

Walsall Football Supporters' Trust – 2012 Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 19th April 2012 (7:00pm) – Pretty Bricks Public House, Walsall.

The meeting was adjourned until 7:01pm due to lack of quorum and reconvened at 7:01pm on agreement of those present.

Present: S Davies (SD), B Thomas (BT), M Vardy (MV), M Jones (MJ), N Ravenscroft (NR), D Anslow (DA), R Evans (RE), I Hemmings (IH), C Ravenscroft (CR), C Zecevic (CZ), D Danks (DD), D Rhodes (DR).

Apologies: J Piddock (JP), I Astbury (IA), M Evans (ME), D Neville (DN), T Rogers (TR).

1. **Minutes of 2011 AGM** – Read by NR. Proposed as a true record: MV, Seconded: CR.
2. **Matters Arising** – MV stated that the accounts that were not available for last season's AGM were received from Geoff Whiting (Treasurer) and were available. They showed a bank balance of £59.00 and assets of £267.00 i.e. value of our shares in Walsall Football Club.
3. **Chairs Report** – NR reported that it had been an extremely active and successful year for the Trust, with our relationship with the club being stronger than ever, complimenting Stefan Gamble and Dan Mole for this. Neil also briefly mentioned our work behind the scenes on the freehold but left most of the reporting to the Secretary's Report. As Membership Secretary, NR reported that we started the year with 152 members, but with a lot of hard work we now have 294 including Business members and Ex Players who are Honorary Life Members.
4. **Secretary Report** – This was going to be the long one as we have achieved so much this season joked SD.

SD started by paying tribute to the members of the Trust Board, thanking them for stepping up to the plate when they were asked to, in particular SD thanked DA who he described as his best signing of the season.

The first priority was to boost membership numbers. Despite having 158 members many were paid up Life members from 10 years ago when the Trust was formed, which meant there was no annual membership fee from them, hence only £59.00 in the bank. We have increased our numbers by our recruitment drive, the establishment of a Business membership and bringing ex players into the fold

which has worked well. Our membership drive for the 1st time ever was allowed on Club ground, an example of the improved relationship with the club.

As a result of this we have returned to Supporters Direct membership which had lapsed and paid our FSA returns fee as well.

FINANCIAL STABILITY - The Trust funds were in serious trouble. We needed to put the Finances on an even keel. The new membership system helped but we decided any fund raising we did would be to achieve this as well as helping SANDS our adopted Charity for the season. We did this by arranging the following events.

SUPPORTERS' V LEGENDS FOOTBALL MATCH - A stunning success £880 raised which gave us a platform to build on.

SPORTS QUIZ - SD thanked MJ for organizing this evening which was well received.

BAND NIGHT - A small attendance, but an enjoyable evening and a small profit from both events. Walsall FC kindly gave us Match tickets as prizes for raffles at all three events.

The three events allowed us to donate £700 to Dan Mole for his SANDS £10K Challenge and one of our donations took him over his total target.

PLAYER VISITS - Another popular thing the Trust have undertaken this season, bringing ex players to be our guests on match days. We work closely with the Club on these and have got superb publicity for the Trust all season ensuring our name is continually mentioned. The Life membership for players has been well received and later in the season our Recognition of Achievement awards have again gone down very well with the Ex players. Again thanks were given to DA for producing these awards.

WEBSITE - One thing we seriously needed revamping was the website and again SD paid tribute to the work of DA for setting the web site up and arranging the Hosting fees to be paid by Walsall Training Centre by way of sponsorship. We truly have a top class web site which is due for even more improvements at the end of the season.

TOY COLLECTION - Another inspired decision to proceed with this saw Walsall fans dig deep donating toys and cash. The players took gifts to Walsall Manor Hospital and we also had so many items that we visited Walsall Children's Hospice and gave them toys as well. Money donated has been used to buy

toys for the 2012 collection. The Trust also donated £50.00 to buy Walsall FC related gifts. ME and MV did a superb job on this event.

SUPPORTERS TRUST FC - This came from the Charity match at the start of the season and under the watchful eye of SD who has been acting as Secretary, CZ (Manager) and DD (Captain), the team has flourished, playing games against other Supporters teams in the IFA. Despite some heavy defeats the lads have stuck together and been rewarded at the end of the season by recording their first wins. The Trust wishes them well for the future. We are appreciative of the Club donating 2 kits for the lads to wear and maintaining close links with the team.

