



The launch of the ESFA's Development Fund

You should by now have received information regarding the Development Fund, a ring-fenced sum designed to support new schools' football activity. Further details can be found on the ESFA's website's new section, with the forms and guidance notes under the "funding" section of the resources page:

www.esfa.co.uk/resources

The closing date for the competitive applications process is 9th January and should you wish to discuss the grants available, please contact Andy Weston or Kieren Laverick for further information. ESFA contacts: Andy.weston@schoolsfa.com Kieren.laverick@schoolsfa.com



Premier League Funding Granted

After the panel meeting on 15th November, PLCF has now awarded to the ESFA the grant which will pay the successful applicants their U11 Rep Football funding for this season. Due to the volume and quality of applications, the PLCF granted some additional funding to the ESFA which has meant that offers of support at differing levels are being made to 98% of Associations applying. Grants will range from £250 to £950 and offer letters are now being sent. The ESFA wishes to place on record once again our thanks to PLCF for their support of our rep game.



Supporting local activity: finding facilities, training opportunities and match officials

The FA has launched its latest round of bursary funding for UEFA B licences. To address under-representation of women and groups from ethnic minority backgrounds, the funding is targeted at those groups. Further details can be found at

<http://www.thefa.com/news/2016/nov/15/151116-the-fa-opens-its-coaching-bursary-applications-process>

For other CPD opportunities, check your local County FA website, or for specific enquiries or to arrange junior football leaders award, teacher training for the junior football leaders award and the FA primary teachers' awards (subject to minimum group sizes), contact Andy.weston@schoolsfa.com

A reminder that you can find out about pitch hire through the FA's approved pitch website, found here:

<http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>

A further reminder that you should only use FA approved 3G pitches as playing on unapproved pitches will invalidate insurance.

If you are looking for a grass pitch (and in the case of the last link, sports halls and meeting rooms) you might also find these websites helpful:

<https://pitchfinder.org.uk/>

<http://www.schoolsplus.co.uk/>

<http://www.schoolhire.co.uk/>

Members will be acutely aware that it is important that only fully qualified, and affiliated referees, are used by Associations. You can find match officials locally by contacting your County FA who have committed to providing Schools' Associations with the information they hold on approved officials. If you're not sure who to approach, or need further guidance, please contact Martin.Duffield@schoolsfa.com or Ed.Mitchell@schoolsfa.com for further information.

WHAT'S INIT FOR ME?



At the AGM in September, we launched our membership survey, inviting you to help guide the priorities for the ESFA. 66 Associations contributed and, as promised, these pages highlight the matters prioritised by you in the survey, along with Council's response to each of those matters. Thank you to those of you who took the time to participate.



- **You said that the most important thing was for the ESFA to help fund pitch hire, match officials and match day travel, and to advise Associations on other funding opportunities.**

o Council: we must conclude our governance reforms to enhance our chances of obtaining funds directly from government and not via a third party, and following your mandate at the AGM, are working through that process. We are also lobbying the FA and the Premier League. Whilst we are in receipt of funding with restrictive conditions, our options for this remain limited. However, we are actively seeking new sponsors for our representative game and in the meantime, hope you found the last edition of Membership Matters helpful, with ideas for local sponsorship "pitches".

- **You said that you would like some help in recruiting and rewarding volunteers.**

o Council: the coming months will see some proposals developed with a view to recruiting volunteers through a national campaign. In the meantime, we are piloting the direct approach – to schools in the Midlands that enter our national competitions – to try to stimulate interest amongst current schoolteachers. We also asked in edition 2 of "Membership Matters" for your volunteers to tell us why they got involved in schools' football, and what they'd want by way of recognition: sadly, this elicited no response but if you'd like to feed into the development of the proposals, please do so by contacting andrea.chilton@schoolsfa.com

- You asked for a dedicated page on the website

o Council: This has been agreed through the website development programme which will conclude its first phase at the end of this season. In the meantime, the fixture hub is now operational and can be found by logging in to the portal



- A number of you asked for us to continue with this newsletter but to hold more local events so that membership can engage in consultation more frequently.

o Council: we will determine at the start of the year what we can and should practically do on local consultation for the season. We're happy to hold a small number of official events if business dictates, although in the past it's been difficult to get high levels of attendance. We will continue talking to membership about this issue.

- You asked for advice on finding facilities and finding match officials, so we've put this on the front cover of this edition of Membership Matters. You also asked for advice on where to find CPD opportunities, and the latest on this is also on the front page.



- You said you thought it was important for us to continue to provide a national competitions structure, advice from child welfare specialists and clarity on rules and regulations. You also said it was important for us to continue to act as the voice of schools' football with footballing authorities. So we will continue with these whilst always looking for opportunities to improve how we work.





Merry Christmas