



Wessex Blues

87th Meeting Minutes

Started 8th November 2021 19:15
Closed 8th November 2021 19:53

Location: Barking Cat, Ashley Road, Parkstone

1. Welcome and Introduction

Richard thanked members for coming to the meeting (14 members were present). Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by Dave and seconded by Marilyn. Annie pointed out that I missed the word 'not' with respect to wanting to continue to be chair. Richard confirmed this would be corrected in the previous minutes. Richard apologised as he was unable to give out the agenda to everyone as the printer failed after only printing one copy and had no alternative to get further copies as the printing was only done three hours prior to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Andy P (J) as he was ill.

2. Agenda Items

Richard confirmed that Robbie had been elected chairperson with 17 votes. Robbie received a round of applause and the agenda was passed to him to continue the meeting with Richard congratulating Robbie on his achievement.

Feedback from attendance and/or views from previous games between late October through to early November included Paul said the atmosphere at Old Trafford was fantastic...well worth getting up at 5am to watch and it should have been 4 or 5 by half time. Dave spent time with two people having a drink from Glasgow in Wetherspoons before the Brugge game, but thought the first half was terrible with Paul agreeing with Dave comments. Dave continued to say that the second half was a marked improvement and had sat behind Ricky Hatton in the East Stand.

Comments regarding forthcoming games in late November/early December included that several members mentioned that we should get maximum points from those games. Graham was

disappointed as the Paris SG game was sold out and hoped to get a ticket for his wife as only single seats were available and no two seats together. Some tickets that were available were only in hospitality and/or tickets selling for inflated prices for over two hundred pounds. Michael pointed out that the tickets were significantly more costly for the Paris SG match (£50) in comparison to the two other home European games in our group (£20). Dave also mentioned how costly it was travelling by train to the game and only driving was now a viable option with respect to cost. Thankfully, Dave mentioned that staying in a Travelodge remained cheap at £30 per night.

Richard confirmed that Joe Kelly had contacted us via the website and was told about the meeting tonight but had decided or was not available to attend as he was not present. Richard also hoped that Andy H would be coming back but also was not in attendance. Paul asked if Andy had paid for this season's membership and Richard confirmed to date Andy had not. Suddenly Joe appeared as his bus was delayed and Richard confirmed that we were just talking about him. Richard welcomed Joe to the rest of the members and confirmed that he had missed half the agenda but was perfect timing to tell the rest of the members about himself. Joe confirmed he was from Manchester (Stockport) and was down on the south coast studying film studies at Bournemouth Arts. Joe confirmed he was in his second year as he explained that every time, he went to a pub was full of Man United and Liverpool fans. Joe confirmed that his parents live in the USA and they attend the New York Blues and persuaded Joe to become a member of a local blues club. Joe confirmed that Phil Foden was his favourite player.

3. General Secretary Update (Dr Richard Wild)

Ticket requests between late October and early November were made for the following games:

Wolves (H) – 0
Club Bruges (H) – 0
Leeds (H) – 0
Leicester (H) – 0
Aston Villa (A) – 3 (Michael, Paul, and Richard)
Watford (A) – 5 (Michael, Andy, Graham, Gavin, and Richard)
Brentford (A) – 3 (Paul, Andy and Richard)
Newcastle (A) – 0
Leipzig (A) – 2 (Paul and Andy)
Arsenal (A) – 3 (Paul, Andy and Charlotte)

Richard confirmed current membership was now 23 with Joe being the latest member, with 0 pending.

Birthday wishes were mentioned to Andy P (3rd December) and Rana (10th December)

3. Treasurer Update (interim Dr Richard Wild)

Richard confirmed that the balance was £791.50 as of the 7th November. 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.

4. AOB

Richard handed out Christmas presents from last year to Rana, Mete etc outside the pub before the meeting as they had met Richard outside in front of his car.

Four draws took place (Watford, Brentford, Leipzig and Arsenal), based on membership attendance, just in case of a short fall in ticket allocation. The draw outcome via Robbie and Paul in order was Richard, Andy, Michael, Gavin and Graham for Watford, Andy and Paul for Leipzig, Charlotte, Andy and Paul for Arsenal and Richard, Andy and Paul for Brentford.

Dave commented on eligibility of tickets with respect to attendance (the 5-meeting rule). Richard mentioned that the actual fifth meeting was actually March 2020, so the tickets for this draw was just made on meetings for this season so far (i.e., four) to avoid the 18-month gap between the 4th and 5th meeting due to Covid making all members that requested for tickets for all these games on the same number for attending meetings, jokers played and exemptions. Richard also confirmed that it was also done to encourage the new members (Paul) to have the opportunity to apply for games. Richard confirmed as Michael mentioned that after this meeting that all meetings would return to the 5-meeting rule as the 18-month gap would drop for any future ticket requests going forward. Michael asked if Andy P had used his joker for this evening and Richard confirmed that Andy had.

Michael asked was there any reason why we had always been given full allocation of tickets so far this season. The general reason discussed was due to attendances overall are down and no points now are awarded for away games. Robbie commented that many people are now cutting back from a finance perspective and watching the games online and/or live streams or finding alternative hobbies to do.

Graham asked do you need to be invited to become a member on the Wessex Blues Facebook Group. Richard confirmed that he was one of the admin members of the group but never uses Facebook. Richard confirmed that he would ask Claire to make Robbie an admin member and for Graham to be invited to join the Facebook Group so members going forward could use this group to notify members to meet up for a drink at away games etc.

5. Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on the 13th December 2021 at 19:15 at the Barking Cat, Ashley Road, Parkstone.

Minutes taken by Dr Richard Wild – General Secretary