

**Minute of Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club - Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 17 September 2017 at The Constitution Bar, Edinburgh**

**In Attendance:**

Mike Buchanan (MB) Angela Kidd

Alan Speed (AS) Linda Sharpe

Caz Moir (CM) John Mearns

Martin O’Donnell Paul Harcourt

Stevie Clark Ian George

Bill Woodward Charles Lyal

Paula Grafton Raymond Paterson

David MacLeod Danny Broughton

Phil Zadruzynski Alexander Miroshynchenko (Guest)

Derek Moir

Ruth Moir

Jamie Lynch

Jen Lynch

Linsey Henderson

**Welcome and Introductions**

MB welcomed everyone to ASSC’s 13th AGM and introduced himself as Chairman, Alan Speed as Treasurer, Martin O’Donnell as Ticket Manager and presenting Secretary’s Report on behalf of Dave Harold and Caz Moir, Minute Taker.

MB confirmed that Dave Harold has stepped down from the Secretary role but will continue as Membership Officer for the Club.

MB also thanked those who had travelled to Edinburgh from various locations to attend the meeting.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Dave Harold Tich Wighton Carole McAldin

Chris Alexander Ryan Mills

Chris Golding Ant Maley

Mark O’Connell Nick Adams

**Minute of the Last AGM on Sunday 13 August 2016**

The previous minutes were posted on the Website following the last AGM.

There were no objections to the minute from the last AGM and MB proposed that they be accepted. This was seconded by a number of attending members.

**Matters Arising**

There were no outstanding matters arising from the minute.

**Chairman’s Report – Mike Buchanan**

**Scheduling of AGM**

MB explained that the reason for holding the AGM later than usual was that a request was submitted to Arsenal Football Club to have the FA Cup at the meeting. Unfortunately, due to Mark Brindle, Supporters Club Liaison Officer having being off work due to illness, it was felt that this may cause additional work in Mark’s absence and was not pursued on this occasion. Fortunately, Mark has recently returned to work.

It was acknowledge that it had been a difficult year for AFC, dropping out of the top 4 for the first time in 18 years, resulting in Thursday night and more Sunday games this year.

**Facebook**

MB requested that comments be kept sensible on the Club Facebook page. ASSC cannot allow and will not condone any name calling or personal abuse to members or AFC staff. MB offered a reminder that there are younger members who may be reading the Facebook page.

**Club Secretary**

At last year’s AGM Dave Harold informed the meeting that he was standing down from the Secretary role in order to spend more time with his family after his retirement. MB recorded his appreciation of Dave for the time he has contributed over many years in order to do the job so well for the Club. Dave has however, agreed to stay on in the Management Committee as Membership Officer.

Charles Brooker had been voted in as Temporary Secretary until the AGM when a new Club Secretary would be elected. Charles has decided not to be considered for this role due to personal reasons. Mike recorded his thanks to Charles and wished him well.

Following communication on the Website requesting nominations for the Secretary role, Caroline (Caz) Moir (Grampian and North East Rep) was nominated by Dan Coyle as the next Club Seretary. As there were no other nominations, MB seconded this nomination and called for a show of hands as approval of those in attendance following which, MB confirmed that Caz was appointed as the new Club Secretary pending references being provided to AFC for formal approval.

**Christmas Donations**

Last year, Selection Boxes were donated and distributed to patients at Aberdeen Children’s Hospital (Dan Coyle, Alison Hawke and Caz Moir) and to children associated with local Edinburgh Charity, CCLASP in Leith (Jamie Lynch and Mike Buchanan). It was noted that not all areas had been involved in this and it was suggested that a similar activity could be repeated this year with the involvement of Reps/Members from all areas.

**FA Cup Final**

There were Cup Final Parties in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh which were all very well attended with a few sore heads reported the next day!

**Supporters Club Plus Status**

Last season, ASSC were selected for the status of Supporters Club Plus, making ASSC one of only 15 out of approximately 150 Arsenal Supporters Clubs to be recognised and only 1 of 2 British Clubs recognised. This allowed for a larger club trip to the Manchester United game in May at which 28 of our members met players off the coach before the game and met Rob Holidng pitch-side for a group photo.

**Celebration Corner**

An order has been placed for a large ASSC plaque in Celebration Corner at The Emirates Stadium. This will provide many photo opportunities for members attending home games.

**Fantasy Football**

Tich Wighton is running the fantasy soccer league this season.

**Golf Day**

Consideration is being given to re-establishing the Golf Day. The best attendance seemed to be when it was held at Falkirk so will look into going there again.

**Christmas Parties**

Regional Reps will be booking Christmas gatherings soon so members were encouraged to look out for this information.

