

Norfolk Arsenal Supporters Club



Annual General Meeting

Sunday July 25th 2021, 7pm

Online Via ZOOM

MINUTES

1 Apologies for absence

Received from Maxine Newey, Anne Stiles, Dave Watson and Trevor Wilcox.

2 Committee Positions 2021/2022

Proposal from the committee:

"That for the season 2021 to 2022 the current committee continues in post".

This was passed without objection. It was noted that Trevor is willing to step down from his position should another member want to take over as Vice Chair. The committee for the next 12 months will therefore be:

Chair	:	Chris Upton
Vice Chair	:	Trevor Wilcox
Secretary	:	Mark Scarfe
Treasurer	:	Steve Kidd
Travel Organiser - Home	:	Julie Jephson
Travel Organiser - Away	:	Dave Watson
Social Secretary	:	Julie Shorten
Member Representative	:	Maxine Newey

3 Club Finances

Steve presented a written account statement to the AGM for inspection. A small loss and otherwise very little movement in the last year or so due to the club's enforced inactivity. It was noted that Arsenal FC had given NASC a significant discount on the cost of silver renewals last season.

4 Membership Numbers / Fees

Proposal from committee

"That for the season 2021 to 2022 the current membership fees remain unchanged".

This was passed without objection.

Mark advised that the current (pre-2021 renewals) membership figures are 270 members at 152 unique addresses. He was expecting a small drop off in membership at this renewal due to covid discouraging some members from travelling, plus general distaste toward Arsenal over the European Super League debacle.

5a Tickets and Travel - HOME

Julie reported that presently there is still no confirmation from Arsenal about attendances allowed at home games next season. However Arsenal are accepting ticket allocations and as far as members are concerned they should apply to NASC for tickets in the usual way. The new Arsenal Extranet is not very user-friendly. Coach fees have increased, and currently ticket applications from members are very low for the first home games against Chelsea and Norwich. Car share or perhaps mini bus likely, coach unlikely.

Discussion followed about the likely demand for tickets (anticipated to be lower than usual) and the effect of covid restrictions/concerns on match attendance - including the possibility of mask wearing on coaches and 'covid passport' arrangements for admission to the match. At this stage final guidance and regulations are not known, so Julie will continue to monitor developments and communicate to members when more details are known.

5b Tickets and Travel - AWAY

In Dave's absence Julie took this section. She advised that Arsenal have scrapped the existing Away Scheme under which we could order 12 tickets for each away game. This was done without consultation, and is reflective of poor treatment of supporters clubs in Julie's opinion. Applying for away tickets will now be more complex, and the club needs to make a decision about whether to continue to apply for 12 tickets per match or not. This change may also affect our ability to obtain Cup Final tickets, although it is unclear at the moment if it may work in our favour or against us. Travel Organisers will continue to assess and advise.

5c Tickets and Travel - MEMBER QUESTIONS

Q : Cup Final Ticket Allocation (see addendum 01)

Answer: The effect of changes to Away Scheme are unclear at this stage; Travel Organisers to continue to assess and advise when new system becomes clear.

Q : General Applications by Email and payment by BACS (see addendum 02)

Julie and David strongly in favour of keeping existing postal application and cheque payment system. Although they fully appreciate the rationale behind the question, and the benefit to members in being able to apply and pay on line, it would not work in practice both in terms of NASC cashflow and the extra time it would impose on the Travel Organisers.

6 Social Events inc NASC 30th Birthday Events

Julie reported that no events were currently planned. Mark proposed that it would be good to rekindle the social side of the club to celebrate our 30th birthday and to banish the past covid-effected year or so. A positive discussion was held and a number of ideas discussed, covering those on the member survey as well as pens / badges / walking football. Generally it was agreed that the club does not provide the level of social engagement it once did and that it would be good to offer more. Julie, with Maxine's help, will put some plans in place once Mark has the member surveys returned.

7 Open question from the Secretary for consideration

"Shall we support a charity for season 2021/2022? Perhaps NHS related?"

Discussion took place, remembering the charity events we have had in the past. It has been a number of years since we raised money for charity. Agreed to consider charity fundraising on the back of social events, with the committee suggesting a small shortlist of charities for informal approval by members.

8 Competition Winners 2020 / 2021

Mark confirmed the competition winners as previously published, and confirmed competitions would go ahead for the next season.

9 Any Other Business (Chris)

- NASC Rules

Mark confirmed that these had been published for some time on the NASC web site and that no concerns or objections had been raised. These are now officially adopted and approved.

- Arsenal Advisory Board Proposals

Mark raised the recent announcement of the Arsenal Advisory Board plans by Arsenal, which seems like a response to recent criticism of Arsenal and their owners (full details are on Arsenal's web site) and asked what position (if any) NASC should take on the matter. After some discussion and consideration of AST views, it was agreed that NASC should contact Arsenal to express our opinion that the new scheme does not go far enough to offer supporters enough influence or create meaningful enough engagement.

MEETING OPENED 7.05pm

MEETING CLOSED 8.20pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT Chris, Mark, Julie J, Julie S, Steve.

Attendance approx 16 - 20 (difficult to be exact with zoom, sorry!)

MS 28/07/2021

ADDENDUM

01 MEMBER QUESTION Cup Final Ticket Allocation

“Over the summer Arsenal have announced they will be changing the way they allocate cup final tickets, with priority given to ST Holders based on number of home matches attended. NASC has always received a healthy allocation of cup final tickets through its away scheme memberships - what discussions do NASC plan on holding with the club to ensure that we continue to benefit from receiving cup final tickets and will NASC now allocate cup final tickets based on number of home games attended?”

02 MEMBER QUESTION General Applications by Email and payment by BACS

“A few years ago (pre Covid) it was discussed that the ticket application process could be a lot easier for members, if they could be made via email and payments via a bank transfer. Dave & Julie were against this at the time, but given the changes in the world since, is this something they would reconsider?”

END.