



Wessex Blues

20th Meeting Minutes

Started 22nd May 2014 20:15

Closed 22nd May 2014 21:25

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

Ash thanked everyone for attending the May meeting (15 in attendance). Ash asked branch members if they had received and were happy with the minutes from the previous meeting. No one objected to the minutes from the previous meeting. Ash mentioned about the voting that had taken place with reference to elect a new treasurer and chairperson. The voting from branch members that Richard had received resulted in electing a new chairperson in the form of Alan Crumley; however Andy Mountford had not received enough votes to be elected as treasurer. Based on this result, Kay, Alan and Russell asked how the branch was going to operate without a treasurer. Richard informed everyone that he was able to access all finance matters and the branch would not be compromised. Richard mentioned that the branch may not be able to operate without a treasurer and would contact Kevin to clarify this situation.

Apologies were mentioned from Pete Armstrong, Margaret Garner, Tom Ockenden, Paul Greenwood, Wayne Millington, Steve Hayhurst, Dave O'Brien, Dave Logan, Steve Charlton, Peter Birbeck, Joanne Sherry and Ian Jakeman.

No new members attended this meeting

2. Chairperson Update (Mr Alan Crumley)

Everybody welcomed Alan to his new position. Alan then began to convey his views and plans that were proposed to branch members in the last month on how to move the branch forward. Alan asked if our supporters club was family friendly. Alan proposed that we encouraged younger children to join and asked Ash if this was possible at the Ex Servicemen's Club, which he stated it should not be a problem.

Alan mentioned to branch members do we need a Travel Secretary.....Alan offered this position to Martin but he was not interested in taking up this position. Based on that most people make there own way to away and home grounds and based on current membership levels being relatively low in compared to other branches; for the time being that we would not pursue this until membership levels increased. If anybody needed a lift then it was best to contact Richard and he would put an email out to everybody stating that someone needed a lift. Richard would also shortly be able to place this request on Facebook, Twitter and the new website when completed later this summer offering help with travel.

Alan also mentioned the options on travel to games via the train (i.e. to join up with the London branch of MFC in a view to obtain a train ticket in the price range £31-36 from London to Manchester (return). The additional cost to Bournemouth/Poole to London would still need to be applied. An alternative option was also mentioned that we could arrange a mini-bus with the A34 branch from Winchester or the Cheltenham and Gloucester branch. Alan would look further into these possibilities for next season.

Alan also mentioned the need for a Code of Conduct to be in place for members for the new season based on the problems that certain members had portrayed to others this season. The branch currently do not have a Code of Conduct. The committee would draft a Code of Contact before the new season begins and this would be given out when membership subscriptions were due in August.....

Alan also mentioned that a loyalty points system for allocating FA Cup, League Cup and European Cup tickets would be introduced for next season. This again as with the Code of Conduct would be drafted before the new season begins. The Cardiff Rule will continue for Premiership games however a clearer explanation of this rule would be shown to branch members and also clarification to members when it has been applied to certain games.

Alan proposed a new website and/or the existing one to be improved. Richard and Ash discussed about the existing website. It was decided that a new website would be launched for the new season. Richard suggested that his work colleague Marco who had designed Richard's work and personal website may be keen to develop a new website for the Wessex Blues. Richard suggested that a couple of hundred pounds would hopefully cover the cost to achieve this based on the cost of his website which had been done back in 2012. Richard confirmed that the Wessex Blues bank account had sufficient money to pay for this. Facebook and Twitter accounts that currently exist which are currently looked after by Colin and Andy H respectively would be incorporated into the new website. It was agreed that Colin would continue to manage the Facebook account with news content and like wise Andy H would continue to do the same for the Twitter account. Richard and Marco would be responsible for managing the website if agreed to do it; however Richard agreed that Colin and Andy H would be allowed to access certain areas of the website to place information on about news from the branch members that had been mentioned on Facebook and Twitter followers in the news section that would be created on the website. These three media sources would therefore be simultaneously be able to demonstrate the same information about the Wessex Blues at the same time so personal choice of receiving and reading news about the Wessex Blues would be achieved.

Alan discussed the possibility about watching televised games rather than just individuals in a pub .

Alan also mentioned that for next season we may be able to arrange a few social evenings so we all get to know everybody in the branch as many people did not know certain people especially new members. It was agreed that a buffet, Quiz Nights and raffle prizes would continue at several times throughout the season. The option of a curry night, bowling night and watching the greyhounds were also mentioned.

4. General Secretary Update (Dr. Richard Wild)

Richard thanked everyone for voting for our new treasurer and chairperson in the previous month.

Richard informed everyone that our membership as of the end of March 2014 currently stood at 48 members (35 adults, 5 juniors and 8 seniors). Richard stated however that he had only heard from or seen around 15 members of this total just once this season and predicted that our membership is likely to drop to around 30 members for the new season ahead.

Richard mentioned about showing previous games on a TV and/or via his laptop as had about 30 DVDs about Man City; however members showed a subdued interest in this option as no TV was exclusively available to the supporters club so this option will not be pursued at this time.

Richard mentioned the City Circle option again to see if the branch still wanted to obtain a plaque....this was agreed that this would be discussed again at the next meeting with ideas to the floor on what the plaque should state. The plaque is allowed 25 characters at the top with 18 characters at the bottom.

Richard mentioned that he and Alan visited the A34 Supporters Club branch in Winchester on the 3rd April to obtain ideas and to see how another branch operates.

Richard informed everyone that he would contact Kevin at MCFC to see who the best contact is to update the Supporters Club Website as information about the Wessex Blues is significantly not of date with content and contact information.

Richard would try and obtain details from MCFC on how we would be able to bring ex players to the club but as noted and mentioned on previously minute meetings due to our location, small membership and cost, this would always be difficult. A joint possibility with another branch may resolve this and Richard would also pursue this avenue before the new season begins.

5. AOB

Richard suggested that at the next meeting that the branch as a whole should finally decide if we are going to purchase Wessex Blues T Shirts, car stickers and a Wessex Blues Banner for the branch.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on the 12th June at 19:45

Minutes taken by Dr. Richard J. Wild – General Secretary