



The 2020-21 Annual General Meeting of the Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club (ASSC) took place by Zoom Webinar on: 23rd May 2021 at 2.00pm

Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting

Attendees:

Mike Buchanan (Chairman)	Dave Harrold (Acting Secretary)	Martin O'Donnell (Tickets)
Richard Lloyd (Zoom host)	Peter Burnhill (Zoom roadie)	Neil Ritchie
Paul Palmer	Stevie Clark	Edmund Cox
John Mearns	Eric Dubbz	Michael Marshall
Gary Ketterer	David Ketterer	Ant Maley
Ruth Moir	Derek Moir	Chris Alexander (Away Tickets)
Euan Esslemont	John Laing	Douglas Morrison
Nathaniel Fisher	Ian Armstrong	Danny Broughton
Colin Shanks	Sarah Shanks	Andrew Harper
Liam Finn	Gav Glover	Brent Finlay
Stewart Mclachlan	Jon Humphreys	Martin Thomson
Jennifer Fox	Danny Fox	Jason MacDonald
Paul Harcourt	Nathan Moloney	Carl Alexander-Cox
Andy Smith		

Apologies given:

Bob Wilson (Honorary President)	Mark Brindle (Arsenal)	Linda Sharpe
Alan Speed (Treasurer)	Tich Wighton	Charles Brooker
Chris Pullinger	Michelle Pullinger	Raymond Paterson
Christopher Kenmore	Mikey Boyd, Claire McKeand and their family members	
Steven Robertson	Phil Zadruzynski, Morag McHugh and their family members	
Terry Young	Ally Hutchinson	Neil Massie
Layla McCowan	Steven Lynn	Billy Mitchell

1. Introductions and welcome:

Mike Buchanan (Chairman) introduced Martin O'Donnell (Tickets and Acting Membership renewals), Dave Harrold (Acting Club Secretary). Mike advised that Caz Moir had stood down as Club Secretary to focus on her work and family commitments and took this opportunity to thank Caz for her work over the previous four years dealing with the Club's Secretary duties and the membership renewals.

Mike explained to the members that the reason we hold our Annual General Meeting is to maintain the standards which are expected of our Club by Arsenal.

To get things started and to test our online connections Mike called for a vote of all attending to place a vote for Arsenal Scotland Player of the Season 2020-21.

Members Richard Lloyd and Peter Burnhill were introduced as our background 'Techies' helping us to place our votes:

Richard explained the procedures for formal voting, the comment chat button, the link to the post meeting informal chatroom and the 'Raise hand' button if members wished to be invited to speak.

Peter then guided us all through the first Poll.

Arsenal Player of the Season 2020-21

Votes were cast 'Live'

The winning player was **BUKAYO SAKA** with 16 votes, with Keiran Tierney second with 7 votes. Out of 30 votes cast.

2. Minutes of the previous scheduled AGM's.

Mike explained that due to Covid the 2020 AGM did not take place. Prior to this the 2019 AGM was downgraded to a small meeting status as the turnout was not sufficient to allow us to take votes from the wider membership.

3. Chairman's Report

At the 2019 meeting, Mike had confirmed that he would continue as Chairman for the optional 3rd Year term (as the Club constitution permitted). Due to Covid this carried through for a 4th Year.

It was agreed in 2019 that the Club would make a donation of £2,500 to the Willow Foundation [Who arrange 'special days' for seriously ill people between 16 and 40 years of age, nationally] which is the regular charity that we have funded for 13 years in support of our Honorary President Bob Wilson (Arsenal and Scotland). This payment was made.

We also agreed to make a donation of £2,500 to CCLASP as our local Scottish charity. [Children with Cancer & Leukaemia Advice & Support for Parents] again a long-standing charity which we have made donations to for over ten years. This payment was made. We had planned to have fundraising events for CCLASP however Covid prevented this.

At Christmas 2019 we continued our tradition of 4 years by delivering a total of £600 worth of 'selection boxes' to the children's hospitals in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In 2020, during the Covid lockdown at Christmas, we increased the donation to £800 worth of selection boxes to hospital, this time adding the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, to ensure that the kids would still have smiles on their faces. We also delivered tins of sweets for the NHS staff.

We always try to do at least one fundraiser event each season however the Pandemic has restricted this.

The remainder of the past year simply involved us attending the Arsenal Supporters Clubs meetings (Zoom), our own executive club meetings (conference calls).

There was one serious incident in 2020 of 'religious bigotry' which surfaced on the Arsenal Scotland Facebook page. This was really the first time in 16 years that this had happened, and the executive took the necessary steps to demonstrate that our Club cannot tolerate this type of behaviour, by banning two members. Mike again stressed that this is an Arsenal Football Supporters Club. Yes, we are Scottish, and we appreciate that many members follow their Scottish team, but please, please, please leave the Scottish team debates to one side and focus on Arsenal on our Media forums. We do not want to draw bad press from the wider media which may embarrass Arsenal and Arsenal Scotland. We want to be friends at all times. Banter is fine but just please do not go too far.