**Social Events**

The Club would encourage members to think about planning more social events or fund raisers such as pub quiz, race nights, bowling nights, 5 or 11 aside football matches. Discussion included the suggestion of having more national events instead of regional and getting members all together more often. This was acknowledged and supported.

**Match Tickets – Procedures**

Discussed due to some issues where members have been unhappy as they were confused about procedures around requesting and allocation of match tickets. Main points included requirement to text appropriate Home or Away ticket Officer but bear in mind that a request does not automatically confirm a ticket will be available to the member. Requests are recorded on a list and when AFC confirm the allocation of tickets for each game (approximately one month before the game) tickets will either be confirmed as allocated or in the event there are more requests than tickets, a ballot may be required. Every effort is made to source tickets for all requests and those members will be notified as soon as possible if a ticket becomes available. MB reassured the meeting that the Ticket Manager and Ticket Officers will continue to try and provide tickets for all requests up to the last minute before the game.

It was requested that some form of communication was made available with this information included and consideration should be given to having this on the Website. It was acknowledged that due to changes in the committee that this could be better addressed this season.

**Treasurer’s Report – Alan Speed**

A copy of the annual account was circulated.

AS advised that due to issues in the process of changing access permissions to the new Treasurer it had not been possible to review the account thoroughly before the AGM. However he was in a position to offer the following remarks:

* Profits were slightly down (£2,500) but current balance shows over £19,000 as a result of recent membership renewals. This is likely to reduce during the year.
* Spending under Tickets and Trips has increased due to the provision of Bar Vouchers for the FA Cup Final.
* Sunderland and Middlesbrough games were expected to be in demand but due to change in fixtures not all tickets were used. AS will be aware of this and observe this over this season.
* It was requested that when members are making a payment by transfer to the ASSC account that they reference the payment with name and what the payment is for eg: Bob Builder, Man City. This will make it clear what the payment is for and who it is from and can be allocated accordingly.

There was a suggestion of purchasing another Season Ticket for the Club. As there are already 5 Season Tickets available to the Club, this was not considered necessary. It was also noted that in the event tickets were not required, the Club can be reimbursed for Tickets issued from AFC but not for an unused Season Ticket.

The subject of a donation to the Willow Foundation was raised as this has been done for a number of years. Martin O’Donnell proposed a £2,500 donation and this was accepted and approved by the attendees.

A question was raised regarding expected expenditure based on the Club being a non-profit making organisation and that there had been a specific balance considered as a “safety zone” in the past. Other than initial expenditure of purchasing Tickets in the early part of the season, there was no other significant expenditure planned. It was agreed that there was significant funding available which could be applied to social events such as an end of season gathering. It was agreed that a reserved balance was sensible but as money going into the Club was mainly from payments by members that subsidising social events would be considered.

**Secretary’s Report**

Martin O’Donnell presented the report provided by Dave Harold with the following points noted:

* In November 2016, Dave Harold made the decision to step down as Club Secretary. It was agreed by the Management committee that the role would not be permanently filled until the AGM.
* No major issues arising during this time.
* The Club credit card was held in Dave’s name and as such part of Dave’s time was to monitor this expense. During that time £22,000 was spent on that card and no interest was ever required to be paid. The credit card is now closed and a new card has been issued in Treasurer, Alan Speed’s name.

**Membership Report**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***2011/12*** | ***2012/13*** | ***2013/14*** | ***2014/15*** | ***2015/16*** | ***2016/17*** |
| Adult | 216 | 262 | 307 | 366 | 378 | 385 |
| Family | 15 | 10 | 32 | 50 | 95 | 122 |
| Junior | 23 | 22 | 27 | 28 | 24 | 23 |
| Social | 7 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| Honorary | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| ***Totals*** | ***261*** | ***311*** | ***381*** | ***457*** | ***512*** | ***541*** |

Feedback from Dave on membership at 15 August 2017:

* Total of 417 members due to renewal and new memberships.
* 5% increase in membership year on year.
* Membership has doubled since 2011/12.
* Since 2012/13, there has been a 10-fold increase in Family Membership – possibly due to cleaning up Facebook page and Coach Trip opportunities.

**Ticket Manager’s Report**

**Ticket Sales**

Last season we bought and sold 1193 tickets. This is an increase of 1.1% over the previous season (1180).

We sourced 336 Home tickets, averaging about 11 at every Home game.

We sourced 857 Away tickets, averaging about 36 at every Away game.

