



Wessex Blues

47th Meeting Minutes

Started 8th December 2016 20:05

Closed 8th December 2016 20:30

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

Dave thanked everyone for attending the December meeting (14 in attendance). Our ex-Chairman Alan Crumley was also present. Members present were asked if the previous minutes from the last meeting were satisfactory, no objections were made, with Penny and Andy M approving the minutes.

No apologies were mentioned as of 12pm with the exception of David Cox (step daughter has a sickness), Rana (youngest son unwell with tonsillitis), Mustafa (work commitment), Mete (personal health issues) and Joe. (shattered due to work). Joe mentioned he would use his joker card. Andy M mentioned that David was still finding it difficult to attend due to being in Swanage.

Dave merged feedback and attendance from previous games in November and early December. Claire mentioned it was not a perfect record, while Dave stated how much he enjoyed the Borussia Monchengladbach game. Andy M agreed with Dave's comments, while Claire and Rich mentioned that the free bus service to the ground from the train station was excellent, even though Andy and Penny got on the wrong bus. Andy M and Penny mentioned that they went to see Schalke play the day after the Borussia Monchengladbach game and enjoyed the experience. Claire commented that she and Rich stayed on and visited the Christmas markets in Bonn and Cologne.

Dave mentioned that due to the TV schedule that the West Ham FA Cup game was to be played on the evening of Friday 5th January and even though it was possible to get to the game due to the train schedule, it was more likely he would be watching it on BBC1 in a suitable pub.

Richard confirmed that Ashley's RIP appeared in the Chelsea programme on page 54 the previous week and would be sending Michael a couple of programmes to him in Sweden paid by club funds. Richard read out the article to branch members. Dave then commented on how Craig Terry (manager of the band Viola Beach) died when a car plunged into a canal in Stockholm earlier this year.

Dave commented about the UEFA draw on Monday the 12th at 1100. Dave mentioned that he would like to go to Germany or Italy. Penny mentioned that she would like to go to Monaco, while Andy M hoped we get Macclesfield in the draw. Billy commented that we only just beat Macclesfield some years ago when Shaun Goater scored in a 1-0 win back in 2000. Dave mentioned that we would have the new Jesus by that point. Richard mentioned that the first leg of the game would be at the Etihad in early/mid-February with the away leg in early or mid-March as Manchester City were runners up in their group.

Richard's father became a new member of the Wessex Blues, due to his arrival now in Bournemouth due to his wife's passing in August. Norman was just about to start his reason for being a blue, when Gavin arrived late due to going to Smugglers Run by mistake. Norman mentioned that he had been a Blue since the mid-1970s and had been a season ticket holder since 1976; however in the last 13 years had been officially on a carer's tickets due to taking Richard's mum to the game and was now sitting with Richard on the third tier. Claire mentioned to the branch that he used to be a Man Utd fan prior to this point. Richard mentioned that he decided to become a Blue, because he was fed up of listening to the bad language at Old Trafford and the rest of the family being 'Blue' decided to convert from the 'dark side'. Dave mentioned if Richard was unable to go to the game for whatever reason; other supporters in the club would help Norman to get to the game. A warm welcome and applause was received.

2. General Secretary Update (Dr. Richard Wild)

Richard mentioned that ticket requests had been made for Tottenham (H) – Gary, Penny and Andy M, Everton (A) – Joe, West Ham United (A) – Bill, Jamie, Andy P, Rich and Hull City (A) – No requests.

Richard gave out Leicester City tickets to branch members who were going.

Richard commented that anybody wanting Manchester City Supporters Club Christmas Draw tickets were available at £1 each with half the money raised going to club funds, while the other half of the money would go back to Manchester City.

Richard mentioned that he had been sent a bundle of Citizens Giving Voting flyers if anybody wanted to contribute in his course to potentially win a signed Manchester City shirt from John Stones.

Richard confirmed that the Wessex Blues flag had been resubmitted again for the digital display on the second tier based on the email directly from Manchester City from the 28th November for inclusion from the Arsenal match. Andy M commented that the 'real flag' was on show at the Borussia Monchengladbach game.

Richard mentioned that he had received an email from Kevin, complaining how certain branches were 'playing the numbers game' requesting more tickets than needed and were sending back tickets to the club. Kevin commented that City themselves were losing patience over this and that it may effect ticket allocation to branches. Kevin finally mentioned that branches that request tickets and then reduce their numbers once allocations are done will be banned for 1 game from requesting

tickets. Andy M commented that the Wessex Blues were not doing this and Richard confirmed that this was correct. Dave commented how that could be controlled and that previously with respect to the Bournemouth game earlier in the year we requested just over twenty; however only received three, so geographically we are not favoured. Rich confirmed that geography is not a condition on ticket allocation; however Rich agreed with Dave that this should be considered. Rich confirmed that previously the suggestion to ask for more tickets than we needed was proposed but the idea was rejected. Billy commented that in previous years when he was a member of the A34 branch that geography was taken into consideration when ticket requests went in; but now it was solely based on average ticket requests.

Richard mentioned the Supporters Club Dinner on the 3rd February; however the feedback suggested that no-one from the branch is likely to go to this event. Rich, Claire, Annie and Dave attended this event in March earlier this year. Dave and Claire mentioned how expensive the drinks were at this event and the event overall at £40 per ticket (now £50 per ticket) was not worth it.

Birthday wishes were sent out for Rana (10th December), Joe (11th December), Mustafa (30th December) and Richard (2nd January). Andy H thanked Rich for the holiday as his birthday was on a bank holiday and Rich was pleased as we would be able to see Manchester City play a game on his birthday for a change, as this was relatively rare as his birthday is normally reserved for FA Cup weekend.

3. Treasurer Update (Claire Wild)

Claire mentioned that the current balance was £695.23. The only items that were outstanding was payment from Jamie and Billy for the Liverpool tickets and Leicester's tickets for Gary and Andy H. It was confirmed that these tickets would be given to Billy and he would send payments for this shortly. Claire thanked everyone for keeping things up to date.

4. AOB

None. The rest of the evening was taken up by the Christmas buffet, raffle and auction. Everybody who entered the raffle won a prize who was present that evening, while the auction which included shirts and jackets were won by several branch members including Gavin, Paul, Annie and Andy M. Total funds obtained by the selling of tickets for the raffle, Supporters Club Christmas draw and auction material amounted to £164.

5. Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on the 12th January 2017 at 19:45 at the Ex Serviceman's Club.

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