Remember who you are and who you represent!

Chris Alexander thanked Mike for the work done during the past 4 years.

An online 'Live' Poll took place to accept the Chairmans Report.
This was accepted as a unanimous vote.

4. Treasurer's Report – to approve the 2019/20 Accounts

The Treasurers Report (to 30th June 2020) was issued to all paid up members by email one week prior to the AGM and are again issued as an attachment to these minutes. As Treasurer Alan Speed was today on 'Grandad' duties Dave Harrold noted the 'highlights'

Bank balance as 30th June 2020 was £11,739.

The next Report is due after 30th June 2021 however we expect very little activity with only website registrations and the purchase of two tickets for (today's) game V Brighton

An online 'Live' Poll took place to accept the Treasurers Report.
This was accepted as a unanimous vote.

5. Secretary's Report

Martin O'Donnell submitted the following:

It was noted that from the Treasurers Report that the Club had a healthy bank balance at 30th June 2020 and it was expected to similarly healthy in the 30th June 2021. Normally every season we have held a major event, made donations, etc, resulting in expenditure.

In fact the last notable event that we did was in May 2019 to arrange for a memorial to Arsenal's Scottish Founder David Danskin by having a headstone placed at the grave in Coventry attended by senior Arsenal officials and by many descendant members of David Danskin's family as well as a number of Arsenal supporters. While Arsenal Scotland planned the full event, Arsenal FC did offer to pay for the headstone, so Arsenal Scotland only needed to pay for the buffet, invitations, pass cards and local coach transport to the buffet venue at the Motor Museum in Coventry.



But over the last two full seasons our Club have not had the opportunity to carry out any major events other than the Christmas selection boxes that Mike reported on above.

Soon after this AGM it is proposed that we again look to make sizeable donations to charities on behalf of Arsenal Scotland.

In the past we have made donations or have held fundraisers for the Willow Foundation, CLLASP, Age Concern, Glasgow Sick Kids Hospital, SIMBA, SAMH, etc. This trend all started in 2004 with the Thailand Tsunami appeal. In 17 years since the formation of Arsenal Scotland we have raised and donated over £90,000.

While Arsenal Scotland do donate to the official annual nominated Arsenal Charity, we prefer to focus charity donations to Scottish based charity organisations.

Martin gave thanks to Caz as Club Secretary for the previous four years, with the added burden of the membership renewals and the upkeep of the Website.

Chris Alexander proposed the Cure Parkinson's Trust as a possible donation choice. Euan Esslemont suggested also Dementia and Alzheimer's Trust charity organisations.

Martin responded and asked that all potential donation choices be sent to the Club Secretary with a brief explanation of the work that charity does. This applies to all Club Members. All proposals will be met with a positive view.

An online 'Live' Poll took place to accept the Secretary's Report. This was accepted as a unanimous vote.

6. Membership Report

Martin O'Donnell had reviewed the membership database over the previous two seasons:

There were 505 members noted at the end of 2019-20 season

There were 395 members noted 'As Paid' at the end of the 2020-21 season (to the AGM date).

This indicated that 110 members had not renewed. It is expected that the lack of tickets which was evident as Covid took effect in the latter months leading to Summer 2020 and beyond, had a major effect on membership renewals and new members. General enquires with long standing members has made it clear that Covid had been a factor as well as 'forgetfulness'.

All 110 of the non-renewers will be contacted within the next week and asked if they wish to renew, had forgotten to renew, etc.

Andy Smith noted that the reduction of fans capacity and therefore tickets would have resulted in some members not renewing.

A new Members Application Form will be produced and issued via the Website within one week.

Currently there are six potential new members waiting to join Arsenal Scotland.

An online 'Live' Poll took place to accept the Membership Secretary's Report. This was accepted as a unanimous vote.

7. Ticket Managers Report – Martin O’Donnell

Ticket Sales 2019-20 Season

Prior to the Pandemic Lockdown in March 2020 we bought and sold **833** tickets.

We sourced **220** Home tickets over 21 games - averaging 10.47 tickets available for every Home game. 19 of these were unsold as compared to the 2018-19 season when we had 35 Unsold tickets as a loss to the Club. Most of these related to midweek home games using season tickets.

We sourced **613** Away tickets over 20 away games averaging about 30.8 tickets available for every Away game much the same as the previous three seasons. We only had 1 Unsold ticket.

Looking at the eight seasons from 2012-13 to Lockdown in 2019-20 there had been a rise and then gradual fall of sourced match tickets made available for our members and sometimes non-member guests. This levelled out in the past four seasons with roughly 21 tickets being sold for every Arsenal game in the fixture list.

