



Wessex Blues

45th Meeting Minutes

Started 13th October 2016 20:00

Closed 13th October 2016 20:35

Location: Royal British Legion/Ex Servicemen's Club, 66 North Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0LY

1. Welcome and Introduction

Richard thanked everyone for attending the October meeting (18 in attendance). Rich chaired the meeting as Dave was delayed coming back from his holiday in Spain. Members present were asked if the previous minutes from the last meeting were satisfactory, no objections were made, with Bill and Pete approving the minutes.

No apologies were mentioned as of 5pm with the exception of Jamie (working), Russell (no reason), Gary (will play his joker card as he had only just arrived home from work just before the meeting) and Dave and Annie (returning from Spain).

Rich merged feedback and attendance from previous games in September and early October with forthcoming games in October and early November. Several branch members commented on matches that were played during late September and early October, but no significant points were made with the exception of the following. Andy M commented about Celtic on how it was a great atmosphere with good chanting, that it was his first time at Celtic Park and how welcoming the people were in Glasgow. Andy continued to say how he was staying in a hotel with fellow Celtic fans that had flown in from Northern Ireland and had a great time with them. Rich mentioned that the police and the stewards were giving good banter back to 'City fans' in and outside the stadium. Gavin and Pete mentioned that going to Swansea was also a great atmosphere and a good win, with Swansea putting up a good fight but tried towards the end of the game. Gavin continued to say that Sterling played well and the second half performance from the team was good. Pete commented that he took a load of drunks to the game (poor Joe was mentioned again) with Alan C leaving a vintage bottle of cider in Pete's car. Nobody wanted to mention the result or the game itself against Tottenham. Rich mentioned that he went to see the ladies play against Birmingham City in the Continental Tyres Cup Final. It was mentioned by Bill and Claire that a sole supporter went to see the ladies team play in Russia when they played and beat Zvezda Perm in City's first ever UEFA Women's Champions League match. Bill mentioned he was a taxi player and had not missed a game in 23 years and funded it by doing extra jobs.

With respect to forthcoming games, Bill mentioned had Borussia Monchengladbach sold out...Rich mentioned that he had heard nothing. Bill went on to mention that while away in Thailand he had not received any emails for a ticket request for this game or for West Brom. Rich mentioned if he heard about any spare tickets going for Borussia Monchengladbach that he would put his name forward. Rich confirmed that we had put in a request for 5 tickets for this game.

With respect to bowling, Rich asked Penny if we could do it after the November meeting next month at Branksome. Rich asked Penny if he could organise that for the 10th. Everybody in the room mentioned they would be likely to attend the ten pin bowling event plus people being absent would make up numbers to be ~22-25.

The Wessex Blues road trip to the Everton game was mentioned by Andy that the minibus and hotel was booked. Andy stated that they were leaving Bournemouth at 0730 and then he would pick up branch members. Bill said he was still going and Pete stated that he was now not going and Andy M mentioned that Dave M was also not going. Andy said they would be leaving around 1100 on Sunday to get back to Bournemouth by the late afternoon. Rich confirmed that himself and his father would meet branch members after the game for a drink etc. Claire stated that £50 was given to contribute to the minibus.

2. General Secretary Update (Dr. Richard Wild)

Richard mentioned that ticket requests had been made for Barcelona (H) No requests, Celtic (H) No requests, Manchester United (A) (Jamie and Billy), Borussia Monchengladbach (A) (Dave OB, Joe, Rich, Penny and Andy) and WBA (A) (Paul, Paul (C) and Joe).

Richard confirmed that we have 27 paid up members by the end of September and a cheque for £113 had been sent to the club.

250 Business cards had arrived and were given out by Rich with the Wessex Blues new details.

Richard confirmed that he had acquired £50 worth of brand new City clothing (with the old badge) for the auction/raffle in December. Clothing included shirts and jackets and that nine different pieces of clothing would be included. Andy also mentioned that Ashley's wife Becky had given Andy M some Man City items for the raffle/auction.

Richard also mentioned that he had sent to the club notification about Ashley's passing to be included in the next available home programme; however to date no mention had been made, so hopefully it would be included in Everton's programme.

Pete mentioned would a buffet be done at the December meeting...Rich confirmed that he would try to get this arranged in November.

After two months of contacting the club, Richard confirmed that he was no further forward in achieving for the Wessex Blues flag to be shown between the second/third

tiers. Rich mentioned that he had acquired a new contact and would call them to see if the flag could be displayed shortly.

Rich commented that he had mentioned that he had received an email from Martin Ockenden stating that Tom and himself would not be renewing their membership because they are not happy with the club over the last six months, but no specific reason was given. Suggestions for not renewing their membership are probably due to the fact that since Wayne passed away, their interest in the club has faded. Colin has also not been in touch to renew his membership....this may be down to the fact of the flag.

Birthday wishes were sent out for Pete (28th October) and Penny (3rd November)

3. Treasurer Update (Claire Wild)

Claire mentioned that the current balance was just over £701.47. Membership fees had been taken out of this balance; however a few people had not paid for their tickets to date; however Claire thanked everyone generally for their recent purchases. Claire was unable to hand out Dave O'Brien's Barcelona ticket so it was suggested by branch members that his ticket should be put up for auction. Everton tickets were handled out to Andy H.

4. AOB

A new member was present wearing a City shirt; Dave (26 years old) has lived in Dorset all his life and has been a City fan since the age of five. Dave commented that his favourite player is Sergio and past favourite player was Shaun Wright Phillips. Dave told the branch that he did not go to many games due to the distance and the cost. Dave also mentioned that he lives in Poole but originally from Blandford. He stated that his father was also a City fan and this was the reason that he was a City fan was because of his dad. Dave's father became a City fan due to the fact that he liked the sky blue kit of City and had no option but to follow suit. Dave mentioned that he found out about the group via Andy H on Twitter. Dave mentioned that he would try and get his dad down for the next meeting from Ferndown. Andy M and Penny mentioned that they did a car boot sale last Sunday and made £79.50 for club funds after paying for the attendance fee....thanks to Penny and Andy were made from branch members. Paul asked if we could have fish and chips in December instead of buffet....a vote was put to the floor; however a buffet remained the favourite. Billy asked if he could have Wessex Blues news sent to old email address and his new email address. Richard confirmed he would do this. Gavin asked could he apply for a Crystal Palace ticket...Richard confirmed this was ok as he had attended three meetings.

5. Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on the 10th November 2016 at 19:45 at the Ex Serviceman's Club.

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