



# All-Party Parliamentary Group for American Football

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 24 October 2018, Room O Portcullis House

Meeting commenced 1803

### In attendance

**Members:** Peter Bone MP (in the Chair); Chris Stephens MP; Gavin Newlands MP; Lord Taylor of Warwick; Lady Taylor of Warwick

**Organisational Associate Members:** Ian Miles (Kent Phoenix); Rob Rooksby, Nichole McCulloch (BAFA); Calvin Tarlton (London Rebels); Soaad Stott, Francois Clement (Populous); Neil Hickey (Level Playing Field); Marc White (Solent Seahawks); Rudolph Dominick (London Rebels)

**Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation):** Martin Jefkins; Luke Boorer; Roger Smithies; Ian Barnsby; Josh Selous; Graham Lancaster; Carl Dalby

**Secretariat:** Jack Baker; Mark Ramsdale

**Other:** Hussain Naqi (Jacksonville Jaguars); Jordan Ayres (Office of Peter Bone MP); Davide Carr

### Welcome

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, and particularly guest speaker Hussain Naqi from Jacksonville Jaguars.

### Apologies

**Members:** Catherine West MP; Tom Pursglove MP

**Organisational Associate Members:** Calvin Tarlton (London Rebels)

### Correspondence

- The Chair wrote to Jacksonville Jaguars, inviting them to present at the meeting.
- The NFL made contact regarding an appointment for a visa for a player. The Chair provided support.
- An invitation from BAFA for Members to attend a Wheelchair American Flag Football session in Gravesend was received and circulated.
- Information on BAFA Schools Manager Rob Rooksby's appointment to the National Council for School Sports was received.
- An email was received from an associate member regarding the proposed sale of Wembley Stadium to Shahid Khan, suggesting the Group made representations to the FA to request a percentage of this money be provided for the development of American football. **Action: Group to look to pursue.**
- An invitation from William Hill for Members of the Group to attend the Seahawks vs Raiders game was received and circulated. The Chair wrote back, thanking them for their invitation.
- An email was received from Populous, the architects who designed Tottenham Hotspur's new stadium, offering to present to the Group. **Action: Secretariat to organise a date.**
- An email was received from Kent Phoenix, offering to present to the Group.

Delivered by:



## **Group Activity Report**

### Parliamentary

In a written question to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Chair asked what assessment had been made of the effect of the potential sale of Wembley Stadium on participation rates in association football and American football.

The Minister for Sport responded that the department, along with Sport England and the Greater London Authority were discussing the potential sale of Wembley stadium with the Football Association and would be seeking further detail on how such a deal could help the development of the grassroots game in this country and support more people to participate in sport.

The Chair noted that there was significant support from the Minister and government for the sale of Wembley.

**Action: Group to look to support process.**

### Public

The Group issued press releases on:

- Shahid Khan's bid to buy Wembley Stadium.
- Ahead of the presentation by Jacksonville Jaguars

The Secretariat reminded the meeting that the Group had a twitter account, @ParliamentAFG.

## **Presentation: Hussain Naqi, Jacksonville Jaguars**

The Chair welcomed Hussain Naqi, Senior Vice President for International Development at Jacksonville Jaguars.

Naqi spoke to a brief presentation on the Jaguars commitment to the UK market, including to play at least one home game at Wembley Stadium every year until at least 2020.

It was noted that the Jaguars had called the UK their second home since 2013, resulting in a passionate and growing UK fan base, popular grassroots programmes and a year-round presence in the national media.

Fan and audience demographics were discussed, and a relatively young fan base was identified. The Jaguars brand was also raised, and highlighted as being on the rise.

There was discussion of a number of grassroots programmes, including JagTag, Reward Rows and the Jaguars Se7ens Cup. Commercial opportunities were also raised.

Opening to questions there was discussion of expanding grassroots programmes across the UK including to Scotland, and Naqi noted that a programme had already been extended to Edinburgh.

Links between NFL UK, BAFA, clubs and schools were discussed, as was a need to further develop these.

There was further discussion of the Jaguars relationship with the NFL. **Action: Group to invite NFL to present at next meeting.**

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking Naqi for his presentation.

**Meeting closed at 1852.**