



Wessex Blues

106th Meeting Minutes

Started 10th August 2023 19:16

Closed 10th August 2023 19:55

Location: The Royal British Legion, Ferndown

1. Welcome and Introduction

Robbie thanked and welcomed old and new members to our new venue for our meeting (23 members were present, plus one new potential member for this season).

Graham and Marilyn approved the previous minutes from July.

Apologies received – Phil (J), Steve, Riette, Craig, Arthur, Pat, Gavin (J) – his partner Emma has just returned back from holiday with Covid, but Gavin is fine and to be on the safe side has not attended, Rana, Mustafa, and Mete.

2. Agenda Items

Feedback from attendance from previous games between late July to early August

Yokohama F. Marinos v Manchester City (3-5) – 23rd July 2023

Bayern Munich v Manchester City (1-2) – 26th July 2023

Atletico Madrid v Manchester City (2-1) – 30th July 2023

Arsenal v Manchester City (1-1) – 6th August 2023

Robbie thought it was one of our best performances in a Charity Shield match for a long time, but we need to use Haaland better as he was quiet towards the end of the previous season. Robbie apologised for not attending the previous meeting due to attending a function. Robbie also mentioned how he enjoyed Istanbul over the 5 days he was present with the Turkish people being fabulous. Robbie's only bad feeling from Istanbul was getting out of the football ground and the car park surrounding the stadium.

Comments regarding forthcoming games in late August and early September

Burnley (A), Sevilla (N), Newcastle (H), Sheffield United (A), Fulham (H)

No significant comments, except that Richard confirmed he was going to Athens with Andy M to watch Sevilla.

Current membership – 52. Richard confirmed that this was first time in the Wessex Blues history that we had reached this level of membership. Richard confirmed this has smashed our old record of forty-five, which was back in the season 2015.

New Members – Tony Thornton, Deanne Parkin, Pat Reid, Christine Jeffers, Liam Barrett, Lukas Waszczyszyn, Steve Davie, Helen Speller, Gracie Speller, Danny Speller, Craig Jevons, Janet Connor, Lindsey Sturman, Oliver Sturman, Graham Haine, Riette Jevons

For the second week, Christine was present but did not want to speak; while Graham was present and mentioned that he got interested watching City based on the great team from the late 1960s. Graham mentioned that the first game he saw was away at Tottenham in 1970, while the first home game Graham saw at Maine Road was against Middlesbrough in the second leg of the Semi-Final of the League Cup in 1976 which City won 4-0. Graham confirmed that he has recently moved down from London and has not seen too many games recently with the exception of games against Bournemouth and Southampton.

Another new member Shaun Forde was also present but had not officially signed up so will give his introduction at the next meeting in September with hopefully Christine doing her speech as well!

Based on Andy P's comments from the last meeting based on a proposal based on capping membership, this was mentioned again as Robbie was not present at the previous meeting therefore no decision on this was made until Robbie's comments were expressed. Robbie commented that we have been concerned in the past that we would reach the official quota of twenty members for the branch to exist. Robbie also stated that based on the ticket requests being granted and the 5/5 attendance rule with two jokers has worked quite well for previous seasons and he viewed that this current format was a fair system. Robbie further added that when it comes to membership, we need to give every member the chance to be a part of a Manchester City Supporter Club. Robbie continued to say that if we gained a membership of ~100 then we may need to break the branch into two, say west Dorset and Poole and Bournemouth etc. possibly in the future. However, at this moment in time, Robbie further mentioned it is not our right in his opinion that we should be capped, and he also added that he thinks that the actual club would not be happy to hear of this news. Robbie realised that obtaining tickets will become harder to obtain and certain members a little less opportunity to go to games, but this has happened due to our recent success and therefore we have to live with it. Richard confirmed that about six or seven years ago, that an email was sent out to ~190 supporter clubs asking them how they allocated tickets to members. Richard received a considerable number of ticket allocation criteriums from branches and he also confirmed that he presented these branches our new ticket allocation rules. Richard confirmed that certain ticket allocation rules from other branches received were bizarre. Based on the feedback received from certain branches, Wessex Blues ticket allocation rule became adopted within other branches as they thought it was a good and fair rule. Mark asked how many times last season did we fall short on ticket requests? Richard confirmed that he thinks it was three. Richard also confirmed that ticket allocation in supporters' clubs was the biggest problem by far of all issues. Dave asked based on our current membership numbers would we consider a minibus going to Wembley for instance. Richard confirmed that this would certainly be a possibility. Robbie also mentioned that going forward we hoped to have more social gatherings, i.e., more meetings at pubs at away grounds etc. like with Southampton and Arsenal. As Joe has

