

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS FEDERATION
NORTHERN DIVISION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 19TH MAY 2007
HELD AT THE BOSTON HOTEL BLACKPOOL

The meeting opened at 1.05 pm with Mr A.Bloore presiding, and a special welcome to the newly formed Northern and North Wales branch.

APOLOGIES

T.Taylor.(Darlington) M.Williamson. I.Lyon (Morcambe) C.Johnson. (Ind.)
J.Foster.(Ind.) F.Horrocks.(MCFCOSC). E.Carlisle. (LUSC). M.Garner. (York City S.C.) S.Kell,
K.Walton. (Halifax Town).

MINUTES OF THE 2006 A.G.M.

Moved John Dexter seconded M.Procter Huddersfield Town.

MATTERS ARISING A.G.M.

MATTERS ARISING, OPEN MEETING.

Questions on the following:

Fixture planning - A full report would be given on this at the fans Parliament.

M.K.Dons - M.Clarke explained that this was slowly drawing to a conclusion. Hopefully by the 25th June. Only refer to Milton Keynes since their formation. History would return to A.F.C.

Wimbledon. Milton Keynes would maintain the Dons in their name and in time Wimbledon would become F.C. again..

Restrictions on Travel? - Only Wolves v.Cardiff this season hopefully will not happen again.

CHAIRS REPORT.

Alan apologised for no report due to late change of chair.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Our first meeting of the season was on August 27th at Halifax and turned out to be our smallest attended meeting with only 17 attendees. In retrospect it was a foolish date to hold a meeting as it was bank holiday weekend. The seventeen that turned up at Halifax supporters club were treated to a nice buffet, the bar was open, with Steve Kell and Kit Walton being the perfect hosts and making excellent arrangements. My successor needs to watch the avoidable problems of bank holiday weekend clashes. Neil Redfearn who had played for many clubs in the north west gave a talk on his long career-which was still extant at Bradford Park Avenue-followed by a question and answer session .The content proved so involved and interesting that even though it was our smallest attended meeting it was also the latest closed meeting. Neil informed the meeting that his new book was to be published the following week and, from a personal perspective, I was interested in the chapter headed "The Road To Wigan Fear" Which dealt with Wigan's promotion year to the Championship.

Next we met at Oldham Athletic Football Club on November 26th where the host and organiser was Jeff Vernon. Again, a nice friendly venue with 26 attendees. One of the first agenda items was mooted by Ian Lyon asking if the division would support an open meeting on pyramid football? It

was generally felt that we would and it was left that Ian and I would look to hold this later in the season at either Hyde or Northwich-but more of that later. It was also moved at this meeting that we would move the date of this A.G.M. from the day of the cup final to the following day. This motion succeeded but only just and the additional proposal to move from Blackpool to another venue turned out to be a step too far and here we are again today. This was, unfortunately to be Dave Tomlinson's last meeting as he resigned for personal reasons before our visit to Hyde and I would formally like to document how much we enjoyed his brief chairmanship of the Northern Division. However, we had a good replacement in Alan Bloore who stepped into the breach as deputy Northern chair until at least the Blackpool AGM.

And so into AD 2007 and a cold snowy Sheffield. This was hosted by the Wednesdayites led by their regular Northern Division representative Diane Cockayne. We met in the Wednesdayites lounge at the Park Hotel very close to the Sheffield Wednesday ground.24 attendees from 14 different clubs were there and the main agenda was a talk by the senior committee members of the Wednesdayites supporters trust itemising how relations with the club had deteriorated and their attempts at reconciliation and to achieve one of their members on the board. The Wednesdayites had been donated approximately 9% of Sheffield Wednesday shares and they thought that this percentage holding may earn them a place on the main board. For those attendees having good relations with clubs it was to prove an object lesson of difficult it is when the interaction between the largest supporter group of a team and the main board deteriorate to the point where the club would not even let the Wednesdayites pay for improvements to training facilities etc. and suggested that they put the money to enhance the decor of the gents toilets!

Finally on April 15th. When we visited Hyde United Supporters club.31 attendees from 17 clubs. Paul Harrop had provided the most comprehensive directions I have ever received on how to get to the ground. The proposal by Ian Lyon back in November to host a pyramid symposium finally bore fruit .Ian had worked long and hard on the content and format of the meeting along with many phone calls to most of the conference clubs and those below. It was a tribute to him that we had three non-league chairman at the meeting-from Hyde ; Morecambe and Worksop. The presentations from these gentlemen and the question and answer session afterwards shows how difficult it is for these clubs to survive and prosper and is a world away from the many millions raked in by the premier ship clubs. It makes the achievements by my club, Wigan, take on a greater magnitude as it is only a few years since they were part of this "poorer" end of the game. We also had another club Chairman in attendance as our deputy chair, Norman Beverley, who is now the chairman of Stockport County made his first appearance for a couple of years and it was nice to see him.

