

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club
Minutes
Thursday 19th February 2023

Present;

Caroline Molyneux, Jason Taylor, Jeff Taylor, Deb Chapman, Norma Unsworth, Marie Brookfield, Adam Pendlebury.

Apologies;

Adam Conroy, Eddie Earley,

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

1. Matters Arising from the minutes

Minutes were accepted from previous meeting

2. Coach update

Coaches are slightly in profit for the season. For PNE on Saturday we have 7 coaches including 1 double decker. It was agreed that the DD should not be taken to future short journeys this season. A quote for security support had been sought £272 for two personnel with paramedic training and incident support qualified. It was agreed that this would be put on hold but could be used in the future if needed.

3. Wall of Hope

CM shared the details of the meeting held on Monday this week with the football club. Martin Tarbuck at the Mudhutter had been consulted. The Club would like us to commission a Memorial sculpture rather than a wall. The reason for this was that the club has plans for a commercial wall.

CM had liaised with MT, the artists and the Club and our graphic designer Adam Arkwright. An engagement commission brief had been produced for the artist to work from to produce initial ideas. CM talked the committee through the brief document and it was agreed that this could be shared with the artist.

4. Believe Day - 1st April

This day is also EFL Community Awareness Day. WASC have been asked to host the Extra Time Choir and members of the group prior to the game. They would like to sing 4 songs including "I'm a Believer" and "You are my sunshine". This was agreed by all. The Community Trust will provide match tickets for all the guests. It was proposed that we provide pie and peas for the Extra time visitors. This was unanimously agreed. There will be stalls around the outside of the stadium ranging from health to community engagement. At 12.30 there will be a presentation over at the CT to name the building "The Tom Flower Building". At half time the CT staff will be invited onto the pitch to officially receive their award for North West Community Trust of the Year.

5. Sheffield Weekender

Currently 32 members travelling for the weekend. All committee except Adam C and RD are booked to attend. Andy McClaren (former committee member) has agreed to steward the day coach.

6. Quiz Night

Thursday 13th April 2023 from 7pm. Barry Worthington has agreed to host once again. Any proceeds will go to the CT Extra Time project.

7. FA Cup Dinner

JT updated the committee on the plans for the dinner. Saturday 13th May in the South Stand bar which was booked. The committee decided on the menu of Soup, Chicken, Sticky Toffee Pudding. Tickets would be £50 per person with a 10% discount for booking a table of ten.

Phil Jameson was booked for lighting and sound. Tommy Gore would be approached to host. Currently 13 staff/players had confirmed. We would be offering hotel stays for players where necessary. Whelan's has been booked as a VIP/Green room prior to the event.

Whelan's has also been booked on Thursday 11th May 2023 to show the FA Cup final with special guests and the PWU podcast hosting and recording.

8. Potential Patron

A discussion was had regarding approaching a patron for WASC. It was agreed that JT would approach Roberto Martinez regarding this. Jonathan Jackson was also mentioned as a possible future patron.

9. MW Update

We have received no communication from MW following the last meeting on 19/1/23 when the final letter was sent informing MW that his position on the committee had been terminated.

At the last home game we had been given information that MW was planning to set up his own Supporters Club. This had been confirmed by Mal Brannigan at the meeting with the club on Monday 20th February. The committee were asked to continue with our roles as WASC as normal.

10. AP gave the committee an update on the White Paper from the government. A new legislative body will be set up which will prevent Football Club owners from changing certain aspects of their clubs without consultation with fans first. JT stated that a Fans Advisory Board would be held in the next few weeks with all fans bodies invited. It was agreed that AP and DC should represent WASC at these meetings.

A.O.B

CM stated that Terry Knowles had been stewarding for several games this season and was interested in becoming a committee member in order to steward officially for WASC. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Terry Knowles onto the committee.

Extra Time Hubs – CM had visited the hub in Leigh this week. The funding from the Supporters Project runs out in September. The programmes costs £36,000 per year. A discussion was had about possible sources of annual funding e.g. the Walk to a local away game raises £15K plus annually. A similar idea was needed. CM will approach the Football Club about the possibility of a “Stadium Sleepover” where children experience a night at the DW for a charge that goes to the Extra Time project.

Next Meeting Saturday 8th April 2023, Sheffield Crowne Plaza at breakfast