Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Future of Football in Scotland
Date Group Established
28th October 2021
Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)
6th December 2022
Date Annual Return Submitted
5th October 2023
Date of Preceding AGM
N/A
Group Meetings and Activities   The group has had several meetings throughout the year. At the first meeting on the following was devised as the strategy for the group: • To create a platform with key stakeholders, to discuss how football (and community football clubs) can help support the population being more active, linked to the overall National Active Framework.   • To highlight and promote the 'Value of Football' and how local communities using the Scottish FA/UEFA SROI work to help influence Government Policy.   • Affordability – To debate and make recommendations on the issues of affordability for local community clubs accessing facilities.

• Accessibility (Community) – To debate and make recommendations on the issues facing local community clubs in relation to the accessibility of local facilities (for example, Schools lets, Community Asset Transfer).

• Accessibility (National) – To debate the accessibility of all Scottish football stadiums, highlighting best practice and make any suitable recommendations.

• To create a platform that highlights best practice in Scottish Football, which will enable the game to be driven forward at a national, grassroots and community level.

The first meeting focused on devising this ethos as well as listing the challenges facing Scottish Football as the pandemic lockdown period began to end. This included the effect that lockdowns had on grassroots and underage levels, as well as supporters. The SFA and Supporters Direct made presentations outlining these challenges.

Other aspects of Scottish Football that the group have discussed included player welfare and injury care for those across all levels of the sport. Fulton MacGregor MSP had previously discussed this issue with constituents in his capacity as MSP and raised it with the group.

The *Football For All Strategy* was also something examined by the CPG as the group discussed this strategy, which was to help remove the barriers to allow people to regardless of background to participate in the sport and work to create more community clubs are the heart of Scottish communities.

Approaching the end of 2022, the group discussed the possibility of hosting a Parliamentary Reception to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the SFA.

MSP Members of The Group	
Fulton MacGregor (SNP) Jeremy Balfour (Con) Colin Smyth (Lab) James Dornan (SNP) Maurice Golden (Con)	
Non-MSP Members of The Group	
Individuals	N/A
Organisations	Scottish Football Association Scottish Professional Football League SPFL Trust Scottish Women's Football Scottish Disabled Supporters' Association Scottish Football Supporters' Association Supporters' Direct Police Scotland FIFPro Professional Footballers' Association Sportscotland
Group Office Bearers	

Group Office Bearers

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office

bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Fulton MacGregor MSP
Deputy Convener	Jeremy Balfour MSP
Secretary	Paul McNeil (SFA)
Treasurer	Andy Gould (SFA)

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

Subscription Charged by the Group

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

Convener Contact Details

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