vice President
Chris Beech – Great Britain Deaf Football

Notes: –

Item no	Topic	Agreed action
1.	Welcome	<p>Sean – Head of Competitions welcome everyone to the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>The agenda for tonight Annual General Meeting shall be like as that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Welcome & apologies for absence■ Constitution■ Statement from the Great Britain Deaf - Chris Beech■ Reports from:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Media- Development- Futsal- Youth- Head of competitions- Referee coordinator- Treasurer■ Proposal■ Special thanks■ Closure <p>No questions being asked from the participates.</p>
2.	Apologise	



		<p>Those people who send an apologised for unable to make to today's AGM are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Joanna Raper – Futsal ■ John Litherland – Youth ■ Oliver Eadsforth – President ■ Steven Wynne – Vice president ■ Derek Rowley - Vice president ■ Chris Beech – Great Britain Deaf Football (Chair)
3.	Constitution	<p>There are no adapt on constitution at this season and the constitution can be found on EDF's website.</p> <p>All agree with no object.</p>
4.	Statement from the GBDF	<p>Christopher Beech, chair of GBDF leave some statement for all clubs:</p> <p>GBDF is working closely with EDF, SDFA and the FA to try and ensure that all can ensure that the new season goes smoothly without fixture clashes. However, it is proving difficult to nail down dates for GB training etc for the Deaflympics due to covid rules i.e., travel restrictions/controls affecting our qualification games and the fact that there have not been much information coming from Brazil about the Deaflympics itself.</p> <p>GB are hoping to play Russia at home on the 11th September and away to Greece in the 25th September pending travel restrictions. Chris request everyone to bear it in mind that we all are doing our best for Deaf football voluntarily and that it will be a few years before the world recovers from the pandemic.</p> <p>To close the statement from chair of GBDF, he wishes all clubs have a great season.</p>

5.	Reports	<p>Media: Matthew Durant This season is certainly a roller-coaster for everyone in and out of England Deaf Football. Matthew would like to say huge thanks to the two photographers (Teah Gibson and Amy Ali) who volunteered to do 3 major events in a month! (EDF Cup/Plate Semi-Final, EDF Cup/Plate Final and EDF League Championship Final.)</p> <p>If you have any suggestions on how to improve the website, please do contact Matthew directly on his email – edfmediaofficer@gmail.com and he will look into this. He wishes all the best with today’s AGM and he is look forward to get started with the new season 2021/22!</p> <p>Development/COVID-19 Officer: Jennifer Lynch Jennifer says this has been a difficult year for us all. There has been numerous of meetings taking place via virtual networking with clubs and other Nation Governor Bodies. She wants to thank Sean for all his hard work, it had not been an easy year, with all challenges we had to face. Also, to thank the rest of the EDF officials for the cooperation throughout the year, it had not been easy for any of us. Jennifer would like to applause all the club for continuing to make sure football happened, without the clubs support we would not be here. She shall look forward to working with all clubs in the coming months.</p> <p>Jennifer leaves some outcomes from season 2020/2021:</p> <p>Positive outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 11 aside football ■ Secure funding for EDF ■ Growth EDF Officials ■ Networking with other NGB ■ FA Disability Cup ■ Youth Football – Deafland Rally camp <p>Future plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Women team – 5 aside / 7aside ▪ LGBT Football tournament Information will be provided soon
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- Workshops – First aid, Wellbeing, Cardiac arrest training
- Fun day for all sports to come together
- Any other developments the clubs would like to see happening in EDF.
- Covid – BSL Signed.
- Risk Assessment
- Form filling i.e.- funding

Futsal: Joanna Raper

Joanna says the futsal has been cancelled since March 2020 due to COVID-19, and now it is lifting up recently. She is working alongside with UKDS and DCL to check through Government guidelines and travelling restrictions.

Joanna is processing to book tournament for Men/Women and Under 21's. There will arrange a futsal meeting only for secretaries and hopefully to get more teams involved.

This will announce when Joanna knows it is right time, that is her aim. Before new season of 11 a side starts. Also, she has new ideas for future. Joanna have been looking for venues to held the tournament so more details will be announced at Futsal meeting.

