



Notes of the 12th ASSC Annual General Meeting – 2015/16

held at McGinty's Bar, Aberdeen

On: 14th August 2016 at 13.00

In Attendance:

D Harrold	M Buchanan
C Moir	C Alexander
M Pope	E Shand
D Coyle	D Shand
W Smith	S Shand
S Mearns	S Lyon
A Speed	K Wood
A Hawke	A Wood
L Sharpe	M O'Donnell
J Mearns	S Clark
M Alexander	C Durling
P Zadruzynski	R Paterson
M McHugh	I Roney
E Mutasa	M Park
C Golding	C Park
P Grafton	M Thomson
D Macleod	C Brooker
D Moir	C McKeand
R Moir	M Boyd
A Taylor	K Pope
J Barrie	S Lynn
A Davidson	M Jabbar
D Broughton	S Broughton
T Wighton	

1. Welcome and Introductions – Stevie Clark – Chairman:

Stevie Clark (SC) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 12th ASSC AGM and introduced himself as Chairman, Chris Durling as Treasurer and Dave Harrold as Secretary.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from:

R Mills	Chris Kenmore
J Gillespie	A Agyako
M O'Connor	M Ferguson
B Woodward	C Lutton
D Sharkey	J Humphreys
N Fisher	O Lusby

3. Review and acceptance of the last AGM on 29th July 2015:

There were no objections to the previous AGM minutes (posted on website) and as such it was proposed that the minutes be accepted.

Proposed acceptance: Martin O'Donnell
Seconded by: Charles Brooker

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – Stevie Clark:

- a. Stevie thanked Chris Durling, Dave Harrold, Martin O'Donnell and the Management Committee for all the work they had done and the support he had been given.
- b. The Annual Trip had taken place in April, the TV scheduling meant that the numbers were slightly down, but it was a good day out.
- c. Danny Coyle was thanked for his work on the banners.
- d. In the past there had been a number of issues and the ASSC Facebook page had been cleaned up and as a result it was noted that Family Membership had increased.
- e. 2 years ago the Management Committee was set up to help run the club which had proved successful.
- f. Stevie said that despite the very difficult start to his tenure he was very proud to have served as Chairman of ASSC and he wished his successor best wishes.

Proposed acceptance: Charles Brooker
Seconded by: Chris Durling

- g. Dave Harrold presented Stevie Clark with a Quaich to thank him for carrying out his role as Chairman so effectively.
- h. Stevie Clark presented framed prints to Chris Durling and Martin O'Donnell in recognition of the work they had done for ASSC.

6. Treasurer's Report – Chris Durling

- a. Chris Durling issued copies of the 2015/16 Accounts to the members attending the main points were:
- b. Unlike previous years where ticket sales ran at a loss, this year there was a small profit of £350.
- c. There was a healthy balance in the bank and the incoming Committee are urged to think of useful ways of spending this.

- d. Martin O'Donnell added that Arsenal had stated that they held our accounts as an example to other supporters clubs on how to run their finances.
- e. Chris said that he recommended buying the 2 Season Tickets currently held by ASSC members. **This was adopted by the AGM.**
- f. Chris suggested that in the past there had been an optional levy of membership fees to go to our President, Bob Wilson's charity The Willow Foundation. This had dropped off in recent years as fundraising had been set aside and he therefore suggested that a contribution from ASSC be made to The Willow Foundation of £2,500. **This was adopted by the AGM.**
- g. Chris thanked everyone for their support over the last 8 years, during that time ASSC had spent £500k on ticket purchases, established a healthy bank balance and contributed £79k to various charities.
- h. Finally, he was looking forward to stepping down and becoming just a member of ASSC.

Acceptance of the 12th annual Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club accounts:

Proposed acceptance: Raymond Paterson
Seconded by: Caz Moir

7. Secretary's Report - Dave Harrold:

Dave explained that he would break down the report into 3 parts:

- Secretariat
- Membership
- Other Business

Secretariat:

- a. This has been busier than I would have liked.
- b. The first issue that took up my time was when ASSC was threatened to be reported to Child Protection Scotland and Arsenal FC because pictures of a former members children were posted on the ASSC website. These were pictures taken at last summers football match and had been on the website for 6 months. The pictures were taken down. Nothing further heard.
- c. Also the same former member asked for all references to him (he was a founder member) to be taken down from the ASSC website, all removed. This was done.
- d. An enquiry was received from a member to discuss the formation of another official Arsenal supporters club in Scotland – namely Arsenal Alba. Before any response was given the Arsenal Supporters Club Liaison Officer - Mark Brindle got in touch with me asking for our views/agreement on another Arsenal supporters club being formed in Scotland. Our view was given that we are a welcoming club and open for anyone to join – as long as they behave and obey

the rules, there is no need for another Arsenal supporters club in Scotland. Additionally, Arsenal clearly specify that there should be no other club within a 50 mile radius of an existing official supporters club. Further representations were made by Alba to the Arsenal who in response suggested a meeting mediated by Mark Brindle. After discussion we suggested that as there would be a new Committee in place after the forthcoming AGM it should be up to them. The suggestion was then made by the Arsenal that members of Alba should put their case to our AGM, we didn't think this was a good idea, but before we could respond Alba said they thought it was inappropriate for them to attend.

