

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 7877720 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1145603

**Report of the Trustees and
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2016
for
The Football Conference Trust**



Boardman Conway
Statutory Auditors
23A High Street
Weaverham
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 3HA

The Football Conference Trust

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The Football Conference Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 May 2016

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2016. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
7877720 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1145603

Registered office
4th Floor
Waterloo House
20 Waterloo Street
Birmingham
B2 5TB

Trustees
R O Faulkner
B R Lee MBE
D Leman
S C Morgan - resigned 27.1.16
J D Pearce
N J Perchard - appointed 27.1.16

Auditors
Boardman Conway
Statutory Auditors
23A High Street
Weaverham
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 3HA

Solicitors
Bates Wells & Braithwaite London LLP, 2-6 Cannon Street, London EC4M 6YH

Bankers
National Westminster Bank plc, Northwich, Cheshire

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. In the event of the company being wound up the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustees

The charity is governed by the Trustees who meet four times a year and the meetings are attended by M Lock from The National League and S O'Brien the project manager, who act in an advisory and reporting capacity only. Each year one third of the trustees must retire but they may be reappointed and there must be a minimum of three at all times.

The trustees have been selected for their experience in football administration, knowledge of the beneficiary clubs and general business skills, together with their prominence as community figures. N J Perchard and D Leman have also been appointed as representatives of the major donors to assist with the objectives of the charity being met.

The Football Conference Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 May 2016

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

All decisions are made by the trustees at their meetings. The administration of the scheme is handled by the project manager, S O'Brien, who deals directly with each applicant and reports to the trustees on the proposed projects and advises on all payments to be made. M Lock from The National League assists the project manager on a day to day basis.

Related parties

Details of related parties and related party transactions are given in note 13 to the financial statements.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Funds are held on deposit at National Westminster Bank plc and are not invested where the capital is put at risk and all applications for grants are reviewed and approved by the trustees at their meetings. Interim payments are made towards the projects and the final payment is only made after production of evidence of the expenditure having been incurred.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims for the public benefit

The objectives of the charity are to promote the physical education of children and young persons, community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing football or other sports capable of improving physical health, to assist in providing facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of persons who have need for such facilities by reasons of age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare, and to advance the education of children and young people and provide opportunities for them to develop their full capacities to enable them to become responsible members of society.

Individual schemes are run by member clubs of The National League and these are grant aided by the charity through donations from the Premier League and Professional Footballers Association.

The trustees confirm they have reviewed the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy.

Grantmaking

The Trust invites applications for grants from member clubs of The National League towards schemes in line with the Trust's aims and objectives. If accepted by the trustees, clubs in the Premier Division can be awarded a grant of 65% of the projected costs with a maximum of £25,000 and clubs in the North and South Divisions can be awarded a grant of 75% with a maximum of £20,000.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Since taking over responsibility of the scheme on 1 April 2012 the trust has approved grants of £3,546,536, of which £874,066 relates to this year for new projects, and made payments towards schemes previously approved when administered by The National League. These projects included working with young people at risk of offending, supporting health initiatives, cheerleading, music, dance and other arts activities, encouraging volunteering, working with young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), helping different disability groups to play sport, creating educational initiatives for adults and children, working with isolated community groups, green projects, healthy eating and lifestyle and working in partnership with schools to deliver football coaching and other initiatives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Free reserves at 31 May 2016 amounted to £391,068 (2015 - £466,443). These are held for future grant claims and support costs in 2016/17 in restricted funds. Interest will continue to be received on the cash deposits and the trustees consider there are sufficient reserves to cover all expenditure in the coming year.

The Football Conference Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 May 2016

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources are the Premier League and the Professional Footballers Association who have donated £500,000 and £400,000 respectively in the year. The Premier League have agreed to pay £500,000 and the Professional Footballers Association £400,000 in 2016/17. An additional £300,000 has been agreed to be paid by The Premier League relating to a 'Premier League Primary Stars' project in 2016/17.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The charity plans to continue the activities in 2016/17 following the funding pledge as above and to complete the projects started in previous periods.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Football Conference Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

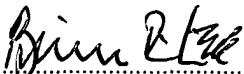
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Boardman Conway will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26.11.17 and signed on its behalf by:



B R Lee MBE - Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Football Conference Trust

We have audited the financial statements of The Football Conference Trust for the year ended 31 May 2016 on pages six to eleven. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities set out on page three, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2016 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
The Football Conference Trust**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

S. J. Conway

Steven Conway FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Boardman Conway
Statutory Auditors
23A High Street
Weaverham
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 3HA

