



# Wessex Blues

54<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Started 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 20:00

Closed 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 20:50

Location: Ex Serviceman's Club, North Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0LY

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Dave thanked everyone for attending the August meeting and greeted all members and one new face. Members present were asked if the previous minutes from the last meeting were satisfactory, no objections were made, with Bill W and Martin approving the minutes.

Apologies received were from Doug, Pete, Gary and Margie.

Dave asked if anyone had any feedback on recent and forthcoming games, Andy Parkin mentioned had anyone seen the big games recently on television or had he missed it, if so which channel did they appear on. Dave said that he had seen a few on the internet on some streaming sites. Andy commented that he would like to have seen the West Ham game. Gavin stated that it was shown on Your Sport. Gavin also mentioned that it was looking good at the present time pre-season with how City were playing. Dave mentioned that Gundogan was returning fit to the team. Andy M mentioned that City had got rid of a lot of players this summer. Dave said he liked how Nasri played but how he was being 'flung out' but he was likely to be leaving to go to a Turkish team.

Dave mentioned he was getting the train to Brighton and stated he was getting the free train to the stadium after some refreshments. It was mentioned that this was similar to the service offered in Monchengladbach.

No members applied to a Mary D's card.

Dave mentioned what were people's views on the Brighton and Bournemouth ticket allocation which we were given. Claire stated we were given 8 out of the 20 tickets requested for Brighton. Bill W mentioned that he did not think this allocation was bad considering it was the first game of the season and everyone would be wanting to go to it but stated that he thought the Bournemouth allocation was a disgrace being that we are the local branch and getting not even getting a small percentage of what we asked for. Gavin mentioned it was nothing like Southampton where we generally get our full allocation. Dave was disappointed to have been drawn last out of the bucket for the Bournemouth allocation.

Dave asked for views of the live ticket allocation draws on Facebook. He stated he thought it was quite good. Andy M stated he thought Claire should do the lottery. Dave agreed it was useful and jokingly commented that he couldn't see where it had been edited at all.

Andy M asked who else was going to the Everton home game. Bill stated he was as did Claire and Richard. Gavin said he was going to Leeds.

Dave asked what members views were on the new away kit. Claire mentioned that she had bought the new jacket.

The Vice Chairperson position was brought up as it had been a year since Ashley's passing and as the Wessex Blues were going to keep the position free for a year, the time had now come for elect a new Vice Chairman. Richard stated he would be sending an email when he returns from his holiday on 23<sup>rd</sup> August asking for names of anyone that would like to nominate themselves and then the following week put the names forward to the members to vote for the person of their choice. Half the members would need to vote for a particular person for the position to be passed to them and they would be welcomed aboard as from September. Claire mentioned would members be able to nominate other members but it was stated that it was just for members to volunteer themselves. Andy M asked what the duties of the position were; Claire stated that it was to cover Dave in his absence. Bill jokingly stated you get Bournemouth tickets. Richard stated it was not an essential position for the committee in the MCFC rules. Paul asked do we really need one, Dave stated yes it would be good. Gavin commented there would be more people on the committee table before long. Bill said that he would be taking the flag to Brighton.

Members that have not yet renewed their Wessex Blues membership were Alan Lawrence, David Cox and Russ Smith. Richard stated that he had heard from Russ and he had stated he had been seriously ill but would be coming back. No one had heard from David but Alan stated that due to the distance from Weymouth and that he was too busy working that he would not be renewing. Richard mentioned we had over our 20 members to keep going for another year. We were losing some members but gaining the same amount of members.

New member Mike Connor was welcomed to the floor. Originally from Ashton under Lyne, left in 1978. His dad and granddad was a Blue. First game he went to was 6<sup>th</sup> September 1969. He remembered sitting in the Platt Lane stand on the maroon benches. He continued going for years until he went to university. He went to the FA Cup final in 1981 telling the university they were hiring the minibus to go to the science museum. Saw the match but never got to the science museum. Work then affected him going to matches due to working on Saturdays. He purchased a season ticket again around 7 years ago and goes to the matches staying with his mum who still lives in Manchester.

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

Ticket requests in the last month were made for the following games:

Bournemouth – 20, Everton – Andy Mountford, Crystal Palace – None, Arsenal-None, Chelsea – Billy, Jamie, Dave OB, Joe, Pete, Andy P, Norman and Rich, Liverpool – None and Watford- Billy, Jamie, Joe, Pete, Andy P, Norman and Rich

Richard mentioned he had received an email from Kevin ranting about ticket requests. 18 branches had had issues with their requests, i.e. declined payments, incorrect card details, supporter already purchased tickets, incorrect names and numbers. We were not one of these branches Richard was pleased to say.

Rich confirmed that we now had 28 branch members. Richard stated that Doug had been given life membership and showed the card that he received for Doug after 15 years of membership.

Richard stated he had been given allocations for Chelsea and Watford in the past few hours. For Chelsea we have been given 4 out of 8 and Watford, 2 out of 7. Members eligible were to be put into the draw to be conducted these were for Chelsea, Bill W, Andy P, Rich, Norman and Dave. These were the same for Watford minus Dave on the 5 out of 5 rule. Richard stated if Norman was drawn before Rich he would go first on the reserve list.

Watford draw, in order of names picked out: Andy P, Bill W Reserve: Rich, Norman  
Chelsea draw, in order of names picked: Andy P, Norman, Bill W, Dave, therefore Norman becomes first reserve and ticket goes to Rich.

Richard mentioned he was doing the Great North Run again for the third year. His time to beat is 2hrs 59 mins.

Birthday wishes were sent out for Andy H, Bill W, Mete and Stephen Charlton.

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

Claire mentioned that the current balance was £587.29 however the membership money needs to be added to this. Claire stated that some members still owed money but they knew who they were. She then went on to hand out the Everton and Brighton tickets.

### **4. AOB**

Bill mentioned about the rule on meeting attendance on if members were working out of the area the they were not penalised for missing a meeting, however he felt that it should not matter even if you were working a few minutes up the road as if you have to work you have no choice but to miss the meeting. Gavin mentioned funerals also. Bill has mentioned how Jamie has not been able to apply for tickets as he has been on shift work and has been penalised for missing meetings due to being at work. Richard mentioned that there are 149 branches and now there is now around 180 therefore more members applying for tickets and smaller allocations being given. Gavin mentioned that he was having to wait until he catches up before getting tickets again after attending a funeral. Bill stated that Jamie could show shift patterns to Richard and Bill also commented he liked going games with Jamie but if he wasn't going to be allowed to apply for tickets then Bill would not bother applying either.

Dave stated was Bill suggesting that anyone who works shifts should be excused being penalised which was confirmed.

Bill then proposed that anyone that works shifts as long as they are pre shown to the committee will not be penalised or stated as absent from the meeting and they will only need to use their joker in the case of illness or holidays. Any other scenarios on an individual basis are to be put to the committee at the time for a decision. Rich also stated that members flying back from abroad from City games will also be exempt from penalisation. The vote was put to the floor and carried forward so will now take effect.

Dave proposed a signing in sheet for members to sign on arrival to confirm that they have attended. Rich stated that the meetings are recorded so attendance is recorded in that way but the signing in sheet is simple and an easy reference to avoid any confusion and provides clarification. Andy M seconded the proposal. Dave produced a sheet for members this month to sign in.

Richard mentioned next month Wessex Blues reform is 5 years old and we will be putting on fish and chips as a celebration and we will be putting on a quiz also.

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

Next meeting to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 19:45 at the Ex Serviceman's Club.

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