left the supporters club after his University studies have now completed, the Social Secretary position is now vacant. This will be placed on the next agenda for the next meeting for consideration again. Robbie confirmed that Joe did not obtain the job with Manchester City that he applied for; but confirmed if Joe were down this way in the future he would pop in or be able to meet up at future matches. Robbie continued to say that Joe was trying to pursue a career in the film, TV, and media field of work.

3. General Secretary Update

Ticket requests made between late July and early August for the following games:

Sheffield United (A) – 0

Nottingham Forest (H) – 0

Fulham (H) – 2 (Lindsey and Oliver)

Newcastle (H) – 0

West Ham (A) – 5 (Graham, Phil, Carole, Andy P, Gavin)

Wolves (A) – 7 (Graham, Michael, Christine, Alan, DOB, Paul, Ryan)

Birthday wishes: - Steve (14th), Andy H (17th), Mete (7th), Stephen (8th) and Robbie (8th)

4. Treasurer Update

Current bank balance and recent transactions - £1,235.08 (as of 13th July). Richard confirmed due to our favourable balance, due to higher membership numbers that more funds will be made available for Christmas presents, food etc. later this year. Dave confirmed that the British Legion would be able to accommodate all requests for Christmas etc, including food.

5. Any Other Business (AOB)

Graham mentioned that he was off to Burnley on the Friday night and wanted to comment on the ticket system. Graham stated that he had his ticket confirmed after the date of general sale via text, which was better than an email, however he only received the ticket on his phone yesterday on the Wednesday with only 48 hours of the match. Not knowing that Graham had received his ticket before general sale was released and if tempted based on the points system was problematic as he could have tried to obtain a ticket without being confirmed that he had received confirmation of one via the supporters' club. Richard confirmed that this was the normal only receiving the ticket a few days before a match for a security perspective and/or gives less time for the ticket to be passed on; however, the club should have informed him before general sale therefore sounds like an admin error via the club. Dave commented that Citizens ticket application was chaos this year. Even though you should not pass tickets on, Alan confirmed that he was allowed to pass on his ticket to Tony for the Charity Shield. Richard commented that rules are in place, but this varies from game to game and competition to competition. Richard confirmed that he at times struggled to understand the rules; however, it appears that if you have informed that you have passed this on to another actual member of the club, they are satisfied that you have asked and done from a moral

perspective the right thing. If, however you have passed the ticket on without informing the club then repercussions may be imposed.

Dave asked if anybody had purchased the new season kit, especially the away kit. Dave said that he liked the third kit, but not so keen on the standard away kit.

Robbie asked everyone were they clear of how tickets will be allocated, and Richard confirmed that obtaining tickets for plus ones have now gone; hence while membership has significantly increased in numbers to cater for this.

Paul asked our new member Graham about how many members were present from the Essex branch. Graham mentioned that membership had increased from ~35 to ~70 in the last twelve months. Graham was not aware of the impact of this increase due to recent move. Michael and Dave asked about the exemption rule about missing the Thursday meeting due to a European match the previous day for example. After a brief discussion, the rule was amended to that if a member went to a European away game on a Wednesday, then they would continue to be exempt for not attending the Thursday meeting following this; however if the European game was at home on the Wednesday then you would not be exempt for the following Thursday meeting. The only exception to this if the following game after the Thursday meeting was also a home Premiership game at the weekend and the member stayed in Manchester after the European game to attend both home games.

Richard confirmed he would be playing his joker for the next meeting as he would be working from home in Italy. Alan J and Christine also confirmed they would not be attending the next meeting also and asked to play jokers also. Richard confirmed he would be attending the match against Newcastle and if anybody would like a lift, they would be welcome.

Next Meeting – 14th September 2023 at 19:15 Royal British Legion, Ferndown