



## Wessex Blues

126<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Started 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 19:15

Closed 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 19:41

Location: The Royal British Legion, Ferndown

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Robbie's gave thanks and welcomed old and new members to our venue for our last meeting for the 2024/2025 season (17 members).

Graham R and Phil W approved the previous minutes from April.

Apologies received – Michael C (J), Pat, DOB (J), Derek P, Joe (J), Danny, Phil M, Paul G, Ryan (J)...Joe asked to play a joker; however; Joe has already used his two jokers this season. Alan J confirmed that DOB did get a FA Cup Final ticket.

### 2. Agenda Items

Feedback from attendance from previous games between late April to early May

Manchester City v Crystal Palace (5-2) – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Everton v Manchester City (0-2) – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Manchester City v Aston Villa (2-1) – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Nottingham Forest v Manchester City (0-2) – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Manchester City v Wolverhampton Wanderers (1-0) – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Robbie confirmed that the set of results were much happier then on previous occasions recently. Alan J suggested that the good results were down to the fact that Pep and his wife have got back together again. Many members suggested that we were very fortunate against Wolves and Nottingham Forest in the winning the game. Likewise beating Crystal Palace, especially after being down 2-0. Robbie suggested that we are showing good spirit and Alan J suggested that we are playing much better since Rico is not playing at right-back.

Comments regarding forthcoming games in late May to early June

Southampton (A), Crystal Palace (N), Bournemouth (H), Fulham (A)

Robbie suggested that by winning just one of those three games, we would qualify for the Champions League. Alan J suggested that we could still catch Arsenal for second place.

Current membership – 62 (64) – New Members since last season include Jack Harris, David Atherton, Keith Weston, Margaret Weston, Philip Hampton, George Hyde, Derek Parker, Louis Ward, Clare Willats and Steven Harwood

New members not spoken/attended to date – Deanne Parkin, Pat Reid, Liam Barrett, Lukas Waszczyszyn, Helen Speller, Gracie Speller, Craig Jevons, Janet Connor, Lindsey Sturman, Oliver Sturman, Mark Sturman, Riette Jevons, Avan Erhumwunsee, Jack Harris, Keith Weston, Margaret Weston, Louis Ward, Clare Willats

Any other news about new Members (from other members etc.) None

### 3. General Secretary Update

Ticket requests made between late April and early May for the following games:

Crystal Palace (Wembley) – (27) Andy M, Alan, Robbie, Gavin, Shaun, Neil M, Bill, Liam, Hayden, Mason, Colin, Louis, Clare, Andy P, Deanne, Charlotte, Tony, Graham R, Pat, Derek P, Phillip M, Philip W, Carole, Martin, Stephen, Joe and Rich  
Fulham (A) – (4) Andy P, Andy M, Joe and Gavin  
Bournemouth (H) – (2) Alan and Tony

With reference to DOB, Rich mentioned that DOB did not request a ticket via email for the match against Crystal Palace. Alan J would pass on that information on to him. The draw for Fulham at last showed a good omen for Andy P especially in recent draws.

Birthday wishes: - George H, Marilyn and Graham R (16<sup>th</sup> May), Neil M (19<sup>th</sup> May), Hayden (25<sup>th</sup> May), Steven H (27<sup>th</sup> May), Derek P (3<sup>rd</sup> June), Gavin (7<sup>th</sup> June), Charlotte (24<sup>th</sup> June), Jack (3<sup>rd</sup> July), Arthur and Phil W (7<sup>th</sup> July)

### 4. Treasurer Update

Current Bank balance and recent transactions - £478.08 (as of 8<sup>th</sup> May). Rich confirmed that the bank balance had taken a significant hit due to the fact of our 125<sup>th</sup> meeting drinks etc. and unfortunately the Wessex Blues website has had to be moved from Rich's employer's server which has hosted the website since 2013 for free and has had to be hosted independently. Rich confirmed that he agreed a three-year hosting deal for a couple of hundred pound, or we would have lost the website. Rich viewed it that we have had 13 years of free hosting; however, we have now got to pay for it, so from a finance perspective we are still significantly better off if we had to have paid for it from the start.

### 5. Any Other Business (AOB)

Marilyn mentioned that Bruce Springsteen was playing at the Co-Op on the evening of the home game against Bournemouth. Rich showed a list of the number of meetings each member has attended since the re-birth of the Wessex Blues since September 2012. As Bill was in attendance this evening, he has now joined Rich in being in the centurion club of attending 100 meetings or more. Robbie confirmed after speaking with Rich that we have still not got to the bottom of what happened with our allocation of our Nottingham Forest tickets and how the tickets were allocated for the FA Cup final against Crystal Palace on a first come basis and difficult to navigate. Robbie could not understand why the system had changed as the previous version worked well. Alan J moaned that the FA Cup final tickets had increased significantly over previous years. Rich mentioned that previously the branch had sat across the same row or two and now branch members are now scattered across all blocks and now lacks that family unit on previous occasions to Wembley. With reference to the semi-final, Rich confirmed that we had received an email confirming our 16-ticket allocation; but Rich thinks that an administrative error at MCFC occurred with our allocated tickets not actually being allocated to branch members as no one who requested a ticket got one allocated to their ticket account. Eventually after several emails, Rich was advised to tell branch members to apply

directly for tickets via the MCFC website. Branch members confirmed that nobody was going to the World Cup competition in the USA.

Next Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 19:15 Royal British Legion, Ferndown