

**Leicester City and County Football League**  
**(including Mini-Soccer)**  
**Clubs Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 6th September 2011**  
**at Holmes Park, Whetstone, Leicester.**  
**At 7pm**

**Present**

Committee members:- Mark Cox (Chairman) Ruth Dewis (Secretary), Lesley Batchelor (Treasurer), Louise Boston (CWO), Adie Thornborrow (Ref sec), Jason Morris (Website officer) and Adam Holyoake (County FA Rep).  
All teams present except Braunstone Trinity, Desford Ladies, GNG, Quorn Juniors

**Apologies**

Julie Rossa (Fixture sec) and Sam Anderson (Registration and Results sec)

Mark Cox explained that the meeting would be a time of discussion rather than a formal meeting to discuss the recruitment and retention of players.

**Presentation**

Mark shared some of the findings from a survey done by Loughborough University.

- Over ½ of females would like to play more sport
- 47% said they wanted to do it for the enjoyment
- 16% wanted to do it as a form of socialising, (as opposed to only 4% boys saying they wanted to play sport as a form of socializing).
- 53% of girls can be contacted by the internet (eg.facebook)

What deters girls from playing grassroots football:-

- Bad coaching
- Bad team ethos
- Poor people skills by the adults.
- 22% girls have transport difficulties
- Not being listened to by the coaches
- Coaches who dictate.

What is more important for girls?

- Family sessions (games against parents, events including parents)
- Fun Days.
- NOT WINNING

The meeting then split into 2 groups. There was a discussion on the older age groups and one on the younger age groups.

**Discussion feedback**

**Feedback about the younger age groups**

7 a side information that was brought up

- Every other year leagues, making less but larger leagues giving more competition to better teams
- Young Leader Female Workshops
- All clubs to create young leaders from existing older teams
- More Female refs for 7 a side games, mini soccer refs course for this

- Limit goals to a 5 goal difference in games
- Development leagues every 2 year age brackets to run along side existing leagues at 7 - a - sides
- Central league venues on 7 - a - side
- Schools to play more of a part in female development
- Brownies football competitions
- Development leagues which allow new players to play with out fear

### **Feedback about the older age groups**

- Success – should the definition be “winning”.
- Success – could be defined as “increase in numbers in the squad”.
- Influence of Parents- especially on the sideline.
- Continuity- social events to encourage team spirit and sense of belonging of the girls.
- Coaches/ Referees – more female role models and offer courses within clubs.
- Player driven discussions and this then helps the girls to encourage one another and teach one another.
- Communication- use social networking sites to give out training info to the girls. (This is how many of the girls communicate to one another anyway. Follow “safe use of social network sites” guidelines).
- More inclusion from senior female role models
- Media coverage- if girls saw more coverage this would help. On a local level could the girls write the match reports?
- One problem is that if a girl is sporty (and boys too) they will be sporty in many areas and this means they commit to other team games.

### **A discussion after this feedback led to other ideas/ further info.**

WE don't encourage enough of the girls to take on training, e.g referee training - helping them to be role models.

Duke of Edinburgh schemes- part of this is working in the community, or learning a new skill.

Why was there not more ladies World Cup coverage on the TV? Surely changes about this should come from above.

Should we use the Leicester Mercury (for eg) to increase the coverage of the league. Should we have a press officer? Could we ask university journalist students to help here?

Has the FA ruling that girls can stay in boys teams longer really helped girls football?

Girl Guiding East Midlands have 4000 brownies on their books! Can we arrange something within local Girls Guides/Brownies groups?

Approach schools asking can we do a training session especially during “Healthy Schools Week”?

**WE MUST USE THE SUBS! Girls will refuse to come if they are not allowed to play regularly- playing for a “token” 10 mins is not acceptable. The term “use or lose” springs to mind!**

The meeting closed at 9pm

The next clubs meeting **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012** when the LEAGUE CUP DRAW will be done.

**Venue and time TBC**

