

# Wessex Blues

8th Meeting Minutes

Started 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013 20:00

Closed 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013 20:55

Location: Royal British Legion/Ex Servicemen's Club, North Road, Poole, Dorset

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Rob thanked everyone for attending the April meeting (19 in attendance).

Apologies from Joanne Sherry, Stephen Eaton, David Eaton, Douglas Craig and Marc Hayes  
Welcomed new members in the form of Andrew and Alex Clarke, Philip Donovan and Pete Armstrong

It came to light that Dave Eaton is unwell and as a group we wished him well.

## 2. Treasurer Update (Mr. Steve Hayhurst)

As a branch we currently have two signatories to our bank account and it was put to the floor that the General Secretary was added to the account. Steve then Rob passed this motion for Richard to be placed on the account.

Steve H mentioned the initial problems we had with our bank account with Barclays and how and why the branch transferred to Nat West; however Nat West had not issued us with a debit card. Steve H mentioned that we only had 4 hours to pay for the semi final tickets, so he transferred some money into this account from his own funds. When Richard applied for the second lot of tickets, it was arranged that Richard would get the OSC to phone Steve H to pay from another card. Richard heard nothing from the OSC and just on a whim Steve H transferred some money into that same account and it was just as well because the next day, the club just took the money out of that account without consulting anyone. Without Steve H's funds the payment could have been rejected by the bank and we would have a black mark against us so Steve H suggested that we need to do something to prevent this going forward.

Nat West said to Steve H that they do not issue cards on community accounts (this was not made clear at the start). Steve H mentioned that we could set up our account for online banking but Steve H made it clear that this would not help the branch in obtaining tickets for instance; so Steve H mentioned that obtaining an account with a card was the only option.

Steve H mentioned that Lloyds TSB would be happy to take our account on transfer and give us a card after 6 months, which would take us to around October. They might require the whole vetting process again.

Steve H suggested that he approached Nat West to see if we can transfer our Community Account to a straightforward Current Account on which we could get a card or consider transferring it to Lloyds TSB, this will need the passing of a resolution, so I propose that to the meeting. This was passed by Rob.

Steve H commented on an alternative option, where he opened another current account in his own name on where a debit card would be obtained and transfer branch funds in to it. This account could then be handed on to any successor.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, Steve H undertook to do some research on train travel. This document has now been published on the branch website.

Steve H was asked to purchase the new book on Frank Swift for the branch and he confirmed that this had been done.

Steve H also confirmed that he personally had two books of his own and that he was happy to put them into a branch library. Steve H also mentioned that he had a VHS video of Bell Lee and Summerbee City legends. Steve H mentioned if anyone has the facility to put this on to a DVD then this could also go into a library.

Steve H commented that it might be useful to have a branch librarian to look after this.

Steve H then clarified the situation regarding away tickets obtained through the OSC. The OSC will sell tickets to season ticket holders or match priority holders and it seems regardless of points, to branch members that are paid up members of the OSC. However, the OSC sets deadlines for applications that we have to work to, so when Richard sends out an email inviting applications, as per the semi final, with a quick return date. Steve H went on to mention that we do not set that date; we just have to work to it.

Steve H continued to state that it was up to members to regularly check their emails for any upcoming away fixtures that interest them and respond within the deadline that Richard has stated, otherwise they will not get on the list.

Steve H was aware that some members would prefer to be contacted via mobile phone, so to avoid branch business eating too much into an Official's own phone account, it was put to the meeting that the branch purchases a pay as you go mobile that the Secretary can use for branch business. This was not passed as Richard already has two phones and did not particularly want a third phone to carry round. For the time being Richard would use his business phone to contact members where it was important to do so quickly.

Steve H reminded everyone that very early on in our branch it was agreed and noted in previous minutes that anyone not fully up to date with their subs, branch fees and OSC subs payable to the branch would not qualify for away tickets.

The branch has paid out of branch funds for 24 members to join the OSC.

This lack of sub payment caused problems with the allocation of semi final tickets, some members who went on the list were not paid up, and others who were paid up did not get on the list by not responding within the deadline by Richard's email. Further more we had members who have attended every meeting and supported the branch and wanted to pay to join the OSC and were prevented from doing so as they did not have any other City membership.

Steve H further commented that he hoped everybody had read and understood the email that he sent to everybody about this.

Steve H pointed out that this rule was relaxed somewhat for semi final tickets as we did not really expect to get any and were somewhat compromised by the Club and the OSC in the way that they allocated the tickets.

Steve H further said that obtaining semi-final tickets raised the possibility that we could get an allocation of final tickets if we get through.

Steve H then commented that the Committee has made a ruling that anyone who has not paid the branch their OSC subs £4 for adults; £1 for over 60 yrs by the end of this evening will not be allocated a final ticket if we get an allocation of tickets from the OSC. This is to be fair to those who have paid.

Steve H commented to members that there is no requirement for anyone to join the OSC but the main benefit seems to be that you get bumped up the queue for tickets before your normal selling position is announced by the Club.

Steve H made a further comment that season ticket holders with loads of points who would most likely get a ticket through the early selling criteria might feel there is no need to join the OSC as this does not prevent them being a member of the branch.

For next season, the Committee will produce a document outlining branch policy for away ticket allocation. The committee will draw up some proposals and then circulate them to you via the group email and the topic will then be discussed at a meeting for you to air your views and ideas and a composite policy can be drafted and approved.

### **3. General Secretary Update (Dr. Richard Wild)**

Richard was hoping to show the Club's database of our current members to all members who attended at this meeting to individual check everybody's details were correct and fully filled in. Due to a malware virus that Richard's laptop had inherited due to a recent windows upgrade that same day, he was unable to contact his office remotely to access the database. Richard apologised for this and said that this would be done at the next meeting.

### **4. Wembley Arrangements**

Rob mentioned that the bulk of people would be travelling on the 09:50 train to Waterloo with a return on the 20:35 train back to Bournemouth for the FA Cup Semi-Final.

Alan C mentioned that he was going up to Waterloo on the 08:50 train and for future trips recommended a railcard discount for four or more people.

### **5. Chairman Update**

Rob mentioned that at the end of the season a treasure hunt may be organised. Rob also mentioned that Marc Hayes had brought in a bag of Man City merchandise to raffle off at the next meeting. Merchandise included books, shirts etc. for club funds.

### **6. AOB**

Ash suggested a display case for our library/MCFC merchandise

### **7. Next Meeting**

Next meeting to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May at 19:45

Minutes taken by Dr. Richard J. Wild – General Secretary, Wessex Blues