With only Newcastle and Burnley being the closest away fixtures it was more difficult to access away tickets to the south coast games at Bournemouth, Portsmouth (FA Cup) and Southampton as more London based Gooners would go to these games than travel up North.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Home tickets	381	416	225	302	336	232	284	220*	3
Home games	25	27	23	27	26	29	30	21*	1
Average	15.24	15.4	9.78	11.18	12.92	8.00	9.46	10.47	3
Away Tickets	972	1108	901	878	857	876	865	613	0
Away games	27	23	27	24	29	29	29	20	0
Average	36.0	48.17	33.37	36.58	29.55	30.2	29.8	30.8	0
Total tickets	1353	1524	1126	1180	1193	1108	1149	833*	3
Total games	52	50	50	51	55	58	59	41*	1
Average	26.0	30.48	22.52	23.14	21.69	19.1	19.47	20.31	3

*Up to Lockdown March 2020.

Of course, there were no tickets bought or sold in 2020-21 apart from three members attending today’s game v Brighton.

Back to 2019-20 we had many members attending away games in the Europa League, as very often these tickets are much easier to obtain. We had members attending away Europa league games in Frankfurt (9), Vitoria (2), Standard Liege (21) and at Olympiakos (23).

NEXT SEASON – Who knows?

We need to wait until covid restrictions permit and to see just how the FA and Arsenal propose to price out the tickets but as soon as we know, the procedures for requesting tickets will remain as previous seasons.

TICKETS AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

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.

TICKET OFFICERS 2021-22

Ticket requests must be made as follows:

Home games requests – contact MIKE BUCHANAN by text 07801448662

Away games requests – contact CHRIS ALEXANDER by text 07775695531

All requests **MUST** be made at least 4 weeks prior to any fixture.

And arranged cup ties ASAP.

Any late requests go to a reserve list.

ALL tickets **MUST** be paid prior to the fixture date and all payments **MUST** be confirmed by a screenshot text.

TICKET MANAGER – ANNOUNCEMENT

After 16 years I (Martin) will be standing down as Ticket Manager during this next season. To keep the Club fresh and evolving it is the right thing to do to encourage other members to get involved in this highly respected Club and take on some of the many tasks required to keep the Club running smoothly.

The next Ticket Manager will be Tich Wighton and he will take over the full task of buying tickets from June 2022. Tich and I have already started the ‘training’ and a gradual changeover will take place during the season.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the task of buying tickets and networking with hundreds of Arsenal fans across the UK and have made many good friends in the process.

I have also been very well supported by Mike Buchanan and Chris Alexander in the past 7 seasons since they have taken on the task of distributing (selling) all our tickets to our members. I thank them for their continued support and extremely hard work, often under incredible pressure to get everyone in through the turnstiles.

An online ‘Live’ Poll took place to accept the Ticket Managers Report.

This was accepted as a unanimous vote.

8. Election of Executive Officers for 2021-22

- a) Chair:
Dave Harrold
Proposed Peter Burnhill
Seconded Chris Alexander
- b) Secretary:
Martin O'Donnell
Proposed – John Findlay
Seconded – Colin Shanks
- c) Treasurer:
Alan Speed,
Proposed -Dave Harrold
Seconded – Martin O'Donnell

An online 'Live' Poll took place to elect the above named Executive for the next Season 2021 - 22. This was accepted as a unanimous vote and the Executive Committee is now Dave Harrold (Chairman) Treasurer (Alan Speed) and Martin O'Donnell (Club Secretary/Membership Secretary)

[Members and new members will note that Arsenal FC require each Supporters Club to have a three member Executive Committee as above. Other committee members and Reps are essential in the running of Arsenal Scotland, but the Executive are the only three in direct Contact with Arsenal FC].

Retiring Chairman Mike Buchanan gave his congratulations to the new Executive.

9. Membership Fees for the season 2021 – 2022

- a) The previous Executive had proposed that the paid up membership should 'roll over' to the end of the 2021/22 Season (To 30th June 2022)
- b) The previous Executive had proposed that the 'New members rates 'to join the Club remain as they have been since 2010.

An online 'Live' Poll took place to accept the above stated proposals. This was accepted as unanimous.

As this was Mikes last formal task as retiring Chairman, he took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the four years and he celebrated by opening a beer! Well done Sir!



10. Proposals

- a. Change to the ASSC Constitution: *The Committee propose to make arrangements to allow members to participate in a members' meeting by means of a telephone or online video conferencing facility; any member participating in a members' meeting via this facility shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting.*
- b. Appointment of Women's Rep on General Committee
- c. Split the Membership & Secretary roles
- d. Website: The site requires some repair or replacement and better integration with various social media. This will be reviewed with proposals as soon as possible.

