

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2022

Chair, Members of the Board and Members of the Association,

I am delighted to be writing this year's report after the completion of a full programme of football during the 2021-2022 season, in contrast to the two previous seasons which were significantly affected by the pandemic. Thanks go to all involved who have supported the successful return of the game across the county.

The Association has produced a strong set of financial results for the past 12 months, delivering a net profit of £12,428 for the year up to 30th June 2022. Thanks once again go to the Board of Directors, and in particular Iain Broom, our Finance Director. The financial climate for businesses has clearly been very difficult since March 2020 and I am delighted that we have managed to navigate through this period and keep the company in a healthy financial position.

I am happy to report that the Association successfully undertook our latest FA Safeguarding Operating Standard assessment in June 2022. This year's assessment was conducted by The NSPCC, who have been newly appointed by The FA to oversee the delivery of the Operating Standard across the County FA network. It was extremely satisfying to see our work in this area recognised once again, as we met the standard on the day of the assessment, which was a great credit to everyone involved. Particular thanks should go to Chris Doherty, from Lancashire FA, who worked with us for 16 months on a consultancy basis as our Designated Safeguarding Officer and also to Clair Shield, for their expertise and professionalism in supporting our preparations for the assessment. Clair has subsequently been appointed as our new Designated Safeguarding Officer and I am sure she will continue to deliver the high standards and support that we have come to expect in this important area of work.

At the time of writing the current staff employed by the Association are as follows:

Steven Wade	Chief Executive Officer
Andy Clay	Head of Football Development & Operations
Courtney Jones	Events & Partnerships Manager
Ross Joyce	Referee Development Manager
Aimee Leonard	Football Operations Officer
Lesley Clark	Football Operations Officer
Donna Crowthers	Football Development Officer
Jasmine Morris	Football Development Officer
Clair Shield	Designated Safeguarding Officer
James Hadman	Active Through Football Programme Manager
Jordan Cotterill	Active Through Football Game Changer
Shamaela Khan	Active Through Football Game Changer

A restructure of the workforce has taken place over the last twelve months, with Andy Clay permanently taking on the management of the Football Development and Operations teams in his new role as Head of Football Development & Operations. We have also recently recruited Courtney Jones to the newly created position of Events & Partnerships Manager. I am delighted to welcome Courtney to the team, and I am sure she will have a very positive impact upon the Association over the coming years in supporting the delivery of high quality events and improving our commercial performance.

In January 2022 we were delighted to launch our Active Through Football Programme, 'Shape the Play', across Stockton Central and Thornaby. The five-year programme, funded by the Football Foundation, aims to improve the activity levels of residents across the area. James, Jordan and Shamaela have had an immediate impact, in a very short space of time and I look forward to hearing further stories of their success as the initiative continues to expand and develop.

The Association has been shortlisted in three categories at The FA's County FA Recognition Awards and huge credit should go to the staff team for their efforts in this achievement. It is fantastic to have the work of North Riding FA recognised on a national level and it would be great to go one step further and be selected as the winner in one of the categories at the upcoming awards ceremony at Wembley Stadium.

Our current Board of Directors is as follows:

Chair – Barry Casterton
CEO – Steven Wade
Board Safeguarding Champion – Dave Goodwin
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Director – Helena Bowman
Finance Director – Iain Broom
Football Development Director – John Campbell
Health & Wellbeing Director – Joe Chidanyika

Adrian Bevington and Rose Stoker stepped down from their positions as Directors of the Association during the 2021-22 season due to other commitments. I would particularly like to thank Adrian for his efforts and support to me during his time on the Board over recent years. Unfortunately, Rose was only with us for a very short period but I thank her too for her time with the Association. The Board will shortly be looking to recruit new Directors to further increase the knowledge and expertise within the business

The Association's Cup Competitions were successfully completed once again. My thanks go to the members of the Competitions Committee; Aimee Leonard and Lesley Clark from our Football Operations Team; Paul Stalker for his work in appointing referees and our Referee Development Manager, Ross Joyce, for their excellent work and assistance in ensuring that all of the Competitions were efficiently administered, and the resulting Finals were successfully completed.

Many congratulations go to the Cup Finalists and appointed Match Officials. The winners of each competition are listed below:

Senior Cup	Scarborough Athletic FC
Saturday County	Boro Rangers FC
Sunday County	Belle Vue Rovers FC
Saturday Challenge	South Park Rangers FC
Sunday Challenge	Newlands Park FC
Women's	York City Ladies FC
Under 19	Haxby Town FC
Junior Under 12	Marton Juniors FC
Junior Under 12 Girls	Boro Rangers FC
Junior Under 13	Boro Rangers FC
Junior Under 14	Boro Rangers FC
Junior Under 14 Girls	T.I.B.S. FC

Junior Under 15	Boro Rangers FC
Junior Under 16	Boro Rangers FC
Junior Under 16 Girls	Thornaby FC

The first year of our new three-year business strategy has been a good one for the Association. We have seen a rise in player numbers across the male and female player pathways and are seeing encouraging progress in players returning to the disability pathway after the pandemic. Over 100 new referees were trained during the 2021-22 season and the large majority of these have now been converted to fully fledged referees. The number of referees achieving promotion was also healthy, although slightly below our testing FA KPI in this area. The number of youth teams with a qualified coach remains high, with over 86% of our teams in this category. In addition, we supported nearly 300 coaches to access ongoing CPD for their role. We have also overseen an improvement in the number of good grass pitches across the county. All of the above is a credit to our staff and the army of committed volunteers working within the game across the county.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the of the staff who continue to do a superb job in supporting football across North Riding. I would also like to thank the Directors and Members for their excellent advice and guidance.

Best wishes to all involved in football across North Riding for the 2022-23 season.

Kind Regards, Steven Wade, Chief Executive and Company Secretary