



Wessex Blues

85th Meeting Minutes

Started 9th September 2021 19:45
Closed 9th September 2021 20:15

Location: Barking Cat, Ashley Road, Parkstone

1. Welcome and Introduction

Richard thanked members for coming to the meeting (11 members were present) and everyone was aware why Dave was not in attendance. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by Michael and seconded by Martin.

Apologies were received from Dave (J), Annie, Phil, Rana and Mustafa

Martin asked Richard if he could apply for a Brighton ticket. Richard explained that the deadline for this match had already passed. Paul G mentioned he was pleased to see Richard after missing the last two meetings due to holiday and Covid restrictions. Paul G and a few other members received their Christmas raffle price from Christmas 2020. Michael asked Richard if he had received his membership form for this coming season. Richard confirmed he had received this.

2. Agenda Items

Feedback from attendance and/or views from previous games between late August through to early September included that no one had issues getting into the home games using the barcodes from their mobile phone. Michael thought the atmosphere at Tottenham was pretty good as was the new stadium; however, walking to and from the stadium was not ideal. Michael stated that the performance of Arsenal was poor. Gavin and Michael joked that the match would be different against Leicester City, with Vardy 'breaking away and scoring again'.

Comments regarding forthcoming games in late September/early October besides Leicester, included Andy asked if Richard had heard anything about allocations for Chelsea. Richard confirmed that he would be mentioning the latest news with reference to this later in the meeting.

New Members – Paul Hughes. Paul was welcomed and mentioned that his mum's side of the family are from Manchester; but has grown up in Birmingham and is currently studying law at Southampton. Paul thought this was the closest supporters club to him; however, Richard pointed out that the A34 supporters club was nearer for him in Southampton, however, Richard mentioned in a joking way that we are a better bunch, because they are a miserable lot. Paul then mentioned he was studying general law but hoped to specialise in criminal law at a later date and was just about to enter into his final year. Paul mentioned he was expecting a 2:1 but was hoping for a first-class honour.

Richard mentioned that an email will be sent out for future Chairperson and Treasurer roles shortly and Richard asked members if we had any contenders for the roles. A silence emerged. Richard confirmed in the interim that he would continue with the Treasurer role as members were aware that Richard had done this role jointly with his current role if no one wants to do the role on a full-time basis. Richard mentioned that he had a members' name that he would like to see as Chairperson and Dave had also mentioned the same name as well in a previous conversation. Richard confirmed to Gavin that he hoped a Chairperson would be nominated as he did want to chair the meetings going forward as well as during the other roles every month.

3. General Secretary Update (Dr Richard Wild)

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

Leicester City (A) – 1 (Michael)
Chelsea (A) – 3 (Dave, Graham & Andy P)
Liverpool (A) – 1 (Andy P)
Southampton (H) – 0
Burnley (H) – 0
Leipzig (H) – 0
Brighton (A) – 3 (Dave, Andy P & Gavin)

Richard was going to make a draw for tickets for Chelsea; however, 1 hour prior to the meeting, Richard confirmed he had received an email stating that all three tickets had been allocated. Members affected were pleased to hear the news especially as we were also given full allocation to the Tottenham game. Andy P prior to the meeting had already received confirmation of his Liverpool ticket. Therefore, the only draw that took place was for Brighton, just in case of a short fall in ticket allocation. The draw was made by Robbie as he arrived late so to give him something to do and the three members in order to receive any tickets allocated were Andy P, Dave, and Gavin.

Current membership is 21, with 10 pending, so Richard was pleased to confirm that we will survive for a further season as we needed a minimum of 20 members. Richard confirmed that if the 10 pending members have not paid by the end of September, their membership will be rejected and be notified accordingly. Richard needs to confirm our paid membership to MCFC by the 30th September. Andy P and Michael asked if we had heard why these 10 pending members have drifted away from becoming members again. Richard confirmed that these 10 pending members were actually new potential members and previous members such as Bryan, Andy H etc, had been

sent emails to re-join etc; however, to date, Dave or Richard had not received any correspondence to why they had not returned since the pandemic etc.

Birthday wishes were mentioned to Margie for the 12th October.

3. Treasurer Update (interim Dr Richard Wild)

Richard confirmed that the balance was £766.70 as of the 8th September. All ticket payments had been paid by members for forthcoming games. All members have paid for their membership, however Richard confirmed that he was still waiting for a completed form from Bill and Annie had paid and had completed a membership form but had not completed the application online to become a Wessex Blues member. Richard confirmed that he would send out a reminder to Annie to do this before the end of the month.

4. AOB

Richard handed Michael his Leicester ticket for the forthcoming match.

Prior to the meeting, Richard confirmed that a member of staff from the Barking Pub had handed a letter signed by Mark and Michael Ambrose stating that we are going to lose the sole status of the backroom and had to prioritise filling the pub after the pandemic. Richard read the contents of this letter out to the members present. The letter states that Dave would look at other venues or continue staying here and possibly having our meeting on an alternative day of the week. Richard asked members for their views. Overall members present were pleased to continue to have the meetings here and a bit of background noise is fine. Mondays as an alternative day would be ok. Robbie asked if we could have the meeting earlier say 7pm as it may be quieter. Having it on a Monday night may avoid missing meetings due to European games etc. as no exemptions are now valid.

Richard confirmed to Andy P that he had not heard any news about the PSG away game to date. Michael commented that the week of Chelsea, PSG and Liverpool was going to be tough one. Gavin stated that we should forget about PSG and concentrate on beating Chelsea and Liverpool as we should go through our group in any case by beating the other teams in the group later this year.

Finally, Richard reminded members that he may not be present at the October and November meetings due to court appearances due to his job in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively. Paul G asked would Dave step in, if Richard was not present. Richard confirmed that he did not have an answer to that, but it is likely Dave would honour this. Paul M asked it would be appreciated if Dave would chair the next meeting if Richard was not going to be present. If Dave was unable to do this and I am in court in Scotland, the next meeting may be cancelled. If it was cancelled, Richard explained it would not cause a huge problem and any tickets allocated would be posted to any members or Richard would drop any tickets off prior to the meeting. Graham then asked do we therefore really need to have meetings every month and Paul asked would it be possible to vote on this. Richard mentioned as there are so many maybes at the moment we will wait and come back to this point later in the year. Richard confirmed that if the meeting was moved to a Monday it is likely he would be here for the next two meetings as the legal cases are planned for later in the week. Michael stated he would be on holiday next month on the Monday if the meeting was moved. Richard confirmed if the meeting was moved to the Monday, Michael would not be forfeited for this as his has already booked

his holiday and likewise anyone not able to have attended in the previous July as the meeting was not held on the second week as normal would not be penalised for missing that meeting. Richard would drop Dave a note shortly to confirm if the meeting can be held on Mondays as an alternative going forward.

5. Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on the 11th or 14th October 2021 at 19:45 at the Barking Cat, Ashley Road, Parkstone (date to be confirmed shortly).

Minutes taken by Dr Richard Wild – General Secretary