

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club
Minutes
Thursday 19th January

Present;

Caroline Molyneux, Jason Taylor, Jeff Taylor, Deb Chapman, Norma Unsworth, Eddie Earley, Marie Brookfield

Joining the meeting for Item 1

Andy Birch – Head of Operations – WAFC

Genna Banks – Head of Safeguarding and HR – WAFC

Martin – Police Liaison Officer - WAFC

Apologies;

Adam Conroy. Adam Pendlebury

Rachael Davies – Sabbatical Period until end of Season 2022-23.

1. Discussion regarding anti-social behaviour on coaches

A full discussion took place with the guests providing expert input and advice on how WAFC and WASC can work together with the aim of reducing the anti-social behaviour (ASB) both at home and away games that has been increasingly seen this season.

The following actions were agreed by all:

- All incidents that occur with WASC during away travel will be reported to Andy Birch for information sharing purposes and advice if required.
- Andy Birch will provide WASC with a copy of the pertinent points of the draft Operations Manual that includes sanctions for ASB at games. We will provide supporters feedback on this and also mirror the format in our own sanctions pathway for ASB on coaches.
- Genna Banks to investigate DBS checks for WASC Committee members as volunteer stewards for away games
- WASC to issue a statement mirroring the recent club statement on ASB and state that we are working together to reduce this.
- WASC to increase vigilance around drinking prior to travel and add to the rules/regs of travel that travel may be refused if members have been drinking in excess prior to travel
- WASC to implement an under 16 to be accompanied by an 18+ adult with immediate effect for all new bookings. This is to be trialled until the end of the season.

2. MW committee suspension

The Secretary had confirmed by telephone that no communication had been received from MW since the last letter sent to him (19/12/22). The Chair read the minutes of the last meeting (17/11/22) regarding this matter which MW had also been sent at the time. The committee discussed that as no communication had been received and that MW had had three opportunities to discuss the matter at committee meetings since 17th November 2022, that the matter would be resolved via a vote. The committee were presented three options to the committee in accordance with Section 24 of our disciplinary policy;

1. Invite MW to another future meeting to discuss the matter
2. Remove MW from the committee with no right to re-join the committee
3. Remove MW from the committee with the right to apply to join as a committee member in future seasons

The committee discussed the fact that this matter has already been going on for several months and given that a similar issue was minuted in July 2021 with a final warning given to

MW regarding conduct, option 3 was unanimously voted for by all committee members present.

The Secretary will write to MW within the next 7 days to inform him of the decision.

3. Financial Update

The Treasurer presented a full financial update for the season so far and the committee members present were able to ask questions and scrutinise the accounting details with these signed off as accurate.

Next Meeting Thursday 23rd February 2023 at The Raj Restaurant at 19.00