



Committee Meeting
Friday 1st March 2024
6pm @ Community Trust Offices

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: D.Chapman, Jeff Taylor, Jason Taylor, S.Dempsey, C.Molyneux, N.Unsworth, M.Brookfield, R.Davies

Apologies received from A.Pendlebury

No Apologies from S.Rimmington, C.Keegan

2. Minutes from last meeting – General Meeting on January 31st 2024

3. Committee Co-opting proposal – S. Dempsey and L. Chapman were proposed and accepted onto the committee.

4. Coach Update

We are taking one VIP coach to Wycombe and at the moment this is half full. Charlton is likely to be postponed due to international fixtures and this would result in it being a midweek game. Again, this makes things difficult for fans to travel.

Overall, apart from the Exeter Cup Game we are close to breaking even on the coaches this season.

5. Upcoming home game plans – the Fan Zone

Leyton Orient 9th March – Usual Fan Zone activities. Graham Hickford will be on stage with Barry pre-match.

Blackpool 16th March – Joseph's Goal Walkers arriving in the bar from their walk from Blackpool. Extra Time Participants are being hosted in the bar – it is Community Takeover Day. Past Players will be coming into the bar – all three groups will have pie and peas.

Logan will be singing in the bar for the Walkers.

Fan of the Month will be awarded.

After the game we are organising a fundraiser with Tony Kelly and Paul Beesley – an auction of memorabilia, in aid of Alex Cribble, who is gravely ill. This will be in Whelan's Bar.

Tic n Mix will be in the bar as well as the Heritage Project.

All help with both games will be appreciated.

6. WASC Projects

a. Heritage

The group are still in the process of preparing a museum room and website for launch at the start of next season. Stadium Tours are allowing the project to be self sustaining at the moment.

b. Past Players

The Past Players have requested a fundraiser for Alex Cribley. See above. We are also arranging training ground visits for the past players at regular intervals, meeting with Shaun for lunch at the end of the visit.

A golf day has been arranged as a social event for PP. Committee are invited to help during the day and/or attend the dinner in the evening for a cost price. Jason will keep committee updated on this event which is being held on 3rd May.

c. Inclusivity

Adam P and Jason are attending the EDI meeting next week and will give an update at the next meeting.

7. FSA Update – A. Pendlebury

Introduction

The Wigan Athletic Supporters Club continues to work closely with the FSA on a diverse array of issues. Adam Pendlebury, our FSA representative is a member of the EFL League 1 / League 2 network. Through that network he is able to attend relevant workshops, receive regular updates and input into FSA initiatives. As a representative of the Supporters Club he welcomes input on the recent initiatives and announcements. He can be contacted on adpendlebury100@hotmail.com. Please check your e-mails on a regular basis. The SC will send out e-mails when we need to pass on supporters' views to the FSA.

Rail Survey

The FSA has partnered with key rail industry stakeholders the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) to help them understand the issues that match goers face when travelling by rail throughout the season. Adam has already completed the survey. It closes soon but you are more than welcome to contribute if you use trains to get to matches. You can find the survey via this link <https://thefsa.org.uk/news/rail-industry-seeks-fans-views-on-train-travel/> Although it has an away fan focus, the FSA would also appreciate home supporters who travel long distances to fill this in. Adam travels to a number of matches by train and will represent fans on any working group that is set up.

FA CUP - Working Group

Many of you will know that there are proposals to change FA cup scheduling as a result of there being significantly more UEFA competition fixtures. Adam contributed to the survey on this matter and raised a number of concerns. FSA representative's concerns were put forward by the Working Group that took place in February. Below are the proposals and the FSA responses...

MEN'S FA CUP MEETING SUMMARY

2024/25 calendar and changes to FA Cup format & ticket pricing

- Changes to UEFA club competitions will impact domestic League & Cup competitions.
- No decisions have been made.
- Any changes must be ratified by the FA Board
- The 15% away ticket allocation will remain.

The FSA

- Lower league & non-league teams may be financially disadvantaged if replays are removed.
- Some of the history, heritage and uniqueness of the competition may be lost.
- A Thursday to Monday 'Weekend' makes it difficult for travelling fans, both home & away

- The impact on supporters is a key consideration when broadcast & scheduling decisions are made.
- The FSA pressed for further discussions on a ticket price cap in the FA Cup

2024 Semi-finals and Final and beyond – Ticket Pricing and Allocations

- Semi- Final & Final ticket pricing, allocations and banding of seats will remain frozen, as agreed preCovid. This is the last year of this agreement.
- Increased costs need to be considered for the 2025 semi-finals & final. (The FA)
- Semi-Finals will remain at Wembley.

The FSA

- Changes to higher price banding be look at initially, with detailed consultation before any decisions are taken.
- Requested, as far as possible, avoiding Easter weekend for semi-finals and consider mitigating impact for any engineering works.

FA Cup broadcast arrangements – international and domestic

(note this meeting took place before the announcement of TNT Sport as the primary domestic broadcast partner for 2025/26 season onwards)

- On demand broadcasting is becoming more attractive to bidders
- The Men's FA Cup Final is protected as a terrestrial free to air game by legislation, the Women's FA Cup Final is not.

The FSA

- Raised concerns about the impact on weekend fixtures moved for international but not domestic broadcast.
- The FSA provided feedback that showed the benefits of free to air broadcast, in terms of accessibility and promoting the competition to a wider audience.

EFL Network Meeting

The most recent FSA Network Meeting took place on the 28th February. Key issues that affect fans were on the agenda. These included: an update from an EFL National Council representative and a discussion of current fan engagement and developments impacting fan groups and clubs. This is something Adam and Caroline will engage with the FSA on, in light of the recent issues with ticketing and communication at Wigan Athletic. At the time of writing the minutes have not been circulated to Adam but when they are, he will make them available to members.

8. Springfield Park Dinner

The date of this is now May 10th We now have Andy Liddell confirmed. Jason will keep the committee updated with ongoing planning. Tickets will be going out asap.

9. A.O.B

None

Next Meeting – April 2024