



## Wessex Blues

95<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Started 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 19:20

Closed 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 20:05

Location: The Cricketers, Bournemouth

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Robbie thanked and welcomed members for coming to the meeting (14 members were present). Paul and then Michael approved the previous minutes from July. Apologies received – Mustafa (Working), Paul H (Covid), Joe (Working in the USA), Paul W (attending Edinburgh Fringe Festival), Paul M (J) (death of son's partner), Marilyn (J) (death of son's partner), Rana, Mete and Andy P (J) (wife has Covid). Richard confirmed that Paul H has not got Covid for the second time.

### 2. Agenda Items

How did Rana's son Atilla get on with his abseil in London on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May?.....still no news to date and as Rana was not present, no further news was forthcoming. Dave L returned to become a member which received a great welcome.

Feedback from attendance and/or views from previous games between late July to early August

Club America v Manchester City 1-2 (21<sup>st</sup> July 2022)  
Bayern München v Manchester City 0-1 (24<sup>th</sup> July 2022)  
Liverpool v Manchester City 3-1 (30<sup>th</sup> July 2022)  
West Ham v Manchester City 0-2 (7<sup>th</sup> August 2022)

Michael stated that there was no incentive to go to the Community Shield as it was in Leicester rather than Wembley and it was a dreadful game to watch. Michael thought West Ham played well and was surprised by how many West Ham fans were on the train. Michael's further comments about the game included that it was weird walking through a shopping centre on the way to the

ground and the ground had no atmosphere as they could not hear the West Ham fans. Dave commented that it sounded quiet via the TV and Michael would not be rushing back to see a future game. The result was the best part, even though West Ham fans were complaining that a pint of beer was now £7.20. Michael then moaned that his bottle of water was £2.85. Rob noticed that Richard had written the score down for the West Ham game as 2-2. Richard confirmed that most months, Richard makes a deliberate error to see if people are reading the agenda, so Rob wins this month on spotting the mistake.

Comments regarding forthcoming games in late August and early September

Bournemouth (H), Newcastle (A), Barcelona (A), Crystal Palace (H), Notts Forest (H), Aston Villa (A) and Tottenham (H)

Rob commented that he thought the Barcelona game was a 'total waste of game time'. Michael mentioned it was a charity game and wondered if it was a charity game for the team of Barcelona itself. No further comments were made. Michael asked if anyone was going to the Bournemouth game as he would like a lift back. Richard confirmed he would give Michael a lift back. Gavin also confirmed that he would be interested in getting a lift there and back. Paul confirmed that his wife would be attending her first game on Saturday, the first since Southampton away back in 1990. Paul confirmed that his wife hates football. This was all down to the fact that Paul and his wife were attending a wedding on the Friday.

Membership forms and branch rules were handed out for season 2022-2023 to people who had not received one.

Richard confirmed that our current membership is now 23, so the supporters club will live for another year. Graham said 'we made it then'. Richard confirmed that he would send the official number of members to MCFC at the end of October. Richard confirmed this is usually at the end of September, but this time, the deadline has been extended to the end of October. Graham asked was our new three members apart of the 23 members. Richard confirmed that Tracy was, but Lewis and Nick were not official memberships to date. Graham stated that we are now oversubscribed and now we might not be the smallest supporters club based on member numbers in the UK.

Richard confirmed that he had sent out an email to previous members of the club over the last ten years to see if they would like to re-join (71 in total). Richard continued to say that seven of the emails were now defuncted and had received bounce backs. Richard noted that he had received some feedback, including Dave L that he would re-join hence his presence this evening. Richard stated that Jamie Webb would be re-joining, but would be unable to come to the meetings until September at the earliest as he has broken his ankle. Dan Speller said he was interested in re-joining but was on holiday at present. Oli Hughes would love to re-join but would struggle to make meetings as he now lives in the middle of Hampshire and has a second child on the way; however, he did wish the club well. Richard sent him a message back so say that if at any time he wanted to pop down for a cameo appearance that he was more than welcome to do so. Richard confirmed that this was a better reply this year, as this time last year, Richard sent out 60 emails and had no replies.

Any other news about new Members (from other members etc.). Paul commented that he was going to make Joseph a member if we were stuck; however, as we have reached 20 members, Paul confirmed that he would not make him a member.

Rob commented via Andy P comments that MCFC do not charge juniors, but as a supporters' club we charged £10. Richard confirmed that the price structure of the club as a whole was based on research of club fees from other supporter clubs based on an email that was sent out about 9 years ago. Richard mentioned that the prices that we currently have were an average based on the feedback received with most supporter clubs mentioning that they did charge a fee for juniors. After discussions with members and the ticket allocation for juniors, Rob put a proposal forward that Juniors (under 16s) to pay £2 per season as a token of registration and are at back of the queue for ticket allocations. As half the current members were present, a vote was made and the proposal was carried.

