

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club  
AGM  
Minutes  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022  
The Springfield Pub

Present;

Caroline Molyneux, Jeff Taylor, Deb Chapman, Adam Pendlebury, Eddie Earley, Adam Conroy, Jason Taylor, Norma Unsworth, Marie Brookfield, Rachael Davies

Apologies; Mick Wimsey

1. End of Season Update - Chair – CM provided an impact report of the work of WASC this season. This document had also been distributed to members at the End of Season Party at the stadium.

It's hard to believe that just over 12 months ago our football club was on the brink of extinction.

After months of internal wrangling that we may never know fully what happened, the Spanish consortium had pulled out and we were left back at square one, looking for a buyer.

The Bahrain interest was mentioned right at the start of administration, but as a result of the exclusivity given to the first bidders to place a deposit, no further information surfaced until early 2021.

The Bahraini group were different to other bidders we had seen. They were private and wanted to remain as anonymous as possible until the deal was fully complete. They instilled confidence in us, as they were cautious, but very professional. In the final stages of the purchase, they supported our negotiations with the administrators to return the monies from the first Crowdfunder and they came to meet us as soon as they re-entered the bidding, to reassure us of their intentions for WAFC. After months of complete uncertainty, there was a nervous, but positive feeling about the future.

We have now emerged on the other side, but our club will bear the scars of administration forever. We lost valuable employees whose hearts were firmly in the club. Assets like Euxton, that were undersold in desperation, were a wrench to lose, and of course the Supporters Shares from Springfield Park days, that disappeared when Wigan Athletic AFC was liquidated, when the 2021 Club was set up.

No one could've imagined the season we have had after the events of 2020-21. The term "Believe" is now more synonymous with Wigan Athletic than ever before. Mr Al Jasmi and his team, led by Talal as Chairman, have adopted our club, seemingly (and hopefully) for life!

Investment, good marketing, and a little bit of madness has brought Wigan Athletic back to life.

In terms of Wigan Athletic Supporters Club, we have taken the experiences and learning that we have gained through the period of administration, and we are building for the future to make sure that WASC continues to serve the fans and the football club in the best way we possibly can. Wigan Athletic Supporters Club had to step up during administration. We found ourselves working in very different ways than we ever had before and after the club was successfully bought, we were determined to continue to improve our offer to the supporters of Wigan Athletic going forward.

No matter the outcome of this season, it has been an amazing year and as always, it's the supporters of WAFC that keep the heart of the club beating. The survival of the club started with you. Every person that donated, saved the club. Every person that shared the fundraiser posts saved the club. Every person that believed in the survival of Wigan Athletic, saved the club.

We will be eternally grateful to our new owners for investing in Wigan. The connection between Bahrain and Wigan was an unlikely one, but now it's cemented in history!

2. End of Season Update - Treasurer

**Total amount raised in the first Crowdfunder in 2020 - £202,511**

Total used to complete the 6 remaining fixtures 2019-20 £97,209.80

Total used to ensure WAFC could start the 2020-21 season – £74,180.20

Amount paid back to WASC by the administrators – £171,390 – now in reserved funds to support the CT projects over two years (2021-2023)

Amount raised for the Wall of Hope, still held by WASC £19,609

Total amount used to provide legal and administrative support to WASC during the administration process £11,542

Total amount refunded to fans from the Save our Club second Crowdfunder after successful purchase by the Bahrain group - £642,559

Over 4,000 fans travelling to 30 away games this season

Total miles travelled 8175

Money saved by travelling with WASC compared to the next coach price tender, £241 per person

400 free pies given to members

23 WASC members and their guest given third floor hospitality this season

Number of Grass Roots Teams receiving £1000 from the returned monies in 2021-22 – 10

- Springfield Park Juniors
- Wigan Junior Latics, Orrell
- Highfield Grange
- Hawkley FC
- Hindley Green FC
- Ashton Park Junior Football Club
- Shevington FC
- Pennington FC
- Wigan Athletic Ladies
- Wigan Athletic Junior Disability Team

### 3. Committee Structure 2022-23

The committee members and structure were ratified for 2022-23. New roles and responsibilities were distributed and agreed. These will be added as an appendix to the constitution for season 2022-23 onwards.

A.O.B

It was agreed that better publicity for the AGM was needed for next season. Possible incentive for members to attend to get involved.

**Meeting Closed at 3pm**