

Mid Sussex Blues AGM Minutes

Sunday 28 July 2024, Haywards Heath Town Football Club

Attendees

Committee: Iain MacLean (Chair) Rod Cummins (Treasurer), Daryn Buckley (Social Secretary), Trevor Wharton (Committee Member)

Members: Pete Roberts, Carl Brookes, Colin Oliver, Pete Dutson, Shelley Dutson, Cheryl Barker, Saul Chandley, Jonathan Chandley, Larry Rushin, Steve Chappels, Michael McGreish, Liz Bennett, Jack Banner, Phil Neale, Liz Neale, James Cullens

Special Guests: Alex Williams MBE, Julie Williams, Mandy Jameson, Adrian Jameson, Susannah Finch

Apologies: Julie Joyce (Secretary), Clive Raines, Mark O'Hara, Julie Palmer, Neil Palmer, Paul Dronfield, Kirsty Bennett, Mike Wilmott, Harry Cullens, Paul Kavanagh, Phil Grabsky, Mike Rolfe, Lisa Lurring, Ollie Lurring, Peter Dean, Ian Eyres, Paul Green, Ian Hinley

Chairman's Report (Iain MacLean)

Iain summarised the last season, making the following points:

- City winning the league for the fourth consecutive season was a truly unique achievement
- Off the back of a quadruple (or a quintuple) in the 2022/23 season
- On the downside, losing to Real Madrid in the quarter finals of the Champions League was a big disappointment
- We'll draw a veil over losing to United in the FA Cup Final
- Our players were showered in accolades: Phil Foden was awarded both the Football Writers Association 'Player of The Year and the Premier League Player of the Year, Erling Haaland won the golden boot in a poor injury affected year – just the 38 goals! Rodri was named best player at the 2024 Euros. What a phenomenon that man is – he has now gone 50 Premier League games without losing.

City's women

- Our women had a great season, losing the league on goal difference and, sadly, saying adieu to Steph Houghton as a player

- It was a year in which we lost the great Francis Lee RIP – I had the privilege of watching him when I first became a City fan at the age of 23 in 1972. He was unforgettable!
- On the bright side, our Youth Team won the FA Youth Cup

Looking ahead, what can we expect from the new season?

- When asked, Chairman Khaldoon simply held up five fingers

As a Supporters' Club

- We head into our 20th year and had a great season too:
- We continued to hold regular branch meetings and, thanks to Daryn, we had a very enjoyable Quiz Night at the Red Lion in Lindfield
- A highlight of the year was the presentation of City's fabulous 5 trophies in March here at Haywards Heath Town.
- Many thanks to the team that made that possible, especially Rod, Julie and Daryn.
- Finally, it's worth mentioning that our membership and finances held their own throughout last season, reaching record levels

Treasurer's Report (Rod Cummins)

Our bank balance started the year at £8,812.54 and ended the year at £9,764.47

Summary of income:

- Following Brian's visit last year, we still have a stock of signed books available to buy at £10 each (Just contact Daryn for one)
- MSB membership grew from 99 to a record 118 this season with new members approaching us all the time
- MCFC Xmas Draw Tickets – A good response from the membership saw us sell £250 of tickets meaning £125 income for the branch. We also had a £25 winner!
- OSC Trophy Visit – thanks to everyone who attended; we raised a fantastic £450 for City In The Community

Summary of Expenditure

- We paid the City Official Supporters Club a record £375 for the privilege of being a branch
- The cost of AGM catering at the Red Lion last Summer was £69
- The branch donated £50 to the Brain Tumour Society following the sad passing of Jude Roberts last year.

- The quiz night in January was a popular event and we had more teams than ever taking part – we bought dinner for all attendees.
- For the trophy visit, we paid Haywards Heath Town £270 to hire the room and made a donation of £450 to City in the Community. We would have made more of this event, but our original date was cancelled by the club and the new date announced at very short notice. All those who did attend, however briefly I'm sure will never forget it.
- Season postage came to £118.43 which is largely down to posting out membership cards and OSC raffle tickets as tickets are now electronic.

Tickets last season

- The branch managed to source 302 tickets (up from 298 last season) across 45 games, despite not having the latter Champions League games to add to the numbers.
- We sent MSBs to the UEFA Super Cup v Sevilla and Champions League away games at Leipzig, Young Boys, Red Star Belgrade as well as FC Copenhagen and Real Madrid.
- In the FA Cup, we sent MSBs to Huddersfield Town, Spurs (29 tickets out of 29!), Luton Town and Chelsea at Wembley (40 out of 40) and the final was a record 63 out of 63 requested.

Membership

- Currently, membership stands at 85 with a number of new members and some 2023 members still to renew. We have a deadline of 31 October to send the numbers to the OSC.

Tickets for 2024/25

Rod reiterated that you must be both an MSB member AND a City member – minimum membership is Matchday Cityzen. These are not our rules, they're City's and the OSC.

- Community Shield – 5 tickets received out of 5 applied for
- Chelsea (a) – 8 out of 29
- Ipswich (h) – 5 out of 5
- Brentford (h) – 3 out of 3
- West Ham (a) – 26 applied for – awaiting allocation
- Arsenal (h) – 3 out of 7
- Newcastle (a) – 4 applied for – awaiting allocation

Going forward, MSBs will be invited to apply for all home and away fixtures when advertised by the OSC

Finally, Mid Sussex Blues reaches its 20th Birthday on Friday 6 December 2024 – the committee will be considering plans to mark the achievement.

Social Secretary Update (Daryn)

Daryn announced plans for another quiz this Autumn and asked for ideas for other social events including for the 20th Birthday party in December.

Election of Committee for 2024-2025 (Iain MacLean)

Iain confirmed that all existing members had offered to stand for the forthcoming season and that no new nominations had been received from the members. Therefore, the committee will remain in situ for the forthcoming season:

- Ian MacLean: Chair
- Rod Cummins: Treasurer
- Julie Joyce: Secretary
- Daryn Buckley: Social Secretary
- Trevor Wharton: Committee Member

Branch President – Alex Williams

Following an overwhelming vote amongst the membership, we revealed that Alex Williams was chosen as our Branch President and we were delighted that he and his wife, Julie were present to accept the position. On behalf of all MSBs, we welcome Alex officially into the fold (although he has been a good friend of the branch for many years now).

Any other business

Shelley Dutson expressed her gratitude on behalf of the membership for the hard work the committee has put in over the previous season.

We had another group of special guests. In March 2024, Daryn received a phone call from Mandy Jameson explaining that, sadly, her brother, a big City fan had recently died and that she wanted to donate a framed picture of the famous commentary of that Aguero goal in 2012. We decided to auction it at the AGM and bids reached an incredible £200, the successful bidder being Colin Oliver. The money will go directly to

City In The Community. Mandy was delighted and, as a big City fan herself, has now joined Mid Sussex Blues! Welcome.

Alex also brought some presents from the club for us: a training top, a commemorative treble-winning shirt and a copy of his excellent autobiography which we will use at the 20th Birthday Party in December.

As a branch, we also sent our heartfelt condolences to Julie Joyce who lost her mother soon before the meeting, which was the reason for her absence.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at 12 o'clock on Saturday 28 September 2024 at the Red Lion in Lindfield before the Newcastle game.