

## **1. Welcome & Introduction**

Ash Jones welcomed everyone on behalf of the ex servicemen's club/Royal British Legion.

Rob Clarke thanked everyone for attending the first meeting (10 in attendance - 15 on list could not attend)

Susie Clarke agreed to take the minutes

## **2. Supporters Club – Aims & Ambitions**

The main aim was to start a supporters club and everybody was aware that this is at an embryonic stage and will grow over time.

The club's name was discussed and it was agreed that we would keep the name of the original Official Supporters Club (OSC) 'Wessex Blues' to keep familiarity.

MCFC OSC states that a club name has to represent the area in which it is situated. Wessex covers a large enough area to incorporate the main conurbation.

Transport/cost/travel was the main discussion points. A few blues travel on own/pairs to Manchester from the local area, this can be costly and would be better shared.

Ash Jones touched on sorting a minibus/coach out for future trips. He suggested that we could explore the potential of other branches on route that may need transport so we could keep the cost down even further. Winchester and M40 OSC were mentioned as possible targets.

Ticket allocation was discussed. Every game will have different demands and our allocation will vary. MCFC OSC states that you have to be running at least three months before we will be considered for ticket allocation.

Rob Clarke highlighted that this club should be transparent and fair. Other clubs have failed on this in the past and have caused members to leave. We can look at a fair system to allocate tickets. Other branches have adopted their own loyalty system based on attendance to meetings. It was suggested that this could be adopted for this club and hopefully it will help encourage members to attend future meetings.

## **3. Progress of affiliation to MCFC OSC**

Rob Clarke covered the fact that to start an OSC, MCFC stipulate a minimum of twenty members. Rob expressed his encouragement at the list of future members who had expressed an interest in the supporters club but were unable to attend – there was an additional 15 contacts to those in attendance. In addition, some of the members present had further contacts that could potentially join. Therefore with this list and those in attendance we will be looking at numbers of around 25+ which is more than enough to get this project off the ground.

It was discussed that MCFC request a bank account be set up in the supporter's club name (when a treasurer is organized we can look into this in more detail).

## **4. Constitution of Club**

The structure of the club was discussed, this mainly revolved around the positions that need to be fulfilled in order for the club to run effectively.

MCFC OSC state that a club will consist of the following;

Minimum of 20 members

Chairman

Club Secretary

Treasurer

Additional roles that are recommended are social secretary and minute's secretary.

It was agreed that the club should be open and honest and everyone should be treated the same to make it a success.

The question was asked if anyone would like to put themselves forward for any of the roles. It was agreed that there were not enough members in place to make this decision at this time. Doug Craig who had previously helped set up the original Wessex branch explained that this decision had to be made in the very early stages for this to work. Although Doug advised that meetings should be once a month, as we are setting up we should have a second meeting within a few weeks to get these positions filled and to allow the people who could not make this meeting the opportunity to attend and have their say.

The emphasis was that this is 'our club' not just a committee dictating but where everyone has a valid input. We all want this to happen and succeed.

MCFC OSC membership cost was discussed. Rob highlighted that there is an initial 10GBP to start the branch (this is not an individual cost).

Adults are 4.00 pounds Over 60's are 1.00 pound and Under 16's are free.

Ash explained that we will set up a social club in the first instance so that we have money to start a bank account etc. It was agreed by everyone that this should be a fee of 5GBP for every member. Therefore the city fee will be added once we have everything in place to be an OSC. It was agreed that this yearly fee will run from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Any members joining the club there after will still be required to pay the 5GBP joining fee. It was agreed this would be the best way to keep things as simple as possible.

## **5. Personal Information Requests**

It was agreed that this was a good time to have a brief break and also fill in personal details (contact info/City supporters number etc). This info will need to be completed for everyone who has an interest in joining the supporters club.

## **6. Club Communications.**

Rob explained this was paramount for the club to be a success. Reference was made to the website that Ash has already kicked off and made everyone aware that they can have their say in what is included on the website – link <http://wessexblues.wetpaint.com/>

It was agreed that email was the best way to communicate as everybody has an email address. Facebook was discussed but did not really gain any traction.

It was agreed that anyone who is on any forums spreads the word.

## **7. Election of Branch Officials**

Reference to earlier discussions - 4.0 Constitution of club. As not all in attendance we would have an interim committee to get the ball rolling. It was out to the floor and the following was agreed;

Rob Clarke – Chairman

Ash Jones – Treasurer

Steve Hayhurst – Club Secretary.

These positions will be readdressed next meeting.

A lot of time was spent agreeing date of next meeting. Due to City's midweek and weekend games everyone agreed that Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 7.45PM would be next meeting at same venue. It was also agreed that the third meeting would be Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. It was stressed that after this it would then be monthly.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

Big thanks for those who attended.

Ash Jones for time spent on setting up website

Steve for posting on forum

Lewis at Harrogate Blues for massive input, helpfulness and advice on how to get things started.

Steven at North Bury Blues for advice and tips.