Ian Roney asked what the criteria was for a supporters club to be set up. I explained that Arsenal's Rules stated that a official new supporters club couldn't be set up within 50 miles of an existing supporters club and there had to be a minimum of 50 members.

- e. The club credit card is held in my name and time is taken to monitor expense, in the region of £30k was spent on the card during 2015/16 with not a penny of interest paid.

Membership:

- a. With the increase in Membership this takes up most my time.
- b. An analysis of membership at the close of the 2015 – 16 season was:

Category	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Adult	216	262	307	366	378
Family	15	10	32	50	95
Junior	23	22	27	28	24
General/Social	7	15	12	10	12
Honorary	2	2	3	3	3
Totals	261	311	381	457	512

- c. At the time of writing 7th August 2016 the renewals are rolling in, currently standing at 376.

Other Business:

POTY & Survey, at no cost, in conjunction with the Executive Committee of ASSC I sent out the Player of the Year and Satisfaction survey, there were 77 responses

Mesut Ozil was voted Arsenal Scotland's Player Of The Year with 51% of the vote,

followed by Alexis Sanchez with 21% and Francis Coquelin with 10%. The full results of the Survey can be found on the ASSC website.

Stevie Clark said he would arrange a trophy and presentation to Mesut Ozil.

Finally, I am proud to be, and have enjoyed being Secretary of ASSC and I would like to thank Stevie, Chris and the Membership Committee for all their support during 2015 - 16. Subject to the agreement of the AGM I am willing to stand for a further year as Secretary, but this will be my last.

8. Ticket Manager's Report – Martin O'Donnell

Ticket Sales

Last season we bought and sold **1180** tickets. This is an increase of 5% over the previous season (1126).

We sourced **302** Home tickets averaging about 11 at every home game. (225 in 2014/15)
We sourced **878** Home tickets averaging about 36 at every home game. (901 in 2014/15).

Looking at the past four seasons there has been a rise and fall of sourced match tickets for our members and guests. As ever the Arsenal results dictate just how successful we are in terms of sourcing tickets.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Home tickets	381	416	225	302
Home games	25	27	23	27
Average	15.24	15.4	9.78	11.18
Away Tickets	972	1108	901	878
Away games	27	23	27	24
Average	36.0	48.17	33.37	36.58
Total tickets	1353	1524	1126	1180
Total games	52	50	50	51
Average	26.0	30.48	22.52	23.14

Looking at the away games v Sunderland and Newcastle, our shortest trip Premier fixtures there has been a steady drop in ticket sales and availability over the past four seasons. There have been fewer members requests for these games in the past two seasons as we feel, that many members have 'done Sunderland and Newcastle many times' and now prefer to save up and choose alternative games while perhaps making a weekend trip to London, Manchester, Liverpool, etc.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Sunderland Away	201	186	210	146
Newcastle Away	91*	224	191	132

*Final game that season-St Totteringham

We had members at the away Champions league games in Munich (15), Olympiakos (4) and Barcelona (27).

This season will be interesting as every Away ticket in the Premier League will be subsidised by Arsenal by £4 each and below the £30 cap set by the Premier League so each adult ticket will be £26 plus the standard Arsenal booking fee of £1.65 which means that we pay £27.65. Adding the £1 Arsenal Scotland Admin fee means every away ticket will cost members £28.65.

Special Delivery postage is extra (Usually £6.40 per batch) and by agreement.

This may mean that Away tickets could be harder to source as more London based Gooners might want to take advantage of the lower fixed prices and travel more often to the 'northern' games. Meaning it could become more difficult for Arsenal Scotland to source the same numbers that we are used to.

Balloted games:

We had one balloted Away game for Man United Away where we had 21 tickets for 42 members requests. That draw was carried out by former Club Treasurer Raymond Paterson at a family party with 13 witnesses. From the first 21 names drawn out two subsequently dropped out so the 22nd and 23rd names got the last two tickets.

We had balloted draws for 6 Home games, Stoke, Everton, Sunderland, Bournemouth, Leicester and Watford. The member's names were each numbered by Mike Buchanan, who then called a member to pick out numbers at random. The list was then compiled each time and issued to me for posting out tickets.

Ticket requests:

We have had a few problems with members making requests on behalf of other members. This is absolutely fine however there are two matters to raise:

- i. All members names must be given in full with each request. This is to avoid double requests being made which lead to errors.
- ii. Members must appreciate that Group bookings cannot be prioritised. If the tickets go to ballot then each members name is drawn. There is no guarantee that because 6 members wish to travel as a group, that they will all get 6 tickets. But we will try our best to accommodate all requests.

Ballot Draws:

At last years AGM it was reported that the ballot method would be reviewed for this AGM. There was one proposal (my own) which was put on the table which was based upon a points system but after being 'stress tested' out by two senior and 'brainbox' members we found too many niggling flaws so it was withdrawn. No other ticketing proposal was put forward so for the meantime the ballot principle remains as 'one member one draw chance'.