Youth: John Litherland

John says there is not much to say. 2021 has not been good for youth futsal. He has been booked Derby for twice for the youth futsal, but the venue gets cancelled due to Coronavirus Pandemic, so he thinks it is better to not booked this year.

John asks questioned if should EDF booked for youth futsal at other places? Will clubs still attend and complete the tournament? He is more worried about the travelling as it is may restriction for club's travel across England due to covid-19. Will the venue accept for the parents or fan to get in to watch and supervision their own child?

Youth did an event at the Deafland Rally in Shrewsbury, and it was successful.

John says he is aim is to improve for youth futsal in 2022 – He would like to have two tournament per year.

Head of Competitions (11a side) – Sean Noone

Sean says there was 15 clubs involved in EDF competitions with over 320 players registered with the EDF.

Sean said this year has been a challenging year for everyone due to covid-19 pandemic. Sean additional that the EDF's rules have been approved by the Football Association (FA) include covid-19 rules. Sean aware that is not easier for everyone but it has to be done, to protect everyone.

Sean explained that EDF is working closer with the FA and successfully secured funding from the Football Association (FA) for provide covid-19 resource and some workshops where Jennifer will run with clubs.

Sean has attended several meetings with the Football Association (FA), UKDS, GBDFC, EIDT, SDFA, DCL, other non-football organisations, to developed the networking and relationship with them to put best interested in Deaf football.

Sean gutted to see the tournaments have been suspended twice due to the national lockdown (Covid-19), that is challenge decision to made for EDF and clubs.

The Cup & Plate Semi Final at Rugby Borough FC has been secured. Cup & Plate Final at Oxford City FC & League Final at Hollyfield FC also has been secured.

Sean explained that he already has some plans for next few seasons (Including the finals and women) and possible FA Disability Cup (BT Sport's)

Sean has confirmed that he is spent over 680 hours (Equal to approx. 16 weeks of full-time work) at EDF working on a voluntary basis during the season for the best interests of the EDF and Deaf football.

Referee coordinator – Phil Gardner

Phil says it has been a difficult season - not just the pandemic situation but the Whole Games System (WGS) breakdown. In short, WGS does not work at all. It needs a full MOT!

There are several reasons, but Phil just gives two examples which are,
1) EDF is not even on the WGS - it has gone to the black hole of the universe! The FA are not helping matters at all, they are making life difficult. The regional FAs cannot help Phil as EDF is a national organisation.
2) Far too many referees are not bothered to log on the WGS / too much hassle. To be fair some struggle to find EDF on WGS. Even myself – Phil says he is unable to enter Welling United Deaf FC for they have been created on another EDF title by their hearing club. Therefore, it is impossible to log in match details / cautions / misconducts. So, there is NO Consistency at all.

Phil suggests plan B - in house discipline cautions / misconducts / fines / suspensions.
Reason - some clubs get disciplined whilst other clubs get away with it. He believes that fair play must prevail. It is his opinion that WGS will continue to give us headaches for several years.

Phil thank you for reading my report - football is meant to be enjoyed by all especially the long-suffering club secretaries – He giving a full of praise for them. He finishes his report with a long live deaf football!

Treasurer – Robin Lodge

Robin explains about next season price to up to £300 for either league or cup or £350 for both of league and cup, as the price has been increasing everywhere now, especially with the impact from post covid-19.

That price will be including: -

- Venues/pitches for Semi-finals & finals (x4) (6 pitches totals)
- Referees & assistant referees for semi-finals and finals (18 totals)
- First aiders at the final
- Trophy & medals
- Match balls
- Website & Media
- UKDS membership
- Public Liability insurance
- FA affiliation
- EDF Stationary & Postage (Printer ink cartridges, programme, paper, etc)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Volunteers <p>He says the price need to increase to get higher standard of Deaf football. He additional that all clubs can request to see the balance from EDF by contact him or Oliver.</p>
6.	Proposals	<p>Sean explains how proposals work.</p> <p>The rules from the FA (Law of Game) will not to changes, we all have no power do that. EF able to change rules as internal rules only.</p> <p>Each club allow vote proposal: Only clubs that in the league/cups last season are allowed to vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For (Agree, accept) - F ■ Against (Disagree) - A ■ Abstain (no vote, withdraw) – W <p>We will make a decision based on the majority of the votes. However, each proposal will remain as anonymous to avoid favouritism. Unless club wish to stand up and explain their proposals. The club can clarification the proposal but not to suggest or questioned.</p> <p>Proposal No. 1: Create another league/cup that is focused on lower ability teams (Development League). Proposal 1 – F x6, A x5, W x1 (Motion passed)</p> <p>Proposal No. 2: Allow Roll on/off substitutes in Cup/Plate matches up until the Semi-final. Proposal 2 – F x7, A x5 (Motion passed)</p> <p>Proposal No. 3:</p>

