

OXFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2024 at 6.40pm at Kidlington Football Club

The register of those persons in attendance was completed.

Chairman's Remarks:

Dave Tutton, the Oxfordshire FA Chair opened the meeting and thanked those present for their attendance. He began by reminding those present that the County FA were approaching their 140th anniversary. He stated that he was looking forward to the upcoming Awards Evening at the Oxford United Kassam Stadium this coming Saturday (29 June 2024) as an opportunity to recognise our volunteers.

He also mentioned Brian King who was standing down as a Director who had been involved with the Oxfordshire FA since 2005 and thanked him for his service.

Chief Executive's Annual Report:

Jonathan Duckworth as the Oxfordshire FA Chief Executive then presented an overview of the details which had been circulated with the notice of this Annual General Meeting.

He reminded everyone how the request at the 2023 AGM for local clubs with appropriate venues to be given an open opportunity to tender to host our County Cup Finals had been delivered upon and thanked all those who had engaged in the process for the 2023/24 season: Banbury, North Leigh, Thame and Kidlington Football Clubs. He said that doing so successfully demonstrated the qualities local clubs across the county could offer.

He went on to thank the small Oxfordshire staff team who work tirelessly to help, support and provide inclusive local football, and he also emphasised our gratitude to Steve Honey who having retired from the Oxfordshire FA team acknowledged that appreciation.

He talked about areas where the Oxfordshire FA could help in supporting local leagues, clubs and communities with the strategic aims being to continue help improve playing facilities, club and league accreditations, and ensure closer collaboration. The aim is to ensure an inclusive, safe, supportive and enjoyable environment for all. He shared details of the new Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan delivery, the wellbeing resources to support club and league Welfare Officers on our website, savings for every affiliated club on insurance and access to other benefits and discounts secured through our partners.

He then highlighted the hard work Nigel Saverton and his small Football Services Support Team do for discipline, refereeing, safeguarding and wellbeing as well as helping everyone with the challenges that nationwide FA IT system issues created for affiliation and player registration.

Next, he unveiled new volunteering initiatives for the coming season programme which he hoped would encourage more people to feel involved and the possibilities of supporting innovative apprenticeship programmes for young people through football as well as being able to afford for the first time for five years to have an in-person annual end of season awards evening on 29 June 2024 to acknowledge and show our appreciation for the wonderful work volunteers freely do for local grassroots football in the community.

He then turned to the Oxfordshire FA finances, which at the time of his appointment were in a poor position, with annual losses each year since Covid and a forecast budget deficit of £70,000 for 2023/24. He reported that with hard work, prudent management and through successfully engaging with local businesses for sponsorship and community support he was able to report a predicted financial break-even and balanced budget for the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

He thanked everyone for listening and invited any questions:

1. Affiliation Process: There are again a number of nationwide FA IT issues affecting affiliation at the moment so he had agreed an extension to the affiliation period to help everyone resolve those.
2. Coaching and local volunteering: for the 2024/28 Strategic Plan there would be a renewed focus on promoting the Respect Campaign, accreditation, EDI, tangible volunteer incentives and rewards, new injury prevention coaching techniques and support for more flexible facilities and county-wide football opportunities.

RESOLUTIONS:

There were four resolutions on the agenda which needed to be voted on and then proxy votes included in the count:

Resolution 1: To formally approve the minutes of the last Oxfordshire FA Annual General Meeting held on 28 June 2023, which had already been shared as a draft and were still downloadable from our website.

Agreed

Resolution 2: In taking up his role on 1 July 2023 our new Chief Executive, Jonathan Duckworth, inherited a forecasted budget loss of £70,000 for the 2023/2024 financial year. By the end of the current financial year on 30 June 2024 our accountants now forecast that the inherited deficit will have been successfully cleared with a financial break-even achieved. Article 23 of the current Oxfordshire FA Articles of Association requires that “an Annual General Meeting shall be held in each financial year”. In order to ensure that the Annual Accounts can be properly prepared and audited as appropriate so that in future they can be presented at each Annual General Meeting rather than a year later it is proposed that that the wording of Article 23 is changed to “an Annual General Meeting shall be held within two months of the end of each financial year”.

Agreed

Resolution 3: To consider the following proposed amendments with effect from the date they are voted upon at the 27 June 2024 Annual General Meeting to the current Oxfordshire FA Articles of Association which will then ensure that the Oxfordshire FA is fully compliant with the FA Code of Governance requirements:

a) To remove Article 16.3 which currently restricts our Inclusion and Advisory Group Chair to only being an Observer rather than having equal voting rights in the same way as all the other Oxfordshire FA Board Members.

b) To introduce an additional Article 17.4: "All Independent Directors must be appointed in accordance with Article 16.1.2 and on 3-year terms, which may only be further extended with the written endorsement of the Nominations Committee and for a further 2 such 3-year terms from the date of their ratification at the Board Meeting immediately following the first Annual General Meeting at which such terms are introduced."

Agreed

Resolution 4: In accordance with the following Oxfordshire FA Articles of Association, an Elected Director is defined as having been appointed:

Agreed

Eddie Odhiambo was unanimously elected as a Director for the next 3 years.

There were no notifications for any other business.

Conclusion:

Dave Tutton thanked Jonathan Duckworth for his all his hard work and his presentation and said how much he was now looking forward to the upcoming season. He concluded by thanking everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.40pm