

Walsall Football Supporters' Trust – 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 4th June 2015 (7:30pm) – Pretty Bricks Public House, Walsall.

The meeting was adjourned until 7:35pm due to lack of quorum and reconvened at 7:36pm on agreement of those present.

Present: S Davies (SD), M Vardy (MV), B Thomas (BT), M Evans (ME), T Reece (TR), I Astbury (IA), M Garratt (MG), N Ravenscroft (NR), C Ravenscroft (CR), D Anslow (DA).

Apologies: D Neville (DN).

1. **Minutes of 2014 AGM** - Minutes of 2014 AGM were available and have been on the Trust website for everyone to go through all year. There were no matters arising from the minutes which were confirmed as a true record. Proposed, Seconded.
2. **Chairs Report** - Not much to say other than to report that there has been very little progress regarding raising money towards the freehold. Trevor then gave an update regarding the new 2015 pension's legislation and its implications on the Freehold.
3. **Treasurers Report** - MV gave a breakdown of the Trust finances and requested that Elisabeth Larner again be engaged to inspect our accounts. The finances were submitted to the Board for approval. Proposed: MG, Seconded: TR.
4. **Secretary Report** - SD delivered the following to the meeting:-

It has been another fruitful year for the Trust, while we have been unable to source further finance to make a concerted effort to purchase the freehold of Walsall FC, we have made more useful contacts and still have a man with a £1million interest.

We have had a very poor season membership wise and urgent action is required to address this. Dean and I will be meeting to plan membership strategy for remaining 2015-16 and 2016-17 season very soon.

We have now paid back the £3,000 loaned to the Trust by the three Board members for Freehold work which means every penny in the Trust account belongs to the Trust.

Once again we have worked hard on the Charity side of things with Saddlers Learning Centre being our chosen good cause locally again this season. We have an excellent relationship with Sue Lane and are now getting due recognition of our sponsorship. I recommend to the Board that we extend this support for the coming season as it ticks all our core brief aims.

Dean Holden has recently received a further £70 for the Sensory Garden which concludes our fundraising for him.

We have been active with other projects centered around our trip to Wembley. The Enville Ales Walsall @ Wembley beer has been a big plus for us financially.

Our Wembley song has been beset by well documented problems which with hindsight could have been avoided, but gave the Trust some excellent publicity.

We have been selling t-shirts which give us £2.50 for every one sold and the Wembley prints will be available for the start of the season.

Our Fellows Park prints are going well and will hopefully make some money for the Former Players Association.

We also have a stock of Alan Buckley's book which pays the FPA generous commission. Walsall Til I die books are selling steadily at £2.

The Fans v Legends game was well received again this year and plans are afoot to hold it again this September. We already have a match sponsor and match ball sponsor in place. We will be arranging a Golf Day for the FPA when dates are offered by Tommy Coakley.

SD has also been developing closer links with Walsall FC Ladies which we are hoping will lead to increased membership next season.

The kit should be in the hands of our lads in Sierra Leone very soon, hopefully they will be playing football very soon.

5. **Membership Secretary Report** - DN sent through a report which was delivered by SD. Numbers are very disappointing in view of the high profile the Trust has enjoyed again this season and again it has re-iterated that we need to do more to attract members in the coming seasons.

6. **Election of Officers** - No new nominations were received for the Trust Board. All the existing Board members were willing to stay on in their respective positions so the current Board were re-elected en bloc.
7. **Rule Changes** – No new notifications received.
8. **Fund Raising and Donations** - Covered in the Secretary's report. It was agreed to extend our support to SUE LANE and the SADDLERS LEARNING CENTRE for a 3rd successive season.
9. **Website & Social Media** - Our website has had 1643 hits 978 of which were unique hits with 665 returning. Facebook page continues to flourish with 929 members a 243% increase on last year's AGM. 658 Have joined since last year's AGM, 591 Since December and 242 since our Wembley appearance.

This is definitely the way forward and we must strive to turn Facebook members into paying members.

10. **Other Business** - None

Meeting Closed: 9:19PM