

THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS' ASSOCIATION SIGNS PRO-7 TO MANAGE EDUCATION AND AWARDS PROGRAMMES

PRO-7 WILL ENABLE PFA TO TRACK AND MANAGE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOTBALLERS

The Professional Footballers' Association, the world's longest established professional sportsmen's union, will be implementing Pro-7 - specialist record management software from ProTech Computer Systems - for managing educational awards and grants. The new project will use Pro-7 to extend the PFA's membership system to include the recording and management of educational and vocational qualifications achieved by professional footballers involving support provided by the PFA.

ProTech has now developed its Pro-7 software to provide membership organisations and awarding bodies with detailed management of the qualifications, awards and grants which members or affiliates have achieved. Pro-7 will enable the PFA to manage all of its membership records more efficiently and achieve significant time and cost savings for the organisation. This latest order will extend the capabilities of the system to include all of its offices in both London and Manchester.

The Pro-7 software will be installed on servers in its Manchester offices and the software will be accessible from both London and Manchester using the latest Citrix communications technology. System roll-out starts this month and is planned to conclude and 'go live' in December.

Gordon Taylor, Chief Executive of the PFA, comments, "ProTech has become a highly valued

preferred supplier to the PFA and this new Pro-7 software not only meets the rigorous demands set by the Association but will provide significant savings through improvements in efficiency, accuracy and ease of use against our existing systems."

Pro-7 will provide support to the PFA in areas such as candidate processing and registration, entrance to exams, recording results and issuing certificates. Jon Kilburn, IT Manager at the PFA, explains, "In particular we have been impressed by the versatility of the Pro-Events module which both records and automates the registration of our members on to any of the courses we offer. By automating the candidate registration process, from beginning to end, Pro-7 will help to reduce the time it takes to process candidates, freeing up the PFA's staff to focus upon other member support activities."

Pro-7 will also record and help maintain crucial business information such as grants to members. Furthermore, Pro-7 can also act as a prospect management system for the PFA. Jon Kilburn explains, "Pro-7 will allow us to recall, at the touch of a button, player related information, or alternatively give us the ability to run reports across the entire membership base. We can then use this information to target our financial products or other relevant services to our members."