

Annual General Meeting Agenda

Thursday 1st September 2022



THE FUTURE OF EWFL

- Don't repeat the mistakes made this year. Identify them and then put people and processes in place to make them work correctly.

(Mistakes have been made this season, we have looked at resolving them so that next season will run more smoothly)

- Concentrate on quality and thereby enhance the reputation of the league.

(We do have the quality at all age groups. Over the next month we will be looking at how we structure our Divisions. This will allow for those teams that wish competitive football will be put into Division 1 Division 2 will be for teams that still like competitive football but have not reached the standard required to play in Division 1, Division 3 will be for the teams in the lower half of Division 2 of this season. This is for the 50s only.)



(60 will possibly have 2 to 3 Divisions depending on Numbers. There will be scope for teams to move up a Division as well as Down.)

(65s will have 2 Divisions, and have the same promotion and demotion as the 60s)

(70s depending on the numbers we could have 1 possibly 2 Divisions.)

- Forget quantity by looking for more clubs or creating more competitions.
- Run the league over a shorter season (ie 5 months; March - July).

(We would like to propose that Divisions are made up of no more than 8 Teams. Playing just Home and Away. This will give a maximum of 14 games to be competed over five tournaments from April till the end of July.

- Play any Cup competitions after the league is completed rather than alongside it.

(Cup Games will be played September)

- Ideally have one person for each specific role so they can do it better and don't expect them to do multiple things as well.

(Trying to find extra people to help out on the committee has always been nearly impossible but we are trying.)

- Be transparent on the fees clubs and players have to pay to the EWFL (**it is not on the agenda**) and how money will be spent.

(Fees for next season were discussed at a Management Committee Meeting and the



minutes sent out to the Clubs as well as being Put on the App. The fees this season were set by the Treasurer who was adamant that our fees were too high. Unfortunately, after sending these out a member Club pointed out that if we stuck to the proposed fees the league would run at a very large loss. Hence the Treasurer resigned. We have looked at the finances for next season, as per minutes of a Management Committee Meeting the proposed fees are as follows.)

(Team Membership £50)

(Player registration £5 per Player)

) Tournament Fees £50 Per Team)

(Match Officials Fees £40

(I Have spoken to Bill and he assures me that there will be no increase for the rental of Billericay Town. Unfortunately, Chelmsford (Melbourne Park 3G will have an increase in pitch hire next season.)

(The increase in on incoming fees will be used to purchase the extra Trophies we will need while the League is still growing. We will have to purchase more line markers for Chelmsford and another complete set for Billericay.)

LAWS OF THE GAME

- These will always be the English FA's with specific EWFL amendments.
- Will the removal of "no tackle" make the game more enjoyable or safer?
- Should we still allow a goal to be scored direct from a corner? It is just another dead ball situation and they can't be scored from frees or kick-ins!

MAKEUP OF (LEAGUE) DIVISIONS

- Will the top two teams in Division 2 this season be promoted and thereby replace the bottom two teams in Division 1?

(50s will require restructuring because of the numbers and will go to 3 Divisions.)

(All age groups will have a maximum of 8 teams. Each division will run a promotion and relegation system, At the end of this season more than two team will move down. From Division 1 into Division two the top four or five teams in Division 2 will remain and the remainder will form Division 3 At 50s.)

(60s and 65s will be dependent on numbers)

- As per the pre-agenda documentation our preferred Option is number 3.
- The number of teams in a division will ultimately depend on the number of teams wishing to play in any given age group.
- A case can be made for various structures (regional, one central hub, or each club hosts a set of fixtures). Simply get a consensus and then be honest and admit you can't please **all** the people **all** the time.
- Any chosen venue should be able to host 8 teams and all teams get at least 60 minutes of game time.

(I have received a proposal that the 50s have their Kick off time brought forward to

10am. That we would agree is a much better kick off time. It leaves at least half a day that could be spent with our families. I have contacted Chelmsford Council with a request to change our booking to 10 till 12 instead of 12 till 2. Unfortunately, one Club has booked that slot for the whole season. However I can pre-book the 10 till 12 slots for season 2024 if the members wish.)

- What happens if one club has 2 teams in a division due to relegation or promotion (can that work)?

(An amendment can be inserted into our Rules restricting players from playing in more than one team in the same division.)

PLUS

- Prior to any set of EWFL fixtures, each team should receive (at least 48 hours prior to the date) a document that tells them their opposition, the rota of fixtures and the pitch they will be playing each game on.

(A Full set of fixtures will go onto the App by the end of this season, along with each games pitch allocation.)

(Also, on the Tournament page a full set of dates for League and Club Tournaments.)

- The EWFL need to make it crystal clear that it is NO LONGER acceptable for teams to turn up at a venue and expect everything to be done for them! And then idle around waiting for someone else to do all the work.

- THE EWFL should make it MANDATORY for each pair of teams to set out the pitch they are going to first play on and clear the pitch they finish playing on.

(As far as match day etiquette goes, I have been trying all season to get everyone to help set up and clear away. Most of the match officials now help. At the AGM it will be made perfectly clear that each team will set up their own half of the pitch on their first game. And on the last game will clear away their half.

COMPETITIONS

- The league should be the premier competition. It should not be diluted or compromised by trying to accommodate a cup competition within its schedule.

- Rather than looking to create more competitions for the existing age groups, focus on groups not currently catered for.

- For example, an over 55s league, an over 60s **weekend** league, a women's round robin competition (eg once a quarter until 8 teams are playing regularly).

REFEREES

- The EWFL should now work with Essex FA to **tailor their existing FA referee courses** to the needs of our sport.

- Any referee completing the FA's Walking Football Workshop should be asked to **run the line** at least 2 sets of EWFL fixtures prior to officiating any games in the EWFL.

- Prior to any set of EWFL fixtures, each referee should receive (at least 48 hours prior to the date) a document that tells them the match they will officiate, the rota of

fixtures they are due to referee and the pitch they will be officiating on.

- Every club should HAVE (or be expected to have) at least one EWFL referee within their membership by the end of the 2023 season.
- Clubs should actively request referees to officiate their training sessions on a regular basis.

(Derek and I have been visiting our Clubs to discuss how we move the League forward> At the same time we have been refereeing their training sessions. Over the past six week we have encouraged a number of new referees to come along to referee and get some experience. Clubs wishing League match officials to help out at training should either Contact the Referee secretary or myself.)

NEW CLUBS

- Any club thinking of joining should be encouraged to have a number of preseason friendlies against existing teams prior to formally applying for EWFL membership.

(Totally Agree.)

- New clubs should have to pay a non-refundable EWFL joining fee (equal to the match day fee) upon acceptance to the league.

(Also Agree Amount to be agreed at AGM)

- If they withdraw once the fixtures are set up, then they should be barred from reapplying to the league for 2 years.

(Not sure if we will be allowed to do that)

COUNTY CUPS

- Why do we think having more competitions is better for the league, its clubs and their players?
- It is in fact simply more work for some poor individual already giving up their spare time and personal energy!

(County Cups are not a mandatory requirement when Affiliating to the County. For those that I have asked the vast majority would like to enter. This would be a separate Competition that Could be arranged before or after we start our League programme. It would possibly be run on a round robin programme so that each team would get 3 games.)

(Ladies Walking Football, at the moment we are trying to set up a ladies Division.)

(Also, a mixed Competition for the Ladies and older Men's Division. Both are not a new idea as we advertise both on our website.)