A fixed day (Saturday or Sunday) for all EDF games (cups and leagues). It will help to reduce the confusion/hassle with all clubs trying to get the game organised.

Proposal 3 – F x4, A x7 (Motion rejected)

Proposal No. 4:

Registration between seasons - All players registered with their clubs to stay on the list until a transfer is requested for a player to move to a different club at a fee. A player can also be removed to become a free agent if the player is no longer playing for the club too. If clubs want to sign a new player that is a free agent, they must still pay a fee. If this proposal is agreed, perhaps we can review the club entry fee.

Proposal 4 – F x2, A x9 (Motion rejected)

Proposal No. 5:

EDF League to be played between September and March and all cups matches to be played during April and May. Perhaps the first round can be played between Sept-March if it makes things easier. This proposal is to help reduce issues of rearranging cup and league games.

Proposal 5 – F x6, A x5, W x1 (Motion passed)

Proposal No. 6:

The South league should be split, which means that one team would be promoted to the top league and a team would be relegated to the second league.

Proposal 6 – F x1, A x8, W x3 (Motion rejected)

Proposal No. 7:

An improvement to the Cup Competition, better standard of quality. A cup competition for the North and South only.

Proposal 7 – F x3, A x8, W x1 (Motion rejected)

Proposal No. 8:

A request for Zoom meetings must be given in advance notice of 7 days, opposed to 24-48 hours request from the EDF Committee.

Proposal 8 – F x9, A x2, W x1 (Motion passed)

		<p>Proposal No. 9: No match can be postponed called off by a club. Only ground persons, local councils, and FA can postpone a match. Proposal 9 – F x10, A x2 (Motion passed)</p> <p>Proposal No. 10: If more than two players from a club are called up by their country for international training or matches, then the club can ask for a postponement. Proposal 10 – F x3, A x9 (Motion rejected)</p> <p>Proposal No. 11: Avoid match walkovers. It goes against the integrity of the EDF and the wider football community. Clubs commit themselves to a season and they should honour it. Proposal 11 – F x9, W x2 (Motion passed)</p> <p>Proposal No. 12: Communication to any EDF official shall be via email only (Including the result of a match within 2 hours after the final whistle). Proposal 12 – F x6, A x7 (Motion rejected)</p> <p>Proposal No. 13: Strictly only the club secretaries to communicate with each other via email (no social media or text), failure to adhere to this will result in further action. Proposal 13 – F x10, A x2 (Motion passed)</p> <p>Proposal No. 14: Send an email to Head of Competition with the match sheet, referee report and result all as one email, within 2 hours after the final whistle. Proposal 14 – F x3, A x9, W x1 (Motion rejected)</p>
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		<p>Proposal No. 15: If Covid tiers/lockdown/restrictions happens again then the EDF season is to be suspended until a new season begins. Proposal 15 – F x1, A x11, W x1 (Motion rejected)</p>
7.	Special thanks	<p>Sean says EDF would like send special thanks to some people at this season: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ United Kingdom Deaf Sport (UKDS) ■ Great Britain Deaf Football ■ Scottish Deaf Football Association ■ Football Association ■ Jo-Anne Bradley - Volunteer ■ Karen Karen - Volunteer ■ Diane Coalwood - Volunteer ■ Teah Gibson - Photographer ■ Amy Ali - Photographer ■ Adam Breeze - Help out at Deafland Rally ■ Rylan Casey - Help out at Deafland Rally ■ Interpreters ■ Deafland Rally ■ Clubs secretaries ■ And many more...
8.	End of the AGM	<p>Sean thanked everyone to join today's AGM and looking forward to next season!</p>



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