



Clackmannanshire Council

Clackmannanshire Football Partnership Meeting Notes From Meeting of Monday 17th June 2013, Tommy Downs Room, Alloa Town Hall

Present:	Councillor Bobby McGill	Elected Member and Chairperson
	Alan Millikan	Assistant Head of Education
	Alan Morgan	Scottish FA
	Marjorie MacFarlane	Sports Development Manager
	Graeme Henderson	Football Development Officer
	Stephen Crawford	Clackmannanshire Council
	Stephen Morrison	Clackmannanshire Council
	Robert Paterson	Clackmannanshire Council
	Kenny Mitchell	Dollar Glen FC
	Tom Hunter	Dollar Glen FC
	Robert Horne	Clackmannan Colts FC
	Kevin Hislop	Clackmannan Colts FC
	Kenny Blyth	Horseshoe Bar FC
	Gary McCheyne	Hillfoots Community FC
	Billy Duncan	Hillfoots Community FC
	Fraser Duncan	Sauchie Juniors FC
	Scott Gilmour	Sauchie Juniors U21's FC
	Luke Douglas	Sauchie Juniors U21's FC
	Steven Beattie	Sauchie Juniors U19's FC
	Davy Reynolds	Tullibody Community FC
	Paul Robertson	Alloa Saints FC
	Ian Stone	Tullibody Hearts FC
	James Allan	Hollytree FC
	Mark Keye	Tillicoultry Ams FC
	Stuart Johnstone	Scottish Welfare Association
	Darren Abercrombie	Star Inn FC
	Brian Reid	The Bank Bar FC
	Neil Cunningham	Gartmorn FC
Apologies:	Councillor Ellen Forson	Elected Member
	Andrew Gilchrist	Scottish FA
	Michael McPake	Scottish FA
	Jennifer King	Scottish FA
	Ian Ash	Alva Academy
	Keith Chaplin	Lornshill Academy
	Graeme Liveston	Alloa Athletic FC

1. Meeting and introductions round the table, meeting was chaired by Councillor McGill.

2. Notes of meeting of 25th February 2013 were reviewed.
3. Matters Arising -

Christmas Opening's 2012

Stuart Johnstone thought that Horseshoe Bar FC had made a booking during this period, although Stephen Morrison said there were not any bookings for this period on the system.

Clackmannan Primary School Pitch

The process of developing a pitch at this site is developing with only one objection from the local community. Marjorie MacFarlane and Robert Horne are continuing to lease on this and have the support of Brian McLaren at the school.

Facilities

The issues surrounding the deterioration of the astroturf at each of the three Secondary Schools have been resolved. Stephen Crawford asked that any issues are raised as soon as possible so that it can go on the helpdesk as it is up to the contractors to complete the repairs.

In conversations with the Council OLE have initiated that they are not keen for clubs to use the changing facilities at the centre. However clubs are encouraged to speak to OLE on a one to one basis.

4. Football Development (Graeme Henderson) -

UEFA Study Visit - Switzerland

Graeme Henderson visited Switzerland as part of a UEFA Study Visit in order to learn from the Swiss FA. The Northern Irish FA and Icelandic FA were also present.

There was not much difference between Switzerland's approach to football and Scotland's, as shown by similar Player Pathway's.

98% of all football within the country is grassroots.

170 nationalities participate within the game in Switzerland and Graeme highlighted that Scotland is similar, hence the importance of Atta Yaqub's post within the Scottish FA.

40% of players parents within children's/youth football assist their club.

66% of all players are between the ages of 5 and 20.

The Swiss play Futsal in addition to football. This is a programme which the Scottish FA are currently trying to start within the local area with goals being delivered to Alva and Lornshill Academies.

There is a fair play league based on bookings with the winners each receiving 10,000 Swiss Francs.

The Swiss FA offer no support to any clubs, which is the biggest difference between the two countries.

It was also highlighted that Switzerland has the same issue with a high drop off rate within youth football and Graeme stressed the need for youth and adult teams to work together in order to help reduce this problem.

Both the Northern Irish FA and the Icelandic FA were very impressed with the work that was going on in Scotland.

