

MSB Annual General Meeting – 30 July 2023, Red Lion, Lindfield

Attendees – Iain MacLean (Chair), Julie Joyce, Paul Dronfield, Shelley Dutson, Pete Dutson, John Walton, Ray Gilera-Rooke, Rod Cummins, Steve Chappels, Mike Wilmott, Jon Chandley, Trevor Wharton, Paul Green, Nick Naylor, Daryn Buckley, Liz Bennett

Apologies – Martin Smith, Jake Smith, Harvey Smith, Ian Hinley, Dave Bennett, Harrison Bennett, Pete Roberts, Kirsty Bennett, Phil Grabsky, Mike McGreish, James Cullens, Mike Rolfe, Jack Rolfe, Paul Kavanagh, Malcolm Pilling, Adrian Askew. Colin Oliver

Welcome

Iain welcomed everyone to our 19th AGM. He thanked everyone for making the effort to be here and for their continued support. He made the point that this has been the most successful year ever in the history of MCFC - as historic TREBLE champions.

Action Points from last meeting

All actions closed.

Chair's Report

Iain gave his report on the year:

"I'm tempted to say there's nothing for me to say that hasn't been said already about the 2023 season. On the other hand it is worth repeating - MCFC Champions of Europe, Champions of England and FA Cup winners. What a fantastic time to be a Man City supporter!

And of course the accolades don't stop there with both the under 18s and the EDS winning their respective leagues. The women's team continues to impress and is certain to improve on their 4th finish in the the Super League.

All of this marks the culmination of 12 years of consistent improvement and investment, thanks to our owners and 7 years under Pep's leadership.

Of course it's impossible to talk about the 2023 season without mentioning Erling Haaland and the magnificent goal scoring performances he delivered. I've lost count of the records he's broken and the new standards he has set. He's a true phenomenon but then so many others are too.

On the downside we've had to bid a fond farewell to Ilkay Gundogan and Riyad Mahrez with thanks for their outstanding service to the club and best wishes for the future.

Turning briefly to our past 12 months or so in the Mid Sussex Blues we have also enjoyed a pretty good year. Membership has held up well and the branch has held regular meetings with Jules pulling the strings. We organised a successful and enjoyable quiz night thanks to Daryn and, although I couldn't be there due to Gil's wedding, we presented a great Legend's Night with Brian Horton thanks to the collective efforts of the committee. Finally thanks to Rod's watchful eye we remain firmly in the black on the financial side.

So we can look forward with confidence to the 23/24 season - it would be quite exceptional

to repeat the historic success of last season but we are City and of course we will fight to the end!

Treasurer's Report

Rod shared copies of the accounts and walked through key points on income and expenditure. He then explained the changes to match ticket payment and delivery.

Income

Branch membership: grew from 91 to 99 this season. The MCFC web portal, through which the branch orders match tickets, continues to introduce new people who may wish to join MSB and contact has been made with these referrals.

MCFC Xmas Draw Tickets: a good response saw us sell £260 worth of tickets and resulted in us retaining £130 commission. We saw one £25 winner.

Sid Hayes: overpaid for a match ticket but, when notified, kindly let us keep the money as a donation.

Expenditure

A busy season.

MCFC Supporter's Club: paid £308 for the privilege of being a branch.

Daryn: Rod thanked Daryn on behalf of himself and the committee for four particularly fantastic pieces of work this season.

Firstly, a much needed relaunch of the branch website - www.midsussexblues.co.uk

Secondly, compiling and hosting the branch quiz last Autumn - a well attended and very enjoyable night.

Thirdly, organising a 2022 World Cup competition seeing Shelley Dutson win and take up the prize of a pair of Premiership tickets for a game of her choice.

