



**Official Wigan Athletic Supporters Club
A Supporters Trust
General Meeting
Wednesday 31st January 2024
Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome, Present and Apologies

Caroline Molyneux, Adam Pendlebury, Barry Worthington, Deb Chapman, Norma Unsworth, Daniel Hayes, Paul Redrobe, Christine Smith, Andrew Smith, Jason Taylor, Rachael Davies, Tony Dewitt, Graham Foster, Adam Conroy, Jeff Taylor, Linda Worthington, Andrew Smith, Lauren Chapman, Paul Rowley, Shaun Fairhurst.

Apologies

Anne Foster, Tommy Davies, John Abernethy, Tony Topping, Julie Carey, David O'Neill Hugill.

2. Update from the Chair

Festive Events

At the end of the year, we were involved in a number of Christmas events to support the community of Wigan Athletic. December pre-match visit to the **York Christmas Markets** for our FA Cup game in York. Over 100 fans made the early journey to enjoy the hospitality of the city.

The **Whelan's Quiz Night Christmas Party** hosted by Barry Worthington from the PWU Podcast. raised over £300 for the Wigan Athletic Community Trust.

Community Trust Christmas Cracker Appeals. The first was with a meal and festive fun evening for young participants and the Extra Time members enjoyed a turkey and tinsel afternoon at the stadium with games and fun.

The Supporters Club provided a resident DJ, helpers and selection boxes donated by our friends at BAB West Lancs Chauffeur Group for children attending the **Wigan Athletic Junior Christmas Party** on 19th December, plus Barry Worthington from the PWU Podcast was on duty as Santa for the evening.

Generous WAFC fans donated over 500 items for **The Brick Christmas appeal** which were delivered to support local families over the festive period.

Annual **Free Pie and Peas** in the South Stand Supporters Bar prior to the Carlisle game.

Coach Update

So far this season we have taken 48 coaches to a total of 17 away matches meaning over 2200 passengers have travelled with us in the first half of the season!

Our VIP option with Swans Travel has been a welcome addition to our travel offer, with their executive coaches a comfortable, great quality option for those wanting the best value for money.

Our aim is to provide safe, affordable travel for all fans of Wigan Athletic to be able to travel to games. Our coaches are **strictly not for profit** but any small profit that is made by the end of the season will be donated to the WAFC Academy. It has been a difficult year for coaches so far, with competition keeping prices low and some coaches not filling completely e.g. Exeter in the FA Cup and the cost of living crisis has seen a reduction in the number of fans travelling.

Roberto Martinez – Honorary President of the Official Supporters Club

Before the home game v Carlisle we were delighted to welcome former player and manager Roberto Martinez to the Supporters Club Bar.

South Stand Fan Zone

The South Stand Supporters Bar – home of the Official Supporters Club.

In the Family Quiz you could win a signed matchday magazine, enjoy the hot food on offer with different special dishes every game or have a go at the raffle where you could win some great prizes.

There's a Tic and Mix sweet stall for our junior supporters and a player appearance live on stage 30 minutes before kick off.

The Heritage Project team are on hand to show off their collections of memorabilia to fans and there are special guest interviews and music acts on stage.

Official Supporters Club members can enjoy 25% off all food and drink up to 90 minutes before kick off.

The Wigan Athletic Past Players Association

In November we held the relaunch of the Past Players Association in the Phoenix Lounge at the DW Stadium.

All past players were invited to a night of reminiscing and food as Chair of the Heritage Project Jeff Rourke presented each past player with their official badge and membership pack. Shaun Maloney, Gregor Rioch and our Chairman Ben Goodburn spoke to guests about the importance of our history as a club.

We will support at least three social events annually for past players plus arranging tickets for Wigan Athletic matches and provide regular updates for past players

Heritage Project

The Heritage Team have been hard at work sorting through the memorabilia that has been collected through the project. Based over in the East Stand, hundreds of programmes, tickets, posters and other artefacts are being catalogued and prepared for future Heritage displays. At the most recent meeting, the committee itemised and logged every item in the WAFC trophy cabinet. The ultimate aim of this is to set up a small Heritage Museum room that fans can visit to be immersed in the history of our club.

