



Notes from Management Committee Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015

At The Constitution Bar, Leith.

Committee attendees:

Stevie Clark – Chairman

Dave Harrold - Secretary

Del Sharkey – Glasgow/West of Scotland rep

Caz Moir – Aberdeen and Northeast of Scotland rep/ Lady Member's rep

Ryan Mills – Edinburgh rep

Martin O'Donnell – Ticket Manager

And several members of the club also in attendance.

Apologies:

Chris Durling – Treasurer

Mark O'Connell - Glasgow/West of Scotland rep

Charles Brooker – Borders and South of Scotland rep

Colin Shanks – Website editor

Danny Coyle - Aberdeen and Northeast of Scotland rep

Andy Black - Aberdeen and Northeast of Scotland rep

Tich Wighton – Fife Rep

Chris Alexander – Away Ticket officer/Fife Rep

Mike Buchanan – Home Ticket Officer/ Edinburgh Rep

Item	Discussion	Action
1	<p>Introductions:</p> <p>For the benefit of invited members introductions were made and the newest committee members were welcomed. Caz Moir (present) Colin Shanks, Danny Coyle and Charles Brooker.</p> <p>A call of gratitude was noted to outgoing Aberdeen and Northeast of Scotland rep Euan Esslemont.</p>	
2	<p>Website:</p> <p>a) The website will be controlled by Colin Shanks. All information will be gathered through Dave Harrold and then Colin will update the website as required.</p> <p>b) Dave Harrold requested that we list all of the Management Committee and their contact details on the website. Some are listed however this needs to be updated. Stevie Clark to coordinate this.</p>	Stevie C
3	<p>Facebook:</p> <p>a) The Arsenal Scotland Facebook page is for members only. The process of removing non-members and adding new members by request and cross</p>	

	<p>referencing with the members database has been ongoing for some weeks as the renewals have been taking place and new members coming into the club. Tich Wighton and Ryan Mills are monitoring this as admins of the FB page</p> <p>b) Ryan asked if Dave Harrold could advise all future new members (in his welcome email) how to join the Facebook page (should they want to) and that all requests will be actioned in due course.</p>	Dave H
4	<p>Ticketing:</p> <p>a) Mike Buchanan and Chris Alexander are the only people who are to receive member's requests for tickets. Martin will assist when required.</p> <p>b) Discussion took place which raised some questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Can members be advised if their request is successful much earlier?</b> Martin explained in some detail the method of how tickets are sourced and the dilemma faced about when best to tell successful applicants, how those members are advised and the speed of Facebook gossip about ticket availability against the time it can take to personally text every applicant in good time. There is no 'first come first served' policy as this is defeated by some members who ask for ten games on the day the fixtures come out in mid-June. This was all appreciated.</li> <li>2. <b>Can communication regarding tickets be improved?</b> Not all members are on Facebook so we cannot use that as means of advising members about their requests for tickets. Also as Ticket sourcing can take place over a 2 to 3 week period after they go on sale at Arsenal it is impractical. The text method is still the best method.</li> </ol> <p>All of that being said it was agreed that from now on when any batch of tickets is secured – member applicants will be drawn from the hat in drawn order and be advised straight away. Then as more tickets are secured the remaining member applicants will be advised until hopefully everyone is successful.</p> <p>It was worth noting that in most cases all member applications are met.</p> <p>c) Discussion took place about ticket distribution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Can the tickets be posted out?</b> For small numbers we generally do post them but for the likes of Newcastle, Sunderland (150 -250 tickets) and some other games with excess of 50 tickets it is expensive and time consuming to do so. As the reps and the members are often attending the game it is preferred to hand them out at the stadium. Special post costs around £6.70 and as much as £10.70 if a Saturday delivery is required.</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed however that in some cases this could be arranged by request.</p> <p>d) Silver Cards: It was noted that we seldom use Silver Cards to buy tickets – generally as we normally get all we require for Home games. But this will be reviewed.</p>	<p>Mike B Chris A</p> <p>Chris A Mike B Martin O'D</p> <p>Martin O'D</p>