10-year Anniversary next month – Any news/suggestion?...Paul mentioned that he had spoken to Chris and Chris confirmed that the oven was being installed later this week, so basket food was a possibility. Chris would like an idea of numbers. Paul confirmed that it was a big milestone that we had made it to 10 years and Richard agreed, especially that Paul, Bill and Richard were the only three original members that were still here from the start of the reborn Wessex Blues back in September 2012. Richard then mentioned sadly that he would not be in attendance next month as he needed to travel to Romania with his partner with respect to some land that had been left to his partner via her grandmother and based on solicitor and governmental law that she needed to reclaim it or it would return to the state. Also, the trip was to see her family as she had not seen them since pre Covid. Richard confirmed that it was not really a holiday as he would be working as well so emails with respect to the club would be answered and sent as normal while away. Richard confirmed with Rob that the club would pay for the evening with one drink and have it something similar to what we do for Christmas.

With reference to our 10-year anniversary, Richard confirmed that we had a new flag for the season 2022/23 and an official certificate from MCFC on our 10-year anniversary. Richard also confirmed that we also had some keyrings. All items were passed among the group to show and keyrings to keep.

Time for meetings going forward (19:45? or 19:15?). Richard confirmed that this had been brought up as Rana et al. were struggling to get to the meeting for 19:15 and wondered if we could revert back to the old time. After discussions with members with the possibility of a 19:30 start as an alternative possibility it was agreed especially if we attended a meeting and then watched a game on a Monday night it was best for the start time to remain at 19:15...this went to a vote again and was carried for the time to remain at 19:15. Richard confirmed he would let Rana know the outcome.

Richard mentioned that voting for Committee roles from September onwards (Chairperson, Vice Chair, General Secretary, Treasurer, Social Secretary...any others?) would be made and appropriate emails would be sent out late August for nominations and voting to take place in September to members.

Comments from the last meeting to clear up, included that Martin (J) represented a joker being played rather than his surname initial and Richard confirmed based on Annie's and Dave's comment from the previous meeting that if jokers are to be played by members that they must be notified before the meeting starts as they would not count if notified after the day of the meeting. Richard also confirmed again that two jokers were permitted each season to be used as and when and would not be allowed to be carried forward to the next season.

### 3. General Secretary Update

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

Arsenal (A) – 5 (Paul H, Dave, Andy P, Michael and Rich)

Man Utd (H) – 2 (Paul H and Dave)

Liverpool (A) – 2 (Paul H and Andy P)

Southampton (H) – 0

Brighton (H) – 0

Leicester (H) – 0

Richard confirmed that the Arsenal ticket request was for Michael's wife and not for himself.

Richard confirmed new debit card details, website and Facebook details with MCFC as the old debit card for ticket payments etc had expired as Richard had recently obtained a new card.

Birthday wishes: - Paul H (11<sup>th</sup> August), Andy H (17<sup>th</sup> August), Mete (7<sup>th</sup> Sept), Stephen (8<sup>th</sup> Sept) and Robbie (8<sup>th</sup> Sept). Only Rob was present to receive the wishes.

### 4. Treasurer Update

Current Bank balance and recent transactions - £511.22 (as of 7<sup>th</sup> August)

### 5. Any Other Business (AOB)

Rob apologized to members that he had not introduced our new members to the group. The new members were Tracy, Nick, and Lewis Limm (Wife, Husband and Son). Tracy confirmed to the group that she had attended her first game in January, as Father-in-Law did not want to go due to Covid and absolutely 'loved it'. Tracy now addicted, said since then she has tried to go to as many games as possible in Manchester. Tracy confirmed that her father was from Manchester and was a City fan. Tracy confirmed that her family are from Portland. Lewis, aged 18, said his first match was Southampton at home in 2019 and has followed the club ever since. Nick said that he never really followed football as he is a wind surfer and tennis addict and went to his first match in Manchester in 2019 watching Southampton and have watch around 15 matches since then. Watching the game at the stadium gave him the wow factor as it was far better than watching then at home on the TV. Nick said obtaining away tickets online was hard and charges were significantly high; but had purchased 10 home tickets for the coming season with the family as season tickets were sold out. Nick said that he likes to sit close to the away fans for the atmosphere. Nick also commented on how cool the city of Manchester is and often stay for a couple of days. Nick stated that joining the supporters club, the family hoped we would be able to go to some away games. Nick confirmed that his favourite City player was Ederson.

Next Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 19:15 (The Cricketers)