The group have also offered Heritage Stadium Tours in January, with all proceeds going back into the Heritage Project development. These funds have been used to purchase a professional book and document scanner so that items can be preserved electronically as well as physically.

We are now also delivering post-match interviews in Whelan's Bar with past players

International Supporters Clubs

We now have 19 branches of the Official Wigan Athletic Supporters Club across the world! Ireland, the USA, China, Argentina, Norway, Spain and Greece are just some of the linked countries.

Each branch has a lead representative who can be contacted through our website:

www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk/international-wigan-athletic-supporters-clubs/

Fan of the Month

The winner of FOTM for December was LEO GORE and for January was JOSH METCALFE

WAFC Ear Defenders Loan Scheme

For our junior fans who need sensory support when attending matches, we've teamed up with @IndieLatics to provide a loan service of ear defenders at home games

Green Football Weekend – 2nd-5th February 2024

The FSA is the national, democratic, representative body for football supporters in England and Wales.

As a member of the FSA, we will be working with the Football Club to take part in "Green Football Weekend next month. The FSA are sponsoring this initiative to raise awareness of the need for Football Clubs to work more sustainably in order to help tackle climate change. Some of the ideas for this year's event include making the switch to LED lighting on the concourses and providing vegan options in the training ground canteen.

Springfield Park – A Night to Remember – DATE MOVED – NOW FRIDAY MAY 10TH 2024

Our Annual Supporters Dinner this season will be held in conjunction with the Wigan Athletic Heritage Project and the Past Players Association we will be honouring the memory of our former home of 25 years ago at Springfield Park.

We will welcome faces from the past to share their stories of our time at Springfield, plus the evening will be packed with footage and memorabilia from those years for all supporters to enjoy.

Promoting Positive Wellbeing and Mental Health

We have been working with the Latics Community Trust and lifelong Latics fan Colin Garner to develop a support group for Latics fans to promote positive wellbeing and mental health. After struggling with his own mental health some years ago, Colin is keen to share his story with others and get people together to promote positive wellbeing.

February Half Term Escape Room for Junior Tics!



Monday 19th February 2024 | Half Term fun

ESCAPE with the FA Cup!

Junior Supporters Escape Room Experience

Someone has stolen our FA Cup! Follow the clues around the stadium and solve the puzzles to find out who did it and recover the trophy.

- For young Tics aged 11-14
- Each experience lasts approximately 1 hour

Times available:
10:00
12:00
14:00
16:00

Book now on the Events page at www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk

£10 per child inc. refreshments

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE WIGAN ATHLETIC FAMILY ZONE

The poster features the Wigan Athletic logo, the Official Supporters Club logo, a large silver FA Cup trophy, and several question marks. The background is blue with a subtle pattern of question marks.

Lincoln Weekender - Friday 12th - Sunday 14th April 2024

We still have 6 places available for the second coach for this weekender.

Price £160 per person, based on 2 people sharing, Single occupancy £210 per person. Deposit of £50 per person secures your place

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIR

NONE

3. Proposed motion to disapply the requirement for a financial audit

Issues and Rationale for proposed motion

- Turnover of Official WASC due to coaches is over £100,000. Estimated cost of a full financial audit by an accountant is £6500.
- This is a significant amount of members money that could be spent on club, fans or community.
- An independent review of the accounts can be carried out for a much lower cost to the society therefore allowing more funds to be used for community and club development.

Proposed Motion

It is hereby resolved that subject to the provisions of section 4A of the 2014 Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act, the members of the Society shall not require an audit for the accounts covering the current financial year ending on 30th June 2024 when they are presented to the next AGM held in 2024.

The members of the society agree that the Accounts for the financial year ending on 30th June 2024 and for which reports will be laid before the following AGM do not require a full audit provided that:

- An Independent Examination of those accounts is carried out in place of the full audit.
- The Independent Examination is carried out in line with the best practice of the FSA as set out in the guidance notes.
- A report from the Independent Examiner is included within the accounts and circulated to members.

The Society notes that:

- The Independent Examination does not carry the same weight as a full audit.
- The members of the society instruct the Board to identify a suitably qualified practitioner to undertake the review.
- The Board shall agree the appointment of the examiner and shall agree the terms of that appointment in writing.

Motion unanimously passed by all members present

A.O.B

NONE