



Wessex Blues

42nd Meeting Minutes

Started 14th July 2016 19:55

Closed 14th July 2016 20:50

Location: Smugglers Run, 184 Ashley Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 9BY

1. Welcome and Introduction

Dave thanked everyone for attending the July meeting (23 in attendance). Members present were asked if the previous minutes from the last meeting were satisfactory, no objections were made, with Paul and Russell approving the minutes. Andy M stated however he had not seen the minutes.

Apologies were mentioned from Colin Brooks, Tom Ockenden and Martin Ockenden.

Due to Richard and Claire being on a belated honeymoon between the 5-16th August, the meeting of the 11th August was agreed to be moved to the 4th August, again at the Smugglers Run.

Branch members confirmed that no-one visited the Cityzens Weekend on the 2-3rd July.

Several branch members commented on their trips and the matches that were played during late April and May. No significant points were made with the exception that Dave O'B commented that the Swansea game was 'less said the better', but 'we did what we needed to do'.

Nobody had any significant comments about any future football games with the exception that Andy M does not go to friendly matches, Billy was hoping to go to China and hoped tickets would be ~£15-£20. With four tickets costing £294 and with his mates not going, Billy pulled out and rang the club for a refund. Pete suggested that the friendly match against Bayern Munich tickets would likely to be cheap.

Views on Manchester City's new website and relaunch of the Citystore got a tepid response from branch members.

Views on the new home kit was mixed, with Joe showing the branch the new kit (child's size however, purchased by mistake). The third potential kit was more worrying; however Paul liked it, with Dave stating 'it had some merit'. Pete commented it was a shame that the maroon colour was missing from the socks.

Views on Pep's appointment and new signings so far included comments that Vincent Kompany may be sold, Kolarov being sold to a Turkish side and Zabaleta should remain in the team to be a reserve to Sagna. Most branch members hoped that we would obtain the signing of Stones.

Dave M showed branch members that the Wessex Blues flag now had a backing, while Penny mentioned that the edges of the flag would be embroidered in maroon by the next meeting. Dave O'B commented that he hoped to see more signatures on the flag at a later date.

2. General Secretary Update (Dr. Richard Wild)

Richard mentioned that no ticket requests had been made since the last meeting; however Billy did apply for International Champions Cup in China then withdrew due to cost.

Richard confirmed that he had asked Marco on the 10th July to update the Wessex Blues website with replacing the eagle logo with the new logo, adding the Wessex Blues flag and updating the membership form and branch rules update. By the time of the meeting however these changes had not been implemented.

Richard reiterated that for the branch to remain in existence a minimum of 20 branch members needed to renew for the next season 2016-2017. He mentioned that in the last 12-18 months, a lot of branch members had not renewed their membership for one reason or another. It has been predicted that our branch members may fall by ~10 members for the coming season to ~25 members instead of ~35 members. The average attendance of the branch was ~15-20 members per meeting. Reasons from past members included moving out of the area, resignations, bereavement etc. Richard confirmed he would contact past members to see if they were going to renew for the coming season. Richard mentioned to branch members if they had any ideas to increase membership numbers. Ideas included changing the day of the week and including other venues for meetings, but most branch members stated that a fixed date at a fixed place would be better placed. Andy H would drop a tweet to encourage new members, while Billy would speak to Richard (Blue Moon) to add a message to the forum, as the branch originated from this forum as Russell pointed out. New Wessex Blues cards would be issued shortly; however a delay of a month or so due to confirmation that Richard would be re-elected as General Secretary or another branch member taking on the role.

Ashley mentioned that internal politics/wholesale changes were currently happening at the Royal Legion and would know shortly what the outcome would be for our meetings to continue at the British Legion. Penny confirmed that no charge would be made for hiring out the room at the Smugglers Run. Andy M would be happy to stay at the Smugglers Run as it had good food and good beer.

Reasons for missing meetings was brought up by Richard as he asked branch members if any new points would like to added to the current branch rules for the new season. Richard confirmed what the current branch rules were and several branch members suggested that illness and/or illness with a family member and holidays should not be penalised for missing a meeting. Andy M suggested that each member

should have a 'bonus life' (a joker card) to be used at any time in the season, resulting in branch members not being penalised for missing a meeting and therefore not affecting their chances in applying for tickets. Claire thought this was a good idea. This proposal was put to the floor with the majority agreeing for this to be added to the branch rules. Any further reasoning for branch members missing branch meetings after playing their joker card would then be considered by the committee on ad hoc basis. Gary thinks that the committee viewing other reasons for missing meetings at a later stage after playing the joker card was for the best to be decided by the committee.

A second proposal was brought forward as Annie and Dave M suggested a new ticket request option. Instead of ticket requests being considered on attendance in the last five meetings, but the allocation of tickets should be on the whole season that you have been too and should start at the beginning of the new season with a clean slate. This was put to the branch, but members did not carry it forward as a majority; therefore the current rules will remain in force. Billy mentioned about the college course that Alan is currently doing and how it affected his ticket requests. Richard confirmed that Alan had requested tickets; however no shortfall in any games had occurred so he always got one....if a shortfall had occurred then Alan's ticket request would drop out first....Richard confirmed this never happened. Pete confirmed that he had passed his course.

Birthday wishes were sent out for Gary (23rd July)

3. Treasurer Update (Claire Wild)

Claire mentioned that the current balance was £260.97 and that the only payment taken out in the last month was for Billy's China tickets which a refund was imminent as both herself and/or Richard would claim this back from MCFC. Claire confirmed that she was going through the accounts to make sure that everybody had paid for their tickets etc and would confirm this at the next meeting. Claire also mentioned that it would be appreciated that branch members would state their name on all payment transactions. Richard commented that funds were low due to payments of the flag, Lindsey's wedding present and two lots of fish and chips. Richard mentioned it would be appreciated that payments for tickets would be made as soon as possible to avoid going overdrawn as other branches have as Richard had been informed. Billy stated that all away tickets would be £30.

4. AOB

None with the exception that Paul confirmed that Joseph would not be renewing his membership.

5. Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on the 4th August 2016 at 19:45 at the Smugglers Inn.

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