



# Wessex Blues

43rd Meeting Minutes

Started 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016 20:00

Closed 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016 20:35

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

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Dave thanked everyone for attending the August meeting (24 in attendance (21 branch members)) with special thanks given to Michael Jones although under sad circumstances he was present due to his late father. Members present were asked if the previous minutes from the last meeting were satisfactory, no objections were made, with Andy M and Billy approving the minutes.

No apologies were mentioned as of 5pm; however, Bill G said Margaret was not here due to her looking after the grandchildren.

Dave commented was everyone aware of the sad news of the passing of Ashley Jones. Michael (his son), explained that at this moment in time; he had very little news as they were waiting for the coroner's report. This report was expected on the 5<sup>th</sup> August and therefore a death certificate would then be issued. A traditional funeral was not expected, with a wake likely at the Poole Ex Serviceman's Club where Wessex Blues branch members would be welcome to attend. Michael hoped that a few words from people who knew him would be said. Michael welcomed Facebook messages and any notification and messages (dates and times etc.) would be posted here and/or would be sent to Richard to communicate to branch members. Michael also commented on how much Ashley loved the Wessex Blues and his fellow branch members. Donations rather than flowers would be welcome. A round of applause was given by all members after Michael's speech.

Dave then commented that it was shame but the next point of the agenda was the re-election of a new/existing committee member for Vice Chairperson and General Secretary.

Prior to the meeting, Dave commented that himself and Richard had spoken with reference to the Vice Chairperson's role. Dave commented that they had considered two trains of thought. Firstly, from a branch perspective, we do not officially have to have a Vice Chairperson's role. It is considered as a 'nice to have' role, but not essential for the branch to operate under the rules that Manchester City state in their branch rules. We therefore propose in Ashley's memory to withdraw his role (like in the scenario with the Manchester City player Vivien Foe, withdrawing the number of

23 from the squad of player numbers). The second option was of course to re-elect a new Vice Chairperson as from September.

Richard commented that a well-known phrase that Ashley said from time to time was 'it's your branch, you decide'. Billy says that it was good idea for this season that the branch withdrew the role and review the role of Vice Chairperson in 12 months' time. Dave M asked who would chair the meeting in the event that Dave was not present. Dave confirmed that Richard as it had occurred on many times previously in the past would chair any meeting. A vote was made and the position of Vice Chairperson would be withdrawn for 12 months and left vacant. It would be reviewed at the start of the next season.

Richard commented to branch members that Ashley and himself had been your Vice Chairperson and General Secretary since the renewal of the Wessex Blues back in September 2012. Every two years we either have to re-elect the current committee members and/or give other branch members the opportunity to apply for the role(s). Richard confirmed that the last words he said to Ashley was if he wanted to be re-elected as Vice Chairperson. Richard confirmed that Ashley would have loved to continue in his role. Richard went on to say, that when Claire and himself returned from their honeymoon, that he would send out an email asking for nominees. Pete asked why we could not do it now. Richard stated that we had to give everybody the opportunity of putting their names forward and that not everybody was here present. It was fair on the people that were not here, in case they wanted to be considered for the role. Richard explained the rules, that if Richard was the only candidate, that he would require at least 50% support of the current membership at the time of voting. If one or more person wanted to be considered for the role, then the person with the most votes would be elected/re-elected for the role. The procedure would be identical for electing our current chairperson last November.

Pete asked the floor does anyone else want Richard's role. Penny and Andy M stated after a moment of silence that it sounds like Richard 'you are stuck with the job'. Russ asked would I be up to the job after the honeymoon, while Dave commented that Richard may not come back at all.

Several branch members commented on matches that were played during late July and early August. No significant points were made with the exception that Dave commented that he was not aware of the St Johnstone result and who scored the goals in the 3-0 win and that certain branch members had watched the Borussia Dortmund game via the Internet. Several branch members commented on the Wayne Rooney testimonial match on how the word Rooney had been altered to spell Rodney instead in the stands. No significant views were mentioned about the upcoming fixtures in late August and early September and about any recent new signings.

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

Richard mentioned that ticket requests had been made for Sunderland (Andy H), Manchester United (Jamie, Billy, Andy P and Dave) and Swansea (Joe). No ticket requests had been for Stoke City, West Ham United or Bournemouth. Andy M asked could he still get tickets for the home game to Bournemouth. Dave confirmed that this was still possible via the website.

Richard showed the new pennant for 2016-2017 to branch members and distributed new membership cards. Billy asked what was the purpose of these cards. Richard mentioned in recent years that the cards could be used in particular shops in Manchester for discount; however, in recent times there appears to do no more than allow access to the supporters' room.

Richard confirmed that all the changes mentioned at the previous meeting about the website had been done.

Birthday wishes were sent out for Andy H (17<sup>th</sup> August), Billy W (28<sup>th</sup> August) and Mete (7<sup>th</sup> September)

### **3. Treasurer Update (Claire Wild)**

Claire mentioned that the current balance was £598. Claire confirmed that she had gone through the statements since 2014 and had contacted those people who had not paid for certain tickets and also branch members where overpayments had also been made. Claire confirmed that any payment made this season would be accompanied by a receipt. Claire also mentioned that anyone who paid in money would they please state a reference so a cross check on the transaction could be made. Pete suggested that we could have another fish and chip evening, a bowling night, greyhounds, a curry etc. Penny suggested that she knew a contact at the local bowling club and would find out costings and would advise Claire of this for a possible bowling night later this year.

### **4. AOB**

Dave had noticed a new face in the crowd. The new face was Gavin Slater. Gavin had moved to Bournemouth and now works for Bournemouth Council. Gavin mentioned that he found the Wessex Blues via the Blue Moon forum due to Billy's post on the forum requesting for new branch members. Gavin mentioned that he had a season card in the South Stand Level 3.

Pete mentioned that he was able to acquire some home/away shirts at a cost of £25. 'Del Boy Armstrong' would drop a comment to branch members when he was in possession of the shirts.

Paul mentioned about doing a Soccer Super 6 League, while Andy showed branch members the flag complete with border. Penny also mentioned that they would be doing a car boot sale shortly and welcomed any items. All proceeds would go to the Wessex Blues account for more social events.

### **5. Next Meeting:**

Next meeting to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 19:45 at the Smugglers Inn.

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