Northern Ireland ran a coach mentoring programme, similar to the programme currently run by Alan Morgan.

Iceland have 8 indoor 3G pitches and 110 7 a-side 3G pitches for a population of 380,000.

Clubs are run in a community sports model where football, handball, ice hockey clubs all come under the one banner. A similar model is now being piloted within the Lornshill cluster.

If teams don't have enough players for a 11 a-side league they have the opportunity to play within a 7 -a side league in order to keep them within the game.

Generation 2020 Development Centre

The first year of the programme will end on Tuesday 25th June, with one player moving into a Pro Youth team and one currently on trial. Trials are currently taking place for a new intake of players at the P5 and P6 age group, with over 100 players from across Forth Valley present.

School of Football

The current group of S2 player's will continue into S3 on a reduced timetable. 9 of the 20 players involved are involved at a Pro Youth club.

A new S1 year group will also begin in August with 16 pupils selected.

Annual Football Festival

The Annual Football Festival took place on Friday 7th June with nearly 750 participants involved across pre-school, toddlers and disability sections.

There were a record number of entries for the disability team this year.

Coach Education

Clubs were reminded that details of all Scottish FA Coach Education courses are now available online at www.scottishfa.co.uk

Courses in Clackmannanshire have continued to have high numbers of participants with around 40 on both Children's and Main 1.1 module courses.

There are only 1 or 2 places left on the Children's 1.2 course in July.

An additional Children's 1.1 and 1.2 course will be held at Lornshill on October 14th and 15th and 16th respectively. This will form part of a coach education week which will include a variety of sports and generic courses such as first aid and child protection.

Two coaches travelled from Kuwait for a recent coach education course within Clacks.

Alan Morgan reminded clubs that they must book and pay before the day of courses.

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.

There have been no submissions from clubs in Clackmannanshire so far this year.

Any interested club should contact Graeme on 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 1; Clubs/Schools to speak to Graeme Henderson if interested in attaining Quality Mark Award.

Sports Council

Clubs were encouraged to become members of the Clackmannanshire Sports Council in order to gain access to a number of discounts and funding opportunities. Currently only one football club (Hillfoots Community FC) are members.

Action 2; Clubs/Schools to speak to Kenny Cook on 01259 452350 if interested in becoming members of the Sports Council.

Action 3; Marjorie MacFarlane to lease with Sports Council to try to access 50% funding for 2 day Sports Aid course.

Midnight Leagues

Graeme Henderson reminded clubs that youths have the opportunity to participate within Midnight Leagues for free on a Friday night from 9.00 pm - 11.00 pm at Recreation Park. Recently some of the participants gained the opportunity to play at Tynecastle, which Councillor McGill attended.

Gary McCheyne asked for the behaviour of one of the bus drivers to be looked into.

Action 4; Graeme Henderson to investigate and feedback to Gary.

5. Facilities (Stephen Crawford/Stephen Morrison) -

Usage

Stephen Crawford showed the usage of each pitch over the last 2 years. It showed that some pitches had been used extensively and others hadn't.

The council are aiming to secure a lease on the changing facilities at Fishcross and are hopeful that this will be an additional pitch which is available for next season.

There has been a reduction in the usage of the astroturf pitches from last year.

The clubs felt this was due to the standard of the astroturf, which was putting players off and causing increased injuries.

Upgrades

All grass pitches in the area will receive maintenance work, with the exception of Johnstone Park (both pitches will be in operation next year) and Coalsnaughton Park.

The hope is to bring all pitches to the same standard to even out use. Tillicoultry pitch has a budget of £2,500 for repairs and the worst of the undulations will be worked on first, before seeing if any additional funds are available. It is unlikely to be available until well into next season.

Astroturf Pitches

The issue of the condition of the astroturf pitches was revisited.

Action 5; Stephen Crawford to look into cost of upgrading astroturf pitches.

Gary McCheyne raised the issue of the nets at Alva Academy being torn and needing replaced. As well as anti social behaviour on the pitches.

Action 6; Stephen Crawford to investigate nets before the start of the 2013/2014 season.

Bookings

The current system of 10 day booking in advance, means there is a 'free for all' for pitches.

