

Walsall Football Supporters' Trust – 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 18th April 2013 (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), M Vardy (MV), I Astbury (IA), M Jones (MJ), N Ravenscroft (NR), M Evans (ME), D Anslow (DA), T Reece (TR), R Evans (RE), J Piddock (JP), I Hemmings (IH), M Parton (MP), C Ravenscroft (CR).

Apologies: B Thomas (BT), M Garrett (MG).

1. **Minutes of 2012 AGM** – Were read and accepted as a true record. Proposed: NR, Seconded: IA.
2. **Matters Arising** – MV stated that the banking situation was now sorted and there were three Board Members named on the cheque book.

IA asked if the trust owed any money to anyone. MV replied.

3. **Chairs Report** – NR stated that it had been another good year for the Trust, mainly due to the work done by the Secretary. Our relationship with the club is very good at present.

The work on the Freehold continued around TR's proposal only for Supporters Direct to come up with a proposal and a meeting with an interested party which came to nothing to date.

4. **Treasurers Report** – As mentioned earlier the Bank Account has been sorted and we have full access for both paying in and taking out money. The accounts have been presented up to July.

We now have a new problem regarding the Accounts and the possibility of needing a full audit which would cost £500-£700 when we have nothing to audit as all the cash was held by NR and the MV. The main thing is that we are back on a stable financial footing. TR asked about the current Bank Balance MV stated the current balance with some items to come off the total.

RE asked what expenses we anticipated for next year. MV stated we had to pay £55 to the FSA and £100 to Supporters Direct for our membership.

5. **Membership Secretary Report** – 134 total members consisting of 71 Annual, 44 Life, 5 Corporate and 19 Honorary Members. RE stated that we still had 156 email addresses but the mailing list is weak, the move to Microsoft Outlook has made it easier to work within the database but improvements are planned. The Membership drive was poor at the start of the season, we had more new members joining for the first time but not so many renewals.

We have made it easier for people to pay membership with the Trust Bank details in the WFC Match Day Programme every week and we are looking to set up a PayPal account to make it easier still, but fees of 20p plus 3.4% may mean we need to set the cost at £2.25 to cover expenses.

At this point the meeting was suspended due to an incident in which NR was slapped by one of the attendees. The perpetrator was removed from the meeting and after a short delay, the meeting resumed.

BACS was discussed as a method of payment and the possibility of starting up online banking to help the members pay their fees.

6. **Secretary's Report** - It has been a frustrating season in many ways as the Trust work on the Freehold has gone up some blind alleys. Hopefully the latest investigations may bear more fruit.

We started the season on the back foot, membership suffering a fall in numbers at a time when the Trusts' public profile is at an all time high. This must be rectified in 2013-14 with an aggressive recruitment campaign.

Our Fans v Legends game and MJs' Sports Quiz again proved popular events and both will be repeated next season.

A popular addition to the Trust this season was the Former Players Association. It has been popular with the club, the players and fans alike. The Certificates of Achievement produced by DA and the photographs kindly donated by Walsall FC Club photographer Dave Linney have proved to be very popular. We are looking to develop this side of the Trust further next season with the help of Mick Evans who has been very keen on the formation.

Within the remit of the FPA we have organised The Former Players Day, invited guests to the 125th Anniversary Match and had feedback into the Dinner Invites. We will also press on with the Former Player Visits next season.

In the absence of movement on the Freehold, we have increased our Charity work within the club and community. We helped the Gadsby Family hold their Bucket Collection for CRY and were able to top up their total to £800 with a donation from the Charity Match. This was later increased by National Power to £1200. We have also made donations to The Alzheimer's Society and Bryntysilio Outdoor Activity Centre.

Our Christmas Toy and Food Collection was again a stunning success as we were able to support no less than 4 local good causes. We again provided the Players of Walsall FC with toys to take on their annual visit to the Manor Hospital Children's Ward. Walsall Rainbows Children's Hospice were well catered for as were the Black Country Food Bank with toys and food. We also helped the Think Family Team at Walsall Council.

We were pleased to sponsor Febian Brandy's shirt strengthening our bond with the Club in doing so.

We have been involved in helping Centre Half Dean Holden to raise funds for The Meningitis Trust £1457.66 already raised so far with the End of Season Party to come.

DA has already secured a deal with Walsall Training Centre to sponsor the website hosting fees for the next 2 years and has been working on the New Model Rules that we will be hearing about later for which I would like to personally thank him. We have also had 4 editions of THE TRUST Newsletter which has been very well received. We will be making this available to everyone in future so they can see what we are doing as a Trust and are planning sending out a questionnaire to see what Walsall fans want from the Trust.

We cannot please everyone all of the time but we can try!

7. **New Model Rules** – DA explained the reasons for these being written and the implications should we chose to reject the proposal. The Board recommended that the new rules be implemented and the vote unanimous. The paper copy was then signed by 4 Board Members and will be located at the Trust's registered address 159 Woodland Road, Stanton, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE15 9TJ.
8. **Election of Officers** – No new nominations had been received, all the existing Board Members were willing to continue so the whole Board were voted back en block for a period of three years as per our new rules. We do have two places available on the Board should we wish to add anyone at a later date.
9. **Any Other Business** – MV proposed that we thank DA for his work this season and proposed a fixed Honorarium of £50 as a thank you for all his hard work; this was unanimously agreed, only for DA to

ask that the money should go to the Dean Holden Meningitis Trust collection that the Trust were holding. DA was thanked for his generosity.

Meeting Closed: 8:25pm