Date: 30.11.17

The Football Conference Trust

**Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 May 2016**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.5.16 Total funds £	31.5.15 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	-	900,000	900,000	900,000
Investment income	3	-	3,513	3,513	5,096
Total incoming resources		-	903,513	903,513	905,096
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
Grants to clubs	4	-	974,830	974,830	1,135,510
Governance costs	7	-	4,058	4,058	5,341
Total resources expended		-	978,888	978,888	1,140,851
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		-	(75,375)	(75,375)	(235,755)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		-	466,443	466,443	702,198
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		-	391,068	391,068	466,443

The notes form part of these financial statements

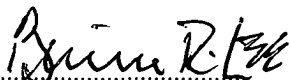
The Football Conference Trust

**Balance Sheet
At 31 May 2016**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.5.16 Total funds £	31.5.15 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	-	13,739	13,739	-
Cash at bank		-	1,229,535	1,229,535	1,440,047
		-	1,243,274	1,243,274	1,440,047
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	-	(852,206)	(852,206)	(973,604)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		-	391,068	391,068	466,443
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	391,068	391,068	466,443
NET ASSETS		-	391,068	391,068	466,443
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	12			391,068	466,443
TOTAL FUNDS				391,068	466,443

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26.1.17 and were signed on its behalf by:



B R Lee MBE -Trustee



N J Perchard -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Football Conference Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Voluntary income by way of donations are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Bank interest is included in the period it accrues.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. The charity is not registered for VAT, and expenditure is analysed inclusive of VAT where this has been incurred.

Support costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Grants payable are payments to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust. Grants are accounted for in the year in which they are awarded without condition.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. In the year to 31 May 2016 all funds are restricted and the balance on the funds are given in the notes to the financial statements.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	31.5.16	31.5.15
	£	£
Donations	900,000	900,000

The Football Conference Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 May 2016**

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.5.16	31.5.15
	£	£
Deposit account interest	3,513	5,093
Other interest receivable	-	3
	<u>3,513</u>	<u>5,096</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Grant funding of activities (See note 5)	Support costs (See note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Grants to clubs	<u>909,066</u>	<u>65,764</u>	<u>974,830</u>

5. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Year Ended 31.5.16	Year Ended 31.5.15
	£	£
Grants to Football Conference Premier clubs	415,001	535,084
Grants to Football Conference North clubs	291,976	285,977
Grants to Football Conference South clubs	207,766	259,058
Community Club Of The Year Awards	35,000	35,000
Grants withdrawn	(40,677)	(44,164)
	<u>909,066</u>	<u>1,070,955</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Other	Year Ended 31.5.16	Year Ended 31.5.15
	£	£	£	£
Administration support	4,709	-	4,709	5,180
Consultancy fees	47,875	-	47,415	46,791
Workshops	-	1,342	1,342	3,310
Public relations and media costs	-	7,401	7,401	6,664
Sundries	-	790	790	2,610
Travelling	-	3,647	3,647	-
	<u>52,584</u>	<u>13,180</u>	<u>65,764</u>	<u>64,555</u>

The Football Conference Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 May 2016**

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	31.5.16	31.5.15
	£	£
Legal fees	278	1,651
Auditors' remuneration	3,780	3,690
	<u>4,058</u>	<u>5,341</u>

8. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.5.16	31.5.15
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	<u>3,780</u>	<u>3,690</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 May 2016 nor for the year ended 31 May 2015.

Trustees' expenses

During the year two trustees were paid a total of £2,643 for travelling expenses. There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 May 2015.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.5.16	31.5.15
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>13,739</u>	<u>-</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.5.16	31.5.15
	£	£
Trade creditors	101	-
Grants awarded	808,519	930,613
Accrued expenses	43,586	42,991
	<u>852,206</u>	<u>973,604</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.6.15 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.5.16 £
Restricted funds			
Community Development Fund	466,443	(75,375)	391,068
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>466,443</u>	<u>(75,375)</u>	<u>391,068</u>

The Football Conference Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 May 2016

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Restricted funds			
Community Development Fund	903,513	(978,888)	(75,375)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>903,513</u>	<u>(978,888)</u>	<u>(75,375)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The National League charged the Trust £4,709 (2015 - £5,180) in respect of administration support, and £175 in respect of sundries (2015 - £1,039). At 31 May 2015 the Trust owed £1,177 (2015 - £500) in respect of these charges.

14. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is The Football Conference Limited, known as The National League, who is the sole member, although the charity is under the day to day control of the Trustees.