Finally an evening with Brian Horton. Daryn kept in contact with Brian for many weeks as we were looking to hold the event prior to a potential Wembley appearance (a good reason for Brian to come South) even though there was no guarantee we would actually make it to the final. As a committee we priced the event to encourage attendance - members £12 for a fish and chip supper and a free copy of Brian's book, non members the same but they had to pay for the book. We even recruited a Brighton fan to attend on the train to the away game at the Amex! Unfortunately the train strikes called for that weekend precluded many from being able to attend.

Mischka: is the lead manager of the Supporter's Club ticket requirements at MCFC. The OSC invited branches to consider a donation for her 20 year work anniversary and we responded accordingly.

Season postage: the branch sourced 298 match tickets up from 263 tickets last season. We took MSBs to Champions League games at Dortmund, Leipzig, Munich and Real

Madrid plus 25 tickets (out of 25 requested) for Istanbul. In the FA Cup, via the branch, MSBs were at Bristol City away, then 31 (out of 31 requested) were at the Sheffield Utd semi final and 48 (out of 48 requested) were at the final. As we move to more tickets via mobile we expect to see these costs go down.

2023/24 season: membership currently stands at 97 with a number of new members and some 2022/23 members still to renew. Initial membership lists and subs to be sent to OSC by 31 October.

Change to Match Ticket Delivery

Email sent to members last weekend. The method for applying for tickets remains unchanged - the branch invites applications for individual games from the membership and submits initial numbers to OSC. When the allocation is received the branch adds individual names and supporter numbers to go forward to ticket processing by MCFC.

Here the process changes.

Rather than issue tickets to the branch for onward circulation, MCFC will contact each applicant direct to take payment (within 48 hours of the ticket being offered) and deliver the ticket (paper, print at home, mobile) to each member. So it is important that all email addresses, mobile numbers and home address details are current on MCFC Supporter's Accounts to ensure the process goes smoothly. Where juniors share an adult email address, the junior should be linked to that adult in the "family and friends area" of the MCFC Supporter's Account so that where applicable MCFC may process more than one ticket to the same email address.

The Branch has no choice about whether to accept this new process. The only exception was the Community Shield game.

Action – All MSB members to ensure their details are up to date on MCFC Supporter's Club website

2023/24 match tickets:

FA Community Shield -16 received out of 16 requested.

Burnley away - 2 received out of 3 requested

UEFA Super Cup - 2 received out of 2 requested

Sheffield Utd away - 2 received out of 7 requested

West Ham away - 25 applied for

Wolves away - 2 applied for

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

Paul Green raised concerns about whether MCFC can handle the volumes involved in the new process. Members present agreed it could be risky.

Jules thanked Rod for all his work this year.

Nominations for Committee 23/24

Iain, Rod, Daryn and Jules confirmed they were prepared to stand again but Colin is stepping down. Trevor Wharton was nominated by Paul Green and seconded by Nick Naylor for that committee spot. Everyone present voted in the new committee and welcomed Trevor.

Ideas for 2023/24 season

Daryn asked for ideas saying that another quiz, probably in winter, and an evening with Gary James are already on his list for quarterly events.

Daryn also said that he still has Brian Horton books for sale if anyone would like to purchase one. The cost is £10.

Rod suggested having the treble trophies before they are returned in the New Year. Costs involved e.g. travel and security guards, but we could share with IoW or another branch again. We can raise money for CITC for photos with MSBs and local football fans. Everyone agreed to investigate options.

Other ideas included horse racing, golf day, a night together to discuss City and/or to watch old games.

Iain said he would like to see more people coming to the Red Lion to watch games together.

Action: Rod talk Kevin Parker about the trophies and costs

AOB

Paul G explained that we now have 5-6 drivers, two 7 seater vehicles and access to a 15 seater vehicle for travel to games. A home game is typically £40 return but costs for all games will depend on how many vehicles/passengers.

Daryn will look again at merchandise. We have the MSB logo and he will explore tshirt and polo shirt options.

Shelley thanked the committee for all their work and for standing again.

Committee to arrange meeting in August.

Next MSB meeting

Sunday 27 August, 1pm ahead of the game against Sheffield Utd.