JIMMY WALKER NIGHT - We marked the record breaking achievement of Jimmy Walker with a tribute night. We sold Jimmy Walker masks, Presented Jimmy with a framed shirt with WALKER 530 on the back and invited our ex players who had made most appearances to be our guests for Dinner in the Bonser Suite. Colin Harrison, Nick Atthey, Kenny Mower and Colin Taylor's son and Grandson. Everything we did was well received and thanks to RE, IA, MV and SD making donations we made a small profit on the night.

SUPER JIM 530 - As a result of making friends with Trusts around the Country we found that Bury FC had produced a beer called Forever Bury so we nicked the idea to finish off our Jimmy Walker Celebrations and the Backyard Brewery produced us 200 bottles of SUPER JIM 530 which will be a sellout, making us a profit of £274.00, which enabled us to donate £50.00 to Bert Williams for the Alzheimer's Society and £50.00 to Michael Dobson for McMillan via his London Marathon run. Again this was a popular project with the fans.

WALSALL FC SIERRA LEONE - Our team in Sierra Leone has been taken under the Trust wing and Saddlers here in the UK seem to have taken the lads to their hearts as the season has progressed.

FREEHOLD - Most of this work has been done out of the public eye but the Trust have been investigating ways of buying the Freehold of Walsall FC and placing it into a Trust to safeguard the clubs future forever. We believe that we have found a way to do this but meetings with people who may be interested in helping financially have been disappointing with just one person prepared to put money in.

We will continue to work on this project next season.

AIMS FOR 2012/2013 - The Trust are to continue working on the Freehold issue, Increase membership numbers, repeat of the Supporters v Legends match, Quiz night, Band night and the Christmas Toy appeal, a possible Charity Dinner and the launch of the Walsall FC Ex Players Association.

At the end of the Secretary's Report, BT thanked SD for all his hard work this season.

5. **Treasurers Report** – Not received from Geoff Whiting. This to be addressed in the election of Officers. MV has been looking after the cash this season but we still need to sort out the bank account and will get the accounts when we can.

It was resolved that:

The Co-operative Bank plc (the Bank) shall continue as our bankers in accordance with our original application.

The Bank shall be authorised to accept instructions (including written instructions sent by facsimile and electronic instructions through the use of digital signatures and/or identification numbers or passwords) from us, in connection with the account(s) and the service, provided that the instructions are given and/or signed in accordance with the signing authority listed in the account signatories Section 6b. Instructions shall mean cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes or other orders for payments drawn, made or accepted on our behalf (even if the payments cause the account(s) to be overdrawn) and requests or instructions in writing concerning the account(s), our affairs or property (including the opening of the new account(s), the arranging of facilities and the creation of security).

The Bank shall be authorised to honour all cheques and all other documents made or accepted on our behalf even if such payment causes any accounts to be overdrawn or increase any existing overdraft, provided such documents are signed in accordance with the specimen signatures shown in the account signatories Section 6b.

The Bank shall act of all specimen signatures in accordance with any instruction, notice, request, or other document in writing concerning our account (including the opening of new accounts) affairs or property, as shown in the account signatories Section 6b.

The Bank shall be sent a copy of any future resolutions which effect the terms of these resolutions.

The Bank shall be sent a copy of any changes in our Constitution / Rules / Memorandum and Articles of Association/Regulations or By Laws.

The Bank shall be notified in writing of any change of Directors / Partners / Governors / Members / Trustees.

The Bank shall be notified in writing of any change of official authorised to sign on our behalf.

The Bank shall otherwise continue to operate our account(s) in accordance with the business account mandate.

The Bank shall be notified in writing of any overall change in control in the business.

All signatories to the account are aged 16 or over.

- 6. Election of Officers** – All officers with the exception of Geoff Whiting (GW – Treasurer) are willing to stay for another year.

MV, who has looked after the current cash this season is willing to take over the role of Treasurer subject to a clean break once the accounts are received from GW. Proposed: BT, Seconded: DA, Agreed unanimously.

SD also proposed that we make the role of Website Coordinator a permanent Board Position having co-opted DA onto the Board during last season. Proposed: SD, Seconded NR, Agreed: unanimously.

SD and NR also recognize the work done this season by TR and offered him the role of Special Projects Manager. TR had indicated his willingness to accept. Agreed: unanimously.

- 7. Any Other Business** – SUPPORTERS DIRECT NEW MODEL RULES have been drawn up for Societies and they are keen to get as many to adopt the new rules as possible. BT is looking into adapting them for us to adopt during the coming year. Members will be notified when we are ready to proceed with this.

SD intends to register the name as WALSALL FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' TRUST with the FSA, Supporters Direct and everyone else to standardize things with everyone. This is the name we are known by and wish to be known by.

Meeting Closed: 8:35pm