Finally, thank you all for your support and encouragement during my few years as secretary but I feel it is time to let someone else have a go. I have enjoyed my spell and feel that I have I have made a contribution to the division, certainly average attendances are nearly three times greater than they were when I arrived and I wish you all great times in football whichever team you support. I will still be the Wigan Athletic representative and look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

A vote of thanks was proposed by M.Procter, Huddersfield and seconded J.Marsden, Worksop. To Jeff, for his efforts for the division.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

In the absence of Ian Lyon a brief report was given by J.Taylor. Due to the time factor no copies were available. The finances had over the year fallen from £3,800 to £3,000.

Q. Would any finance be required for the conference? **A.B.** No money required off the division all paid for by the sponsors. Thanks to Carroll Clarke everything was in place for the weekend. Phill Gatenby. Thanks to Carroll Clarke for stepping in at short notice to finalise F.P.arrangements. Also to Crewe for their help which had been first class. M.Procter (Huddersfield) Asked would there be a presentation to Crewe..This would be checked.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2007/08.

CHAIR.	MR.A.BLOORE	Pro. HUDDERSFIELD.	Sec. SHEFF.UNITED
V.CHAIR.	MR.J.MARSDEN	Pro. MAN.CITY	Sec. WORKSOP.
SECRETARY.	MR.P.GATENBY	Pro. M.CLARKE	Sec. LEEDS U.
ASS.SEC'RY	MR. A.GALLEY	Pro. SHEFF.UNITED	Sec. WORKSOP.
TREASURER.	MR.I.LYON	Pro. WORKSOP	Sec. LEEDS U.
N.C. (2)	MR.J.TAYLOR	Pro. SHEFF.UNITED	Sec. OLDHAM A.
	MR.P.GATENBY	Pro. M.CLARKE	Sec. J.TAYLOR

A brief discussion on whether we needed a divisional committee took place after it was pointed out it had not met for two years,after which the following were elected.

M.Clarke. G.Milton. J.Taylor. L.England. E.Rigby and K.Dexter.

Deputy for the N.C. **MR.G.MILTON** **Pro. M.CLARKE** **Sec. J. TAYLOR.**

A.G.M. THEN CLOSED. OPEN MEETING COMMENCED.

Question to the chair. Is the attendance at todays meeting greater or smaller than last years A.G.M. The attendance is smaller. So the moving of the meeting from Saturday to Sunday had not been a success.

After a discussion and a number of suggestions it was proposed that we fix the date of next years AGM today. An amendment was put forward that we consult with members and fix the date at the next divisional meeting.

The amendment was carried with 22 for and 15 against.

WAY FOREWARD

A discussion took place on the paper issued by M.Clarke on proposed new divisions.

POINTS RAISED. AS THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FSF GROWN SINCE ITS FORMATION ? Answer the numbers are about the same although they had recently been bolstered by 30,000 from one large organisation.

M.Clarke stated that the organisation has to change and we are running out of tme.The changes propose major restructuring of divisions and boundrey changes with meeting possibly being held mid week.He stated that for the proposed changes to work we need to have a large influx of members,otherwise they will fail.He stressed that time is important,we had to act.

Question.WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? It is not easy to explain as it is not straightforward, Question.Do we have full consultation and transparency? Answer. There will be consultation and we have to be transparent.Money is not a problem but we have to have a modern organisation. New members are essential.

J.Dexter suggested that posters could be purchased and posted at grounds around the country.

**NO OTHER BUISNESS THE MEETING CLOSED
AT 3-50PM.**

**CLUBS WERE ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOST A MEETING FOR
THE NEXT SEASON.**

**THE FOLLOWING CLUBS STATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO HOST A MEETING
SOMETIME NEXT SEASON.**

YORK CITY. OLDHAM ATHLETIC. AND WORKSOP TOWN.

YORK CITY TO HOLD THE FIRST. DATE TO BE CONFIRMED..

IN ATTENDANCE.

B.& P.WHITNEY (SHEFF,UNITED S.C.) J.TAYLOR (WIGAN A.) A.GALLEY (MCFOSC)
J.VERNON. (OLDHAM ATH. S.A.) J.MARSDEN,T.MOTTRAM,K.DEXTER.(WORKSOP)
L.ENGLAND (NORTHWEST ENGLANDFANS) G&A MORTIMER (YORK CITY)
N.BEVERLEY (STOCKPORT C.) G.MILTON (LEEDS U.) A.BLOORE.(BARNSELY S.T.)
P.GATENBY (IND.) B.LOVETT,M.PROCTOR,B.WADE.E.HARGREAVES(HUDDERSFIELD
TOWN) M.CLARKE (IND.) Z.CLARKE.(MNSCSC) R.WYNN (YORK CITY SC)
J.MILLS,C.COFFEY, P.CATTERHALL (WIGAN A.)