

Walsall Football Supporters' Trust – Open General Meeting.

Thursday 20th July 2017 (8:00pm) – Pretty Bricks Public House, Walsall.

Present: S Davies (SD - Secretary), B Thomas (BT – Vice Chair), A Miles (AM - Trustee), I Astbury (IA - Trustee), M Evans (ME – Trustee), T Bradshaw (TB – Member), T White (TW – Member) and D Anslow (DA – Member).

Apologies: M Vardy (MV – Treasurer), N Ravenscroft (NR – Chair), D Neville (DN – Membership Secretary), M Garrett (MG – Trustee) and R Barnard (RB – Member).

- 1. West Midlands Football Policing Unit** – SD introduced Stuart Spencer (SS), West Midlands Police dedicated football officer for Walsall FC and Scott Clift (SC), a West Midlands Police Spotter.
SS and SC gave a good and very informative presentation about the way in which match days at WFC are policed and answered numerous questions from the floor regarding modern day policing at football matches. They explained how a points system is used to decide on the level of policing required for each match (if needed) and how a number of key factors are taken into account when deciding on the points for each game including the behavior of fans during previous meetings, the behavior of fans at previous games in the season and the number of travelling fans expected etc.
- 2. Share Hunt** – Ways of increasing the Trusts' shareholding in Walsall Football Club Ltd was discussed and a printed list of current shareholders was produced by DA. BT has taken the list to see if he can contact any of the shareholders to see if they are willing to sell their shares or some of their shares to the Trust.
- 3. Website and Social Media** – DA reported that a new look website was now complete and had been republished with new pages and improved services such as network share buttons and website analysis scripting. The site has also been brought up-to-date legally and is now compliant with EU cookies law and website standards regulations. Walsall Training Centre Limited have once again agreed to sponsor the websites hosting and domain registration fees taking their sponsorship up until August 2019. A new Twitter account will be set up within the next week or two which will be connected to the website

alongside the existing Facebook Group and Facebook Page to allow us to share stories across social media easily. As always, DA was thanked for his excellent work.

4. **Membership** – No report from DN but SD informed the meeting that the club has agreed to the Trust having a table at the first two Saturday home games on the main car park. SD requested the help of the Board Members these Membership Drives.
5. **West Midlands Police Independent Supporters Action Group** – SD has been attending the WMPISAG Meetings throughout the year representing the supporters of Walsall FC at Tally Ho along with WMP and representatives from all West Midlands Clubs. Any policing issues should be reported to SD in order for him to make enquiries with the WMPISAG.
6. **Trust FC** – SD stated that following recent comments made on social media, he feels a meeting is required with Trust FC Manager Rob Harvey (RH) to discuss expectation from both sides.
7. **Walsall FC Sierra Leone** – SD said that the SL team was unsuccessful in their bid to travel to Sweden due to Government bureaucracy but remain committed to being a strong and stable domestic club. The Trust did not give any money towards the trip due to its uncertainty. We are still collecting items of kit, boots etc to send over and we remain committed to supporting the team.
8. **Walsall FC Legends** – Still playing and raising money for charity though sourcing players is proving difficult. The team has a full fixture program throughout August and September.
9. **Walsall FC Former Players Association** – The FPA is still going and has limited funds for funeral floral tributes. A thank you was given the Phil Aston for donating £50 which was very much appreciated. Former Players Day remains popular with ex-players and supporters alike.
10. **Trust Charity for 2017/18 Season** – SD proposed that the Trust continues its support of the Saddlers Learning Centre by way of funding the medals and trophies once again. Due to health issues and a mix-up, the Trust are still to pay for 2016/17 season, but this will be rectified as soon as possible. The meeting agreed to continue its support of the SLC.
11. **Fans V Legends** – Date confirmed for 1/11/17 (2pm) at Rushall Olympic. Same format as previous years, 22 players maximum for fans team, £10 to play. RH to be invited to manage the fans team.
12. **Toy Collection** – Saturday 9th December at the Banks's Stadium. Agreed with Club.
13. **Treasurers Report** – We still have a couple of bills to be deducted from the last statement and the balance stands at £1414.91 once these have been deducted. BT suggested that

finances should be increased in case the Trust has the chance to buy shares in Walsall FC and that no money other than that pledged to the SLC should be given out.

14. **Fansbet** – SD was approached at the recent Supporters Summit about signing up with Fansbet. DA subsequently met up with them and reported back that it was worthy of joining up with them as there is no outlay and funds could be raised through the initiative. We are currently waiting for the contract to read and sign.
15. **Supporter Representation** – SD read a letter sent to Jeff Bonser re: the possibility of having a fans representative on the Board of WFC and also read the 'expected' reply.