

AFC Club Committee – Note for the League Executive Meeting 21st October 2019

Clubs Survey Results Summary

Key Stats:

156 responses 239 Total visits 221 Unique visits
70.6% Completion rate 5.01 Minutes average time to complete

Questions:

1 Club ID

The following 17 clubs did NOT contribute

Blackheath Wanderers	Clapham OX	Cissold Park Ranger	Enfield OG	Glynn OB
Hale End Athletic	IB Albion	Kings OB	Lea valley	London Hospital
Nat West Bank	Old Palms	Old Pegasonians	Reigations	Somerville OB
Tilbury Regents	Mickleham OB			

2 How do you rate the communications from the AFC?

76% of replies “good” or “very good”

Clubs are generally happy.

3 How do you rate information in the following communications

Weekly bulletin – 3.6 out of 5 – 72%. Considered good

Website – 3.7 out of 5 – 74%. Considered good

Twitter – 3.0 out of 5 – 60%. Considered average – see comments in Q4 c) below

AFC Officers – 3.5 out of 5 – 70%. Considered good

Full Time – 3.7 out of 5 – 74%. Considered good

4 How would you improve communications from the AFC

113 replies to this specific question.

A few specific points to focus on moving forward drawn from specific comments:

(a) a more constructive and positive approach to club issues from the league secretary

(b) greater clarity and simplicity in weekly bulletins

(c) develop and improve Twitter and tech/app. Clubs seem to want to see a more social media-based approach to regular communications

5 What is the biggest obstacle to getting and/or retaining players?

Biggest issues are commitment and distance, which are linked. Commitment may be a generational issue and not one the league can address itself. However, reducing travel time would improve commitment.

6 How far is reasonable to travel to an away game?

Up to 60 minutes controlled 85% of responses showing that up to an hour travel is overwhelmingly the maximum time clubs would like to see.

It appears from Q5 above that the issue of retaining players is affected by distance to a game, but further regionalisation is not possible within the AFC structure. The only potential solution would be to consider a merger with other like-minded leagues with similar issues and who's structure would be complimentary to the AFCs. Not an immediate problem but we should start planning for future

7 Should clubs be able to call off higher teams?

Never – 45% Twice/season – 25% Once/season – 17% More than twice/season – 8%

Other – 5%

The Clubs committee do not consider this a compelling enough result to change the existing AFC rules.

8 Would you retain more players if you could play squads?

Yes – 36% No – 34% N/A – 30% (one side clubs)

The Clubs committee do not consider this a compelling enough result to change the existing AFC rules.

9 Is movement of players between teams an issue for your club?

Yes – 43% No – 51% N/A – 7%

With an equal split on replies it was felt by the Clubs committee that player movement rules should be maintained by the league.

10 Do you think hospitality for away teams and referees should be a requirement?

Yes – 84% No – 16%

A compelling response that hospitality should be maintained.

11 Do you think the AFC should allow Club Assistant/Club Linesmen to assist Referees in matches?

Yes – 59% No – 41%

This question was included at the request of the Referees committee. The Clubs committee felt there is a strong enough positive response to mandate the referees committee to consider further.

Reporting of Results to Clubs

The Clubs committee felt that having asked clubs to take the time to respond we should now share the results with them.

However, the Clubs committee did not feel that this advisory note to the Exec should be shared only the actual results, which could be issued fact-based report form with the following covering note:

The responses provided to the league survey demonstrate that, in the main, the league is running well.

For future strategic consideration by the league Executive, the Clubs committee will recommend the Executive consider the following three themes which did emerge being;

- *what can be done regarding distance/time of travel to games*
- *to advance the leagues use of technology*
- *to improve communications*

If you have any specific issues, we can help with then please let us know. Thank you to all who took the survey.