Looking at the past five seasons, there has been a rise and fall of sourced match tickets for our members and guests. The pattern seemed to level out last season but as ever, the Arsenal results dictate just how successful we are in terms of sourcing tickets.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
| Home tickets | 381 | 416 | 225 | 302 | 336 |
| Home games | 25 | 27 | 23 | 27 | 26 |
| Average | 15.24 | 15.4 | 9.78 | 11.18 | 12.92 |
| Away Tickets | 972 | 1108 | 901 | 878 | 857 |
| Away games | 27 | 23 | 27 | 24 | 29\* |
| Average | 36.0 | 48.17 | 33.37 | 36.58 | 29.55 |
| Total tickets | 1353 | 1524 | 1126 | 1180 | 1193 |
| Total games | 52 | 50 | 50 | 51 | 55 |
| Average | 26.0 | 30.48 | 22.52 | 23.14 | 21.69 |

\*Includes cup semi final and final

The away games against Sunderland and Middlesbrough were greatly affected by TV scheduling. The numbers for Sunderland were reasonable at 187 but the Middlesbrough game had only 40 attending with 89 tickets unsold as it was moved to a Monday night.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
| Sunderland Away | 201 | 186 | 210 | 146 | 187 |

We had members at all the Away Champions League games in Paris (11), Sofia for the Ludogorets Razgrad game (4), Basel (19) and Munich (19).

Prior to the new season, we decided to simplify the Away ticketing costs to members and their guests. Each ticket costs the Club £26 plus the standard Arsenal booking fee of £1.65 which means we pay £27.65. Adding the £1.00 Arsenal Scotland Admin Fee means every away ticket cost to members is £28.65. However, as we are using Special Delivery Postage more often (at £6.45 a time), we have rounded up every ticket to £30.00 for members and £40.00 to members’ guests. This then allows the Club to subsidise the cost of a Child’s ticket.

The quantity of Away tickets was slightly down from the previous season.

**Ballot Draws**

We are always open to workable ideas in this respect.

**Coach Trips**

We ran 3 coach trips last season (Burnley, Preston and Sunderland). The Burnley and Preston games were financially sustainable, however, the Sunderland coach was half empty meaning a loss of potential sales on seats at around £400.

As stated at both the last 2 AGMs, Arsenal Scotland no longer run official mini bus trips. This does not however mean that members cannot organise their own mini bus – just that ASSC 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**

Ticket requests must be made as follows:

Home game requests - contact **MIKE BUCHANAN by text to: 07801 448 662**

Away games/coach requests – contact **CHRIS ALEXANDER by text to: 07756 695 531**

All requests must be made at least 6 weeks prior to the fixture and arranged Cup Ties ASAP.

Any late requests will go to a reserve list.

All tickets must be paid prior to the fixture date and all payments MUST be confirmed by a screen shot text.

**Tickets and Membership Cards**

All members attending games MUST carry their ASSC membership card with them and present the card if requested by Arsenal Football Club staff. There is a possibility that entry may be refused if the Stewards believe you are not a Club member. Temporary membership cards are used for guests attending one-off games.

**Amendment of the Constitution**

There were no proposals presented and therefore the Constitution remains as is.

**Election of Officers**

* Chairman – Mike Buchanan
* Treasurer – Alan Speed
* Ticket Managers – Martin O’Donnell, Mike Buchanan, Chris Alexander and Tich Wighton

Re-election of the above officers was approved by the members in attendance.

Caz Moir – approved as Club Secretary

The continued roles of the following Regional Representatives was also approved by members in attendance:

* Eric Mutasa
* Ryan Mills
* Mark O’Connell

Approval was confirmed for Jamie Lynch (Edinburgh) and Chris Golding (Glasgow) to become official Regional Representatives.

Clarification of Colin Shanks position as Website Co-ordinator is to be sought and reported (Caz Moir).

Charles Brooker – standing down.

Dan Coyle has relocated from Aberdeen and consideration is being given to Representation in Aberdeen.

Caz Moir will continue as Regional Rep in the meantime.

Merchandising management will also be reviewed in the next few weeks.

**Membership Fees 2017/18**

Membership Fees will remain same as last season.

**AOCB**

**Player of the Year 2016/17**

1. Alexis Sanchez
2. Nacho Monreal
3. Per Mertesaker

A trophy will be passed on to AFC to present to Alexis Sanchez.

**Winner of Ticket Draw**

All those present were entered into a draw to win 2 tickets to a Category A Game at the Emirates. The draw was made by Caz Moir and Angela Kidd was the lucky winner.

**Regional Representatives**

Stevie Clarke noted disappointment at the lack of Regional Representatives at the AGM. Assurance was offered that this had been discussed following low numbers at Management Committee meetings and that reasonable expectations will be agreed and shared in order to allow current and potential Representatives to make a considered decision if they wish to commit to the role.

There being no other business, Mike Buchanan thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 6.45pm.

**The next AGM will be held in Glasgow – date will be announced when confirmed.**

**Caroline (Caz) Moir**

**Club Secretary**

**Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club**