An online 'Live' Poll took place to accept the above stated proposals.
This was accepted as unanimous.

Member Andy Smith suggested that greater recognition be given to the success of the Arsenal Ladies team and to add our Club's support to the Ladies game. Dave Harrold responded to support this view.

11. Draw for the signed shirt and cards

Mike explained that in previous years we used to draw out names of AGM attendees for free match tickets, however with Covid, we really have no idea when tickets may become available. So, for this AGM we instead have a shirt and two players cards each signed by the current Arsenal squad. Dave Harrold arranged these through the Arsenal Independent Supporters Association:

The 'Live' draw was as follows:

- A signed card – Addendum: *Member Steven Robertson was drawn however after the meeting; the register was checked against the attendees and Steven was not in the meeting. Steven was contacted and agreed to decline.*

The Card was redrawn following the AGN and **Gary Ketterer** was drawn out.

- A signed card – won by Member **Paul Palmer**.
- The signed shirt – Addendum: *Member Neil Massie was drawn however after the meeting; the register was checked against the attendees and Neil was not in the meeting. Neil was contacted and agreed to decline.*

The Shirt was redrawn following the AGM and **Nat Fisher** was drawn out.

12. Any Other Relevant business

Dave Harrold offered his thanks on behalf of the Club to Mike and Caz for their work over the previous four seasons. Gifts had been sent to both Mike and Caz.

Mike took the opportunity to open up the gift 'Live to screen', a framed photo from the moment after Sir Michael Thomas scored the League Championship winning goal at Anfield on the 26th May 1989. A match that Mike had attended. Member Charles Brooker prepared the frame and started a Covid delivery train via Martin O'Donnell, Mo Jabber (Jabs) and Chris Alexander to Mike.

Dave also expressed thanks to members Richard Lloyd and to Peter Burnhill 'the Roadie' for putting this Zoom Webinar together for us, including the training sessions over several weeks and smoothly guiding us through the whole process.

Richard then explained the link to the chatroom to follow the meeting.

Dave Harrold thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Open forum followed – this was not minuted.

Minutes prepared by Martin O'Donnell 29/05/21.

Comments from the chat section during the meeting:

00:22:39 Nathaniel Fisher: Hi everyone,
00:22:43 Liam Finn: hi all
00:23:13 Peter Burnhill: Hi everyone - we are still learning
00:23:35 Neil Ritchie: Hi everyone from Mauritius
00:24:36 Nathaniel Fisher: 🙌🙌🙌
00:29:41 Gavin Glover: Not good enough. #MikeOut
00:35:17 Rich Lloyd: 🙌
00:40:05 Peter Burnhill: Chris I see you
00:46:52 Gavin Glover: He's right about that second bit
00:47:45 Peter Burnhill: lol
00:48:11 Peter Burnhill: Noted Jennifer
00:49:35 Rich Lloyd: Well done for sourcing and distributing all those tickets
00:49:59 Gavin Glover: Seconding Rich's comment
00:50:23 Peter Burnhill: All praise to the Ticket Team
00:51:43 Gavin Glover: Do we keep in touch with Mike and Chris for tickets then or move to Tich?
00:52:02 Ian Armstrong: Tich is buying only
00:52:22 Gavin Glover: Sound tah
00:52:42 Gavin Glover: Best part of the game seeing you tbh
00:55:28 Stevie Clark: Congratulations to all and good luck in your new roles
00:56:51 Gavin Glover: Do it like this every year. I don't even have to get dressed.
00:57:04 Liam Finn: lol
00:57:25 Ian Armstrong: Does anyone think Peter sounds like one of the commentators from ITV?
00:57:46 Martin Thomson: Thank you for your hard work Mike!!
00:57:52 Gavin Glover: Peter, can you say 'Aldershot 1, Crawley Town 3'?

00:57:53 Stevie Clark: Well done Mike
00:57:56 Peter Burnhill: Thanks Mike
00:57:57 Liam Finn: cheers mike!
00:58:04 Ian Armstrong: Ty Mike
01:04:21 Ian Armstrong: Congrats all on your prizes
01:04:41 Nathaniel Fisher: 🙌🙌🙌
01:04:42 Liam Finn: Congrats! jealous!!
01:04:46 Gavin Glover: Many folk just rage quit?
01:04:56 Jennifer Fox: Well done winners!
01:05:52 Peter Burnhill: Great
01:06:01 Martin Thomson: Fantastic!!
01:06:35 Douglas Morrison: Thanks everyone for all your hard work
01:07:26 Jennifer Fox: Thank you panellists
01:07:40 Liam Finn: thanks all!!
01:07:44 Ian Armstrong: Ty for your time guys :D