

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club
Minutes
Thursday 17th November

Present;

Marie Brookfield, Deb Chapman, Adam Conroy, Caroline Molyneux, Jason Taylor, Jeff Taylor

Apologies;

Adam Pendlebury, Mick Wimsey, Eddie Earley, Norma Unsworth

Rachael Davies gave her apologies for the meeting and advised of her intention to step back from the committee due to personal commitments. As a valued member of WASC, the committee asked that Rachael remain listed on the committee until the end of the season to make a final decision. She will remain on sabbatical until the end of the season.

1. Update on Club

We have had contact with the Chairman to update us on the situation at the club. After the removal of Leam we placed a short statement on our website thanking Leam for his service.

2. Coaches

Currently -£200 but expecting that to be evened out over coming matches.

3. Member Complaint Update

A letter had been received from the Member to appeal the decision sent by letter after the last meeting;

Thank you for your email, in response to the comments made by the steward about me, they are all untrue and I feel like he his slandering my name

Being loud and using inappropriate language on the coach and towards the steward was definitely not me, the only thing I did say to the steward was that he was making me feel like I wanted to throw myself out of the emergency exit, to which he replied 'go on do it'

As for vaping on the coach I don't vape I smoke cigarettes

Being excessively intoxicated, I had 3 drinks all day, 1 in the red robin before getting on the coach, 1 in the ground before the game and 1 at half time

If yourself and the committee would like to meet me in person to discuss this matter please don't hesitate to get in touch

Thank you

xxxxxxx

A full discussion took place regarding the information provided by Mick Wimsey at the last meeting (detailed in the letter sent to Member X) and the reply from Member X. The committee decided that the incident with Member X was not handled correctly. Any issues on the outgoing journey should've been reported to other committee members via the Whatsapp group in a similar way to coach issues which were reported in a timely way. We did recognise that further guidance for stewards on the policy for this should be issued as a result of the incidents at the Rotherham game. The committee decided to give Member X a warning. This will be done in writing and if the terms are breached then a banning order will be the next step.

4. Review of the Season so far

The committee discussed the events of the seasons so far. A number of successes for WASC including the Quiz Night, events in the South Stand Bar for Extra time members and women in football.

- Several members of the committee voiced their concerns that as a result of the actions of Mick Wimsey as a committee member and Vice Chairman this season, committee members have felt obstructed in their duty and at times unable to fully promote our football club in a positive way. Committee decisions have been questioned by Mick Wimsey singling out individuals for scrutiny that is not appropriate or inordinate with the work of a voluntary committee. These have included messages in the WhatsApp group questioning things like Tweets made via the WASC Twitter announcing decisions that have previously been agreed by the committee. All members present agreed that the regular questioning like this was obstructive and often detrimental to the work of the committee and even to the mental health of committee members.
- In addition, the incident at Whelan's Bar prior to the Rotherham game was discussed where the manager of the bar had reported to J. Taylor and C Molyneux that a committee member (MW) had questioned their decision to open the bar prior to departure without consulting the committee. This had caused concern to the manager and he had reported that the committee member was aggressive in his tone and had expressed that the committee should've been consulted. JT had smoothed this over after the game which was acknowledged by an email to CM by the Whelan's manager. Whilst an official complaint was not made to the club itself, this was as a result of the immediate intervention made by JT and CM to apologise to the manager on behalf of WASC.

The above incidents were found to bring WASC into disrepute by contravening the rules of the organisation below:

The aims of the organisation are to work on behalf of the supporters of Wigan Athletic and promote our football club in a positive and professional way as a member of the Football Supporters Association (FSA).

Committee members must uphold the good name of WASC and WAFC at all times and must act in accordance with their role and any confidentiality agreed during meetings at all times.

The committee were reminded of the meeting in July 2021 where previous incidents by the committee member were discussed with him in a one item agenda in order to draw a line under previous challenges posed by this committee member. These included but are not limited to:

- Meeting with the administrators as a single representative of WASC and promising them an immediate payment of £100,000 from the Crowdfunder that had only been raised 24 hours earlier. Subsequently WASC were sent emails by the administrators addressed to MW, stating that they were expecting the monies immediately and pressing WASC to release the monies in one lump sum to them.
- Requesting that one of the administrators set up a "fake meeting" with committee members, excluding him, in order to "test" the committee that they were including him.
- Speaking on GMR as a representative of WASC, asking that the EFL accept the current bidder (Spanish Consortium) as the new owner of WAFC when the committee had voted by a majority not to support this group.

As a result of several concerns raised in different areas this season, and in accordance with Section 5 of the WASC disciplinary policy, the committee voted unanimously to suspend MW from committee duties until he attended a meeting to discuss the issues. MW to be informed by letter and invited to the next meeting to discuss the issues.

5. Sheffield Weekender

£160 per person based on a double/twin room. The game is Friday night. Already 26 booked.

6. WASC Events

29th November – England v Wales – Whelan's Bar – Free Pizza for members. Prize raffle and possible Latics Legend e.g. Mike Flynn to talk before game and at half time

15th December – Members event at Whelan's – possibly get the new manager or a player or two prior to restart of season. Free pizza and special offers at the club shop

19th December – Pie and Peas for members prior to the game – JT has ordered.

7. A.O.B

None

Next Meeting Thursday 15th December at Whelan's Bar at 5.30pm