

# Mid Sussex Blues AGM Minutes

Meeting held: Sunday 17 July 2022 at the Red Lion, Lindfield.

## Present:

Iain MacLean (Chair), Rod Cummins (Treasurer), Daryn Buckley (Secretary), Julie Joyce (Committee Member), Colin Oliver (Committee Member) Steve Chappels, Jack Banner, Shelley Dutton, Pete Dutton, Mike Rolfe, Jack Rolfe, Pete Roberts, Trevor Wharton, James Cullens, Jonathan Chandley, Saul Chandley, Mark O'Hara

## Apologies:

Rog Schofield, Phil Grabsky, Paul Dronfield, Kirsty Bennett, Dave Bennett, Harrison Bennett, Ray Rooke, Paul Kavanagh, Ian Eyres, Pete Simpson, Liz Bennett, Paul Green, Lisa Lurring, Oliver Lurring, Mike McGreish, Ian Hinley, Dave Ewing, John Joyce, Martin Smith, Carl Brookes, Mike Wilmott, Adrian Askew and James Kilmartin

## Chairman's Report (Iain MacLean)

- Iain opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
- He lauded City's achievements last season, winning their 4<sup>th</sup> Premier League in five seasons and highlighted some outstanding performances from the team including Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva and Rodri amongst others. Not only did we win the Premier League, but we won the Premier League 2, the U21s and U18s leagues too. The future is very bright.
- In addition, the women's team won the League Cup, were losing finalists in the FA Cup and finished third in the League. Sadly, for the Men's team, the Champions League still eludes us but we'll keep trying.
- Iain highlighted some of the losses to the squad and, on behalf of MSBs thanked Fernandinho, Raheem Sterling, Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko for their contribution to City's recent success. He also welcomed newcomers Erling Haaland, Calvin Phillips (not Kevin!), Stefan Ortega and Julian Alvarez.
- Finally, he expressed some concerns about the lack of vitality and commitment within the branch since the end of covid. There seems to be less cohesion nowadays and the committee will work hard next season to try to alleviate this.

## Treasurer's Report (Rod Cummins)

### Bank Balance

The branch started the year with £7,910.06 and finished with £8,972.90

### Income

- MSB membership increased by 50% to 91 from 61 this season. The web portal, through which the branch orders tickets continues to introduce new people who may wish to join MSB and contact is always followed up from these referrals.
- There has been some recovery in U16 members who now account for over 13% of all MSBs, which bodes well for the future.
- The Official Supporters Club Xmas Draw Tickets saw an excellent response from the membership. We sold 70 books of tickets (£350 worth) and we had one £25 winner. We also retained £175 commission from these sales.

### Expenditure

- We paid MCFC Supporters Club £290 for the privilege of being a branch
- Thanks to Daryn for an excellent quiz, which was well attended
- Season Postage: The cost of postage has risen substantially in recent years. This cost is currently borne by the branch and we agreed that this should continue despite these costs.
- Match attendance:
- The branch sourced 263 match tickets across 34 fixtures at a total cost of £8,655.
- The best attended away matches were:

Liverpool (FA Cup Semi)	28
Crystal Palace	27
Brighton & Hove Albion	26

Southampton	23
Southampton (FA Cup)	19
West Ham (Carabao Cup)	16
Arsenal	16

- In addition, we took MSBs to Champions League home games against Paris St Germain and Real Madrid as well as away at Sporting Lisbon, Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid.
- On field success and attractive new signings will continue to exert pressure on ticket sales in the coming season.

West Ham (a)	23 tickets applied for and 6 received (26%)
Newcastle (a)	2 tickets applied for (not heard back yet)
Aston Villa (a)	4 tickets applied for
Tottenham Hotspur (h)	3 tickets applied for
Wolves (a)	2 tickets applied for

- Three MSBs applied for the new Value Gold Season tickets for £299 and all three were successful. This doesn't appear in our accounts however)
- Debt: One person owed money for their Wolves away ticket, but this has now been paid.

## Secretary Update (Daryn Buckley)

The old Wordpress site has sadly expired and is no longer editable. To bring the branch into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Daryn has created a new site and bought a domain to make it easy to find. So please make a note of [www.midsussexblues.co.uk](http://www.midsussexblues.co.uk) as this is where future news and meetings will be posted. Eventually, we would like to have a members' area where we can deal with ticket allocations and payments more easily, but we'll walk before we run!

In addition to this, a new Twitter site @mid\_sussexblues has been set up with a direct link to the website.

If you have any suggestions for website content, please let Daryn or Julie know.

### Action point: Daryn to share website login details with Julie

Election of the Committee for the 2022/2023 Season

We did not receive any new applications for the committee and the current committee has agreed to stand again with the small amendment that Julie Joyce will move to the Secretary role and Daryn will move to Social Secretary.

Those present agreed to the election of the committee for the coming season.

## Social Update (Daryn Buckley)

Following on from the comment in Iain's update about re-engaging branch members, Julie and Daryn put the following to those present:

We will make more effort as a branch to attend televised games at the Red Lion

We will try to hold a social event every quarter – this could be an online event so that we don't exclude those

members who live further away), Legends' Nights, Quizzes and Social Nights (BBQ, Fish and Chips and TalkCity nights)

We will agree and post future meeting dates further in advance to allow members to plan better to attend

We will also survey the membership midway through the season to monitor progress

## Any Other Business

The branch sends its best wishes to Mike McGreish who has had a recent health scare but is hopefully on the road to recovery

Shelley Dutson thanked the MSBs for their best wishes on the event of their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and also thanked the committee for their hard work on behalf of the MSB membership.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will on 3 September 2022 at 5pm before the Aston Villa game at the Red Lion in Lindfield