In an ideal world teams would have 'home pitch status' however there are more teams than the 12 pitches across Clackmannanshire can service.

Stephen is keen to try and offer teams more security rather than the first come, first served system in use at the moment in order to try and create a system which is more planned.

The idea is that each club will have a preferred pitch and the council will try their best to accommodate these wishes. This would work best if Stephen was able to have each teams fixtures in advanced for the season.

A template will be sent out which each club should complete with their preferred three pitches.

Action 7; Stephen Crawford to send template on to Graeme Henderson who will forward on to clubs to complete.

Stephen Crawford is willing to listen to clubs if they wish to take on unused pitches under home pitch status.

Action 8; Clubs to speak to Stephen Crawford if interested in taking on an unused pitch.

New pitches may be created through development work. An example of this is at Dollar. However times scales are unknown.

The largest issue with pitch usage is that all FVFDA fixtures take place on a Saturday morning at 10.00 am.

6. Land Services (Robert Paterson) -

Summer Usage

All grass pitches will be closed from 3rd June - 9th August in order to carry out previously mentioned maintenance work.

A herbicide is used to mark lines on grass pitches, however Robert Paterson informed clubs that they are able to use a compound on top of these markings if they wish.

Davy Reynolds raised that this causes problems for the girls/woman's game due to their Summer season and recently had to play a game at Bridge of Alan due to cost of astroturf over summer.

Action 9; Stephen Morrison to clarify pricing structure for astroturf pitches over summer.

This year there is a greater availability of the astroturf pitches across the three schools in order to allow pre-season games to take place and allow grass to repair.

The clubs asked if Redwell could be open as per previous years, however building work is about to commence and there have been no bookings over the last 2 seasons.

Stephen Crawford and Robert Paterson said they will look into keeping a grass pitch open during the summer period if there is a suitable demand.

Action 10; Clubs to email Graeme Henderson pre-season fixtures that they have planned during grass pitch closure period by end of week.

Graeme Henderson stressed that this must only be concrete fixtures and not just guesswork as the council cannot open a grass pitch if there is no demand.

The Alva Games will not impact on the pitches at Johnstone Park as heavily as last year.

Changes to rules across several ANA's means that referees have been instructed not to allow matches to take place if no changing facilities are available.

Funding

Graeme Henderson and Alan Morgan made clubs aware that £3 million of funding has recently been made available by Cashback and SportsScotland to create 3G pitches which will be shared by football and Rugby. Graeme Henderson pointed out the importance of clubs working together and achieving Quality Mark Awards to help applications such as this.

7. Scottish FA (Alan Morgan) -

One National Plan

Councillor McGill informed the Partnership that Andy Gilchrist would do a formal presentation on the One National Plan at the next Football Partnership meeting.

Alan Morgan explained that the One National Plan linked in to the Strong Quality Growth section of the Scotland United strategy.

Increased Participation Within Our Game (p10)

Alan Morgan explained to clubs that the Scottish FA has created a new national database with the support of all of the ANA's which make up the Non-Professional Game Board.

This database will allow us to have accurate numbers on the amount of participants within the game for various purposes. Similar to the numbers that Graeme Henderson spoke about within Switzerland.

If clubs carry out any additional activity e.g. mini kickers (this must be more than 10 weeks of activity) they should send this information on to Alan Morgan or Graeme Henderson.

Action 11; Clubs to email Alan Morgan or Graeme Henderson details of any additional activity.

Vibrant Volunteer Workforce (p12)

Alan Morgan highlighted that there will be a big push to try and attract new volunteers to the game and this will include referees.

A new 3 hour short referring course was recently held at Broadwood Stadium, however the numbers were disappointing and it's hoped that larger numbers will be present on future courses.

The is designed to give those involved within the small sided game a better knowledge of the game's rules which they can carry forward through each format.

The course qualifies attendees as Category 12 referees.

The feedback from those who attended the course was very positive.

More Attractive Modern Game (p13)

Alan Morgan informed the Partnership that an announcement was made earlier regarding the creation of a new Lowlands League, which will create a pyramid system with play-offs starting between the Highlands League, Lowlands League and SFL 3 in season 2014-2015. This will form a link between the Non-Professional Game Board and the Professional Game Board.