5	<p>Coaches:</p> <p>a) Martin is no longer running Coaches. This is by personal choice. If any Rep wants to run coaches they need to step forward. Generally these have only been to Newcastle, Sunderland and occasionally Liverpool and Manchester, etc. It all depends on member's requests for coaches, match kick-off timings, ticket requests and ticket sourcing. It is a very fine balance to organise these. Bearing in mind that coaches need to be booked a month in advance and can cost up to £1100 (from Aberdeen) it is a very high commitment.</p> <p>Recent trends (Newcastle) have indicated that fewer want to go by coach to Tyneside and Teeside, with members now more frequently asking for tickets to London games and weekend trips to Manchester and Liverpool, Birmingham and so on. So the regular need for coaches is diminishing.</p> <p>b) It was suggested that instead of running coaches on a 'there and back' day trip, that once a season we set up an overnight (or maybe two nights) trip to an away game and we plan the trip months in advance with hotels and coaches all booked. As the day trips are very tiring especially starting from Aberdeen and for those having to drive 40 miles even to get to Aberdeen, that this type of social trip might be welcomed. It was agreed that we can look into this.</p>	ALL
6	<p>Arsenal Scotland Annual Group Trip to the Emirates:</p> <p>Each year we are allowed by Arsenal to request a larger block of tickets (25) for a home game – By adding tickets from other sources we can have more but 25 is the core group. In recent years this has mainly been used by Glasgow based members purely as the Glasgow core social group is quite large. It was made clear however that this is not purely a Glasgow trip.</p> <p>This season's trip has been approved by Arsenal as the home game v Crystal Palace scheduled in April. However until the fixture date is confirmed we need to wait before making any official announcement and then we can take requests from members. Stevie and Dave will announce in due course to all of the membership.</p>	Stevie C Dave H
7	<p>Ladies Trip:</p> <p>There is a proposal to have a ladies social trip to a home game at the Emirates. Members Carole McCaldin and Lesley Colbey have approached other lady members through a Facebook page created for the Ladies. Caz Moir will discuss this with Carole and Lesley and hopefully a date may be set, if not this season then early next season.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Ladies FB page be linked to the main Arsenal Scotland FB page.</p>	Caz M  Martin O'D
8	<p>Charity:</p> <p>Currently there are no specific plans to raise funds for a Charitable cause. Arsenal Scotland have raised some £48,000 over the first nine seasons however it had been felt that the same members were always asked to contribute and for the past season and this season so far we have not ventured into fund raising.</p> <p>There is no reason why any member cannot arrange any type of fundraising activity and propose that this be linked through the Club.</p>	

	<p>Member Mark Pearce asked if the Club would consider an Epilepsy Charity as a suitable beneficiary. This was welcomed as a good proposal.</p> <p>The matter of raising funds for a Charity will be taken up at the next AGM unless a group consider a proposal before then.</p>	ALL
9	<p>Merchandise:</p> <p>It was agreed that Colin Shanks could be asked to prepare a new page on the website to cover all items of Arsenal Scotland merchandise available. Martin will speak with Mike B and Colin S to gather all these merchandise items onto a working page.</p>	Mike B Colin S
10	<p>The Constitution Bar:</p> <p>Ryan advised that The Constitution Bar Manager (Peter) had made up business style cards specifically for ASSC members to use in the Bar , with 20% discount on food (sadly, not drinks as that is against the Law). This is to encourage as many members as possible to attend televised games. The 'Cont' has all Sky/BT/Setanta packages which mean that most games are available. (Note: Ryan has since posted on Facebook that these cards are available to all members in or visiting Edinburgh.</p> <p>It is proposed that this initiative by The Constitution be linked to the Arsenal Scotland website and that our other pubs in Glasgow and Aberdeen perhaps be asked if they too would consider a similar scheme.</p>	Ryan M  Colin S Mark O'C Danny C
11	<p>It was discussed and agreed that the Club will fund a local banner for Aberdeen as per the request from Danny Coyle. As long as it was obvious that the Club was Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club somewhere on the banner with ABERDEEN in large letters the correct identity of the Club would not be diluted.</p> <p>It was further suggested that similar new banners be arranged for GLASGOW and for EDINBURGH. The existing Club banner would remain The Club banner. Stevie C will discuss costs and funding with Chris Durling. Martin added that the existing banner cost about £115 and after 5 or 6 years is still in perfect condition despite being all over England, Europe and even New York.</p> <p>Designs are welcomed.</p>	Stevie C Chris D
12	<p>Next AGM:</p> <p>It was proposed and accepted that the next AGM in Aberdeen would be best moved into the early part of the season after the pre-season tournaments. Late August/Early September to perhaps tie-in with the Club anniversary in early September.</p> <p>This was agreed. Stevie C, Dave H and Aberdeen reps to review dates next Summer after fixtures come out in Mid-June.</p>	ALL
	<p>The meeting was closed</p> <p>The next management committee meeting is to be confirmed for November and will be announced in due course.</p>	Stevie C Dave H
	Minutes by MO'D	