



All-Party Parliamentary Group for American Football Ordinary Meeting Minutes 1900, 23 April 2018, Room O Portcullis House

Meeting commenced 1908

In attendance

Members: Peter Bone MP (in the Chair); Gavin Newlands MP; Chris Stephens MP

Organisational Associate Members: Ian Miles (Kent Phoenix); Gur Samuel, Judith Ineson (American Football Development); Rob Rooksby (BAFA); Phoebe Schecter (London Rebels); Kenny Bello (London Rebels)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Andrew Phillips; Ian Barnsby; Roger Smithies

Secretariat: Mark Ramsdale

Other: Jordan Ayres (Office of Peter Bone MP)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting.

Apologies

Organisational Associate Members: Owain Davies (Level Playing Field); Martin Jeffkins (Kent Exiles)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): David Maddox

Secretariat: Jack Baker

Correspondence

- The Chair wrote to a number of NFL clubs, asking if they would like to join the Group.
- The Secretariat and Chair had exchanges with the NFL.
- An invitation was extended to Jacksonville Jaguars to present at a future Group meeting.
- Information was received from BAFA on their new schools football website.
- An email was received from associate member Level Playing Field, outlining the work that they do to support disabled spectators and ensure that they have an equal experience.

The Chair noted that the Group was trying to form a better relationship with the NFL.

Group Activity Report

Parliamentary

At DCMS questions in November, the Chair raised growth in American football in the UK, and asked the Secretary of State what efforts were being made to attract an NFL franchise to London. The Secretary of State paid tribute to the work of the Group, and responded that the government wanted to continue to promote American football in the UK, and discussions were ongoing about a full time franchise.

An early day motion was tabled by Vice-Chair Gavin Newlands MP, congratulating BAFA on becoming the School Games NGB of the Year for 2017. BAFA entered the School Games in September 2016 and provided opportunities for

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over 4,000 children to take part in the first year. Working closely with the NFL, a unique non-contact flag football competition has been developed to provide children with a wide experience of American football.

An early day motion was tabled by Vice-Chair Chris Stephens MP, welcoming the announcement of three NFL London Games for 2018, and hoping that a decision would be made to establish a full franchise in London in the coming years.

Public

The Group issued press releases on:

- Its first meeting of this Parliament;
- The Chair's exchange with the Secretary of State at DCMS questions;
- The early day motion congratulating BAFA on becoming School Games NGB of the Year
- The early day motion on the announcement of the NFL's London Games 2018.

Future Group Activities

There was a discussion around future Group activities, including a possible visit to Tottenham Hotspur's new stadium, and the Group's relationship with the NFL.

The NFL London Games were discussed, as were opportunities for events and dinners in Parliament around these and the Super Bowl.

There was also a discussion around Parliamentary Flag Football.

Opportunities to get MPs to local clubs were highlighted.

There was a discussion around facilities for clubs around the country, as well as youth infrastructure, coaching and refereeing support.

Opportunities to grow the game in schools were discussed.

Meeting closed at 1922.

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