



Amateur Football Combination

Spirit of Football

www.amateurfootballcombination.com

President: A. MEYER, Esq.

Honorary Secretary: John Monk
Tel: 020 8366 7704

Chairman: J. BUTTRESS, Esq.

5 Robson Close, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8PZ
secretary@amateurfootballcombination.com

AFC Constitution Survey Autumn 2006- Summary

Arguments and Recommendations

The main reason for the survey was to review the League structure and make recommendations for possible changes. It is clear that the majority of clubs in the North are happy with the present system. The majority of clubs want no change in the Senior Divisions. There is a clear mandate for change in the South and West.

We have made 8 recommendations based on the replies from the clubs. These are detailed below. The results of the survey in full are also included with this letter.

Please do remember that these recommendations are still up for discussion and consultation. We would encourage all the clubs to contact Bob Coates with any points they wish to raise.

Recommendation 1 Make no changes to the present structure of the Senior Divisions.

Recommendation 2 For season 2007/08 Senior 2 will contain 12 teams.

In my judgment the Constitution needs to meet or satisfy three tests. In order of importance these are

1. Reduce travel between SE and SW London;
2. Ensure the continued viability of the West;
3. At this time minimize any disruption in the North.

The vote certainly shows that we need to split the South into SE and SW. The question is where do we split it and how? Do we create new regions or sub regions?

When reviewing the possible structures for the regions we must remember that we are restricted by, the number of teams; the sizes of the divisions; and the number of teams in certain clubs. We currently have around 300 non senior teams. This translates into around 28 non senior divisions. Any plans must ensure we keep to 28 divisions.

We have looked at numerous suggestions and if we accept there is a need for further regionalisation in the South then there are really only three choices.

Option 1 - Keep 3 regions as they are but have 2 sub regions in the South;

Option 2 - Keep 3 regions but have North, South West, and South East;

Option 3 - Have 2 Intermediate regions, and split the regions into 4 below 2 North and 2 South.

Options 2 and 3 will mean changing the present structure for the North. Option 3 also means that some of the present Intermediate sides and possibly some in Senior 3 will be in effect relegated. I don't believe we are mandated to make these changes for next season, but I would certainly argue that a combination of 2 and 3 comes into effect for season 2008/09. I will come back to these options later.

Option 1 allows us to provide more regional football in the South without involving teams in the West and the North.

Recommendation 3 Split the South into 2 sub regions below 4 South - for 2007/08

There are insufficient teams to split the South from Intermediate South. It is only just viable to split below 2 south. The best fit is to split at 4 South. Any split should be based on clusters. We are recommending that SE London should be one cluster; and West Surrey and Barnes the other. Teams in one cluster will not play against teams in the other cluster.

South West Cluster:- Economicals; Fulham Compton Old Boys; Heathrow Seniors; Mickleham Old Boxhillians; Old Dorkinians; Old Guildfordians; Old Meadonians; Old Paulines; Old Tiffinians; Old Wokingians; Shene Old Grammarians; Temple Bar; The Comets; Wandsworth Borough; Witan

Either Way:- BBC; Glyn Old Boys; JP Morgan Chase; Kings College Old Boys; Old Suttonians; Old Tenisonians; Old Thorntonians; Reigatians; Sinjuns Grammarians.

South East Cluster:- British Council; Centymca; Chislehurst Sports; Citigroup; City of London; Clapham Old Xaverians; Coutts & Co.; Credit Suisse; Honourable Artillery Company; John Fisher Old Boys; Marsh; Nat West Bank; Old Belgravians; Old Bromleians; Old Josephians; Old St Marys; Old Sedcopians; Old Strandians; Old Whitgiftians; Royal Bank of Scotland; Royal Sun Alliance; Valley Park Rangers; Zurich Eagle Star.

Recommendation 4 There will be no change in the North and West for season 2007/08. Any proposed changes for 2008/09 should be made by November 2007.

There is no clear mandate in the North to have 4 regions or sub regions. Most clubs appear to hold the view that the proposed changes have nothing to do with them. However, the Western region is not viable in the long term. There are too many large clubs for such a small region. We attempted to place teams from North Surrey into the West and that failed at the AGM. The only viable alternative is to split the regions and move clubs to the South and the North.

In Option 2 we would look at the creation of 3 new regions; North, South West and South East. The SE would contain all the proposed SE Cluster plus many from the either way group. The SW would include all the proposed SW Cluster and sides from the southern half of the present West. The remaining clubs in the West would then go to the North.

This would provide more viable football for all the teams in the West. However teams in the North would then be faced with increased journeys, e.g. Parkfield to Davenant, Uxonians to London Hospital. We would need to introduce 2 sub regions in the North from around 4 North to ease the travel problems of lower sides

Option 3 splits the regions into two, North and South. Each region would have Intermediate, divisions 1 to 3. Below Division 3 in each region there would be two sub regions. The 4 sub regions would be NE, NW, SW, and SE. The borders would be cluster based.

North East Cluster:- Bealonians; Davenant Wanderers Old Boys; Egbertians; Hale End Athletic; Leyton County Old Boys; London Hospital Old Boys; Old Buckwellians; Old Edmontonians; Old Gladstoneians; Old Parmiterians; Queen Mary College Old Boys; William Fitt; Wood Green Old Boys.

Either:- Albanian, Enfield Old Grammarians, Latymer Old Boys, Mill Hill County Old Boys, Mill Hill Village, Mayfield Athletic, Old Aloysians, Old Camdenians, Old Ignatians, Old Minchendenians, Old Tollingtonians, Old Woodhouseians, Queen Mary College Old Boys, Ravenscroft Old Boys, Southgate County, UCL Academicals, University of Hertfordshire.

North West Cluster:- Birkbeck College; Ealing Association; Holland Park Old Boys; Old Challoners; Old Danes; Old Kolsassians; Old Uxonians; Old Vaughanians; Parkfield; Pegasus; Phoenix Old Boys.

Recommendation 5 From 2007/08 there will be 12 sides in Senior 2 and similar divisions

Recommendation 6 Teams must accept promotion unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Recommendation 7 Two or more teams from the same club will not be allowed to play in the same division.

The barrier we have to maximum regionalisation is the restriction that we don't want more than one team from a club in the same division, and this restricts the ability to place teams from larger clubs within a region

Recommendation 8 The Fixtures Committee to continue its present policy on squads and the relative playing strengths of teams.

Any clubs who have any points they wish to raise should contact the Chairman of the AFC Constitution Committee, Bob Coates.

Bob Coates (Chairman – AFC Constitution Committee)

31 Parkway, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7HY. Tel: 01293 773 194. E-Mail: r.w.coates@btinternet.com