We are always open to workable ideas in this respect.

Coach Trips:

Coaches

This item has come up a few times during last season so I would like to make it clear that if sufficient numbers of members would like the Club to lay on coaches for the 'northern' Away games, then we will do so. We made this statement at last year's AGM in Glasgow. However last season there were very few requests for coaches. We asked for names for Newcastle and for Sunderland and in both cases there were less than 15 names from all parts of Scotland.

Using Aberdeen as an example, a coach costs around £1200 so to make it sustainable we need at least 40 people at £30 a head to break even. And if we ran another coach from Glasgow that could be another £800, so to cover the main routes from those two Cities and to pick up in Dundee, Fife, Edinburgh and other places down the west coast and east coast we need two coaches carrying around 80-90 members costing £2000.

Minibus's

As stated at last years AGM Arsenal Scotland no longer run official minibuses. BUT that does not mean that members cannot organise their own minibus – just that Arsenal Scotland will no longer be responsible for them, they will not be parked in the official car parks and any problems will be the responsibility of the driver and passengers. Ticket control is also greater in this respect.

Ticket requests 2016/17 Season:

If approved I am happy to continue as Ticket Manager for a further year at least and I would like to say that I enjoy the support and dedication of two experienced, hardworking and conscientious Ticket Officers. However, as they are unavailable I will have to make do with Mike and Chris for another season [joke].

So once again this seasons ticket requests must be made as follows:

Home games requests – contact **MIKE BUCHANAN** by text **07801448662**

Away games/coach requests – contact **CHRIS ALEXANDER** by text **07775695531**

All requests **MUST** be made at least 6 weeks prior to any fixture.

And arranged cupties ASAP. Any late requests go to a reserve list.

This Season we will continue to supply match tickets to members at cost plus £1.00 for admin (postage and booking fees that we pay on your behalf) and a £10 charge for approved non members.

We want all members to attend games regardless of personal financial circumstances but unless a specific arrangement has been agreed ALL tickets **MUST** be paid prior to the fixture date.

Tickets and Membership Cards:

Arsenal are doing more spot checks on match tickets and who is using them, so from now on all members attending games **MUST** carry their Arsenal Scotland membership card with them and present the card when requested. As there is the possibility that you may be refused entry if the Stewards think that you are not Club members.

Matters raised:

John Mearns asked about Junior Members going into the ballots, because a Junior could not attend without a parent or guardian, he suggested that Junior applications for balloted tickets are combined with the adult. MO'D thanked John and said the club would explore that suggestion. It was good to get ideas from the members and these should be submitted to the Secretary.

Mike Buchanan suggested that, because membership cards were likely to be inspected temporary membership cards should be issued to allow approved guests of members to attend games.. This was agreed, Dave Harrold to organise this.

9. Amendment of the Constitution recommended by the Executive Committee.

- a. Stevie Clark asked Dave Harrold to introduce this item.
- b. Dave outlined the amendments as detailed on the website.
- c. **Raymond Paterson** suggested a slightly different timetable for the Agenda items for the AGM and publication of the Agenda, Dave agreed and would amend.

10. Election of Officers:

- Chairman – the candidates were Caz Moir and Mike Buchanan, a vote was taken from those attending and Mike Buchanan was elected.
- Treasurer – Alan Speed was the only candidate and was elected.
- Secretary – Dave Harrold – re elected
- Ticket Managers – Martin O'Donnell, Chris Alexander, Mike Buchanan and Tich Wighton were re elected.
- Regional Representatives – Eric 'Dubbz' Mutasa replaced Del Sharkey and was elected all other Regional Reps were re elected.
- Charles Brooker volunteered to take on Merchandising and help Colin Shanks with the website.

Mike Buchanan took the Chair and thanked the AGM for this vote and Stevie Clark for his work as Chairman. Mike added that Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club was "Your Club" and all members are encouraged to take a part in the club and any ideas are welcomed. The structure of the Club needs "people at the top table" but it is first and foremost "Your Club".

11. Membership Fees – 2016 – 2017

DH recommended to Membership Fees should remain the same.

The AGM agreed that the Membership Fees should remain the same. (As posted on the website):

12. Any Other Relevant Business:

Ticket Distribution:

Danny Coyle opened the discussion about the distribution of match tickets, his point was that it was frustrating to wait to collect tickets just before the match started, especially when he wanted to find a good spot for the banner.

Martin (O'D) said that tickets were very often collected on the day of the game and also that postage was sometimes unreliable. Plus he preferred to meet and get to know members and the distribution of the tickets was a good opportunity to do so.

It was pointed out that Special Delivery costs £6.45.

It was agreed that a more flexible approach was needed coupled with pragmatism. If members wanted Special Delivery it would be added to the cost of their tickets.

Caz Moir asked if Mike Buchanan would carry on as Home Ticket Rep now he was Chairman, Mike said that unless there was a conflict of interest he would be happy to continue to do Home tickets.

End:

With no other business Mike Buchanan thanked everyone for their attendance and called the meeting to close at 15.30.

The date and location of the next AGM will be announced during Summer 2017.

Dave Harrold
Secretary
ASSC
21 August 2016