

ARFC SUPPORTERS' TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING [Period Ending 31 December 2012] – 27 JUNE 2013 - GEORGIAN HOTEL, COATBRIDGE

Present: Eddie Hagerty, David Herd, Donald Ashwood, Shaun Millar, Gordon Lind, Marcus Cotter, Daniel Mossie, Tommy Cooper, David George, Ronnie Boyd and John McEwan.

Apologies: Bill Walker, Andrew Herd and Colin Millar.

Agenda:

1. Chairman's Introduction and Comments Arising
2. Secretary's Report
3. Annual Accounts and Treasurers' Report
4. Election/Re-election of Committee Members
5. AOCB

Chairman's Introduction and Comments

Trust Chairman, Eddie Hagerty opened the meeting and welcomed everyone along.

The minutes for the AGM of the previous year were issued and approved [Proposed DA, Seconded SM].

EH spoke of it being a very busy and productive year for the Trust. In particular he thanked the Monday Club for the great efforts they have put in over the past year. He also mentioned the positive feedback we had received from the poster campaign earlier in the year and also highlighted the role of the Trust in helping with the setting up and organisation of the new Squad Fund. EH concluded by re-stating his desire to get a Trust representative on the Club BOD.

Secretary's Report

JMCE, the Secretary, followed on from the remarks of EH with a summation of the years activities.

Membership numbers were up to 67 from the previous year's figure of 62. More could still be done to help retain and encourage people to join.

The Wee Rovers Fund [WRF] brings in around £1.5k per year to the Trust resources; many thanks once again to those who contribute.

The Squad Fund is a great addition to the WRF, and it is hoped that this can make a difference, no matter how small. It is more than what was there before, so every little helps. The Squad Fund brings in around £300 a month/£75 a week, which is under £4k per year. Not a huge amount, so expectations need to be sensible and realistic.

The Trust continued to help run buses to almost every away fixture last season [2012/13]. JMCE personally felt that one of the key roles of the Trust is to keep travel prices as affordable, and make it as accessible as possible for fans to support the team away from home. The general consensus was that this was hard to disagree with. There is a budget, raised at the annual Quiz Night, and this is managed very carefully throughout a season to ensure sensible and fair price support where required. Ian Lochhead, the bus convenor, also has his own funds, generated from busier days during the season, so it usually means that funds actually contributed by the Trust during any season are relatively modest.

The Club shop continues to be a great success. Profits were a lot lower than the previous year, mainly as this was the second year of the same team strip. There will be a change coming in the way the shop will operate for 2013/14; this is due to the Club securing a new supplier. How this affects the shop is not yet totally clear, but it is hoped that any changes will be behind the scenes and not visible to fans on matchdays. The company, UKSOCCERSHOP, will also take on complete management of the online shop that the Trust also managed; this should hopefully provide a more timely service for all fans and free up some time for the people who have been operating it. We do not yet know when the new strips will be available; we will need to wait until all details re sponsors, league approval, logos and supplier details are finalised.

JMCE briefly mentioned the very tough season on the pitch in 2012/13. He felt the disappointments with performances seemed to feed into people's mind-sets, with all sort of personal accusations and allegations being made on various media outlets about anyone and everyone associated with the Club. JMCE personally felt it was important for the Trust not to get dragged into petty personal squabbles, particularly online, and to focus on

getting the balance right between helping the club flourish as much as possible whilst also holding to account where necessary.

As intimated at the previous Trust meeting, JMCE confirmed that he was standing down as Secretary and from the Trust committee from tonight. He explained it was due to pressures at work, but will still continue to help run the shop and the Race Night if the committee wanted. He made special mention to thank EH and DH, who people just do not realise how much fantastic work they do for both the Trust and the Club as a whole. It is unbelievable the amount of effort and commitment they put in.

Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report

DH issued copies of the Accounts for the period ending 31/12/2012, and went on to discuss the figures in more detail. The overall profit was £54. TC proposed acceptance of the Accounts, and was seconded by GL.

Having an Independent Examiner's Report for the 2013 Accounts was approved unanimously. The re-appointment of Benson Wood & Co. as Independent Examiners was unanimously approved.

Election/Re-election of Committee Members

In line with the constitution a rolling election of committee members is required every year at the AGM. In previous years the whole board has stood for re-election and been re-elected. It was proposed unanimously that this also occur this year, with the exception of JMCE (see above).

GL, RB and MC were also unanimously elected to the committee. The office bearers were confirmed as:

- Chairman – EH
- Treasurer – DH
- Secretary – Vacant; committee members would be consulted in the close season and a decision made at the next meeting in August.

AOCB

DG enquired about the proposed name change to include Coatbridge in the name, as had been raised by Gordon Dishington in previous months. No definitive answer could be given as GD was not present at the AGM. It was felt that it probably would not come up for discussion again in the near future, but it was possible that GD may raise the issue again at some point. If that was the case then the Trust would try to ensure all fan views were taken into account, and any change would have a mandate from the majority of all supporters.

EH then brought the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for attending and their contributions throughout the year.

Minutes prepared by JMCE: 30 July 2013.