A summer season for both youth and adult football is still on the agenda (this may help to relieve the maintenance work on pitches which was previously discussed).

Positive Coaching Scotland will also play a role within helping to create a more attractive modern game and Alan Morgan reminded clubs that workshops are regularly delivered and can be delivered to individual clubs.

An equity and facilities strategy are also in the process of being created.

More Talented Players (p13)

As previously mentioned the Generation 2020 Development Centres serve as a link to the performance strategy.

There are currently over a 100 players trailing for a place at one of the centres within the Forth Valley.

Belgium created a similar performance strategy 10 years ago with performance schools similar to the ones now run by the Scottish FA and are seeing the benefits at national level.

Strong Effective Governance (p13)

Regional Committees are currently re-electing members.

The Regional Committee dates will shortly be decided in order to fall in line with the Non Professional Game Board.

8. Women's/Girl's Football (Graeme Henderson) -

Girls Football Academy

The Girls Football Academy at Lornshill has completed it's first year and things are continuing to go well, with the girls thoroughly enjoying the experience they are receiving from the programme. The programme will run over two year groups next school term due to it's success and it remains the only of it's kind in the country.

Tullibody Community

Davy updated to the Football Partnership on the girls side which have struggling with a few heavy defeats recently, however no matter the result they continue to enjoy playing the game and have shown signs of improvement.

There is a promising group of Primary 7 girls which the club is hoping to form a team from for next season.

Wasps Community

A team from the club played within their first girl's festival recently at U9's and it is hoped that they will continue to progress and develop.

Women's National Team

The Women's National team are at their highest ever ranking at 21. They are looking to progress and could move higher up the rankings with a win away to Iceland. (Iceland had only been beaten at home once since 2006).

U17's National

Alan Morgan has had some involvement with this squad which have been going well recently beating Wales 7-0 on Wednesday 12th June. They are in a group with Czech Republic, Montenegro and Northern Ireland. The group fixtures will all take place in Aberdeen in August. Winners of the group will qualify for the World Finals in Costa Rica.

10. Clubs -

Tullibody Community Amateurs gained promotion this season to the Stirling and District Premier League. However the committee have resigned and the club are looking to replace for next season as they are keen to build on this great achievement.

It was asked if any players released by clubs (in particular U17's, 18's and 19's) could be directed to the Welfare League, where there is a shortage of players, especially goalkeepers.

Clackmannan Colts will move up to U 17 level. They have had another good season finishing 2nd in the league and won the league cup. They also have any U10 team which is performing well. The club plan to register as a community club with the SYFA.

The local teams within the Welfare Association have had some fantastic achievements with The Bank reaching the Scottish Cup Semi Final, Hollytree the final and Horseshoe Bar winning the tournament.

Sauchie Juniors have completed their first season in the SuperLeague. The club have formed two new teams at U21's and U19's. The hope is that these will benefit the club by producing players who can progress to the first team. The club are also looking to build further though and are keen to get more people involved and using the facilities at Beechwood.

Fraser Duncan repeated the concerns over the depth of the line markings which may cause injury. Robert Paterson fed back that the process of vertical draining and sand dressing should help with this issue. He is happy to discuss changing the system with clubs, however he is limited in terms of staff and finance.

Graeme Henderson updated on Alloa Athletic's behalf that things are going well within the youth sides at the club. They are currently looking to create a new team at U13's level and are in the process of recruiting new players. Graeme also congratulated the first team on their remarkable achievement of back to back promotions to the Scottish First Division.

12. AOCB -

Graeme Henderson updated on Keith Chaplin's behalf that some players are being discouraged from playing with their school team. Graeme made it clear to clubs that they should not be telling players to withdraw from school teams, and should leave the choice to the individual player and their parents. The benefit of players receiving additional match time was also highlighted.

13. Date of Next Meeting -

Monday 21st October 2013, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm at Alloa Town Hall.

Note: Due to Alloa Saints FC, Alva Swifts FC, Oakwood FC, Tullibody Hearts FC and Wasps Community FC failing to attend both meeting's so far this year they must attend the next Football Partnership meeting in order to retain their discount privileges.