



NEWCASTLE FALCONS
SUPPORTERS CLUB



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12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2008
MINUTES

1. Introduction: Appointment of Chairman of the Meeting

The meeting began at 19.30hrs and Harry Sharp was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

There were 40 members in attendance.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Dan Darbyshire, Dick and Maureen Godfrey, Jane Hanley, Kevin Nergaard, Peter Taylor, Jackie Taylor, Rebecca Taylor, Derek Longstaff, Graham Pilkington, Sandra Dale, John Nelson, John Catto and Carol and Andrew Lambert.

3. Minutes of the Eleventh AGM held on 7 June 2007

The Minutes from the 11th AGM Meeting (which were circulated to those present, but had also been made available prior to the meeting via the web site and an ezine distribution) were agreed as accurate by the Members, and signed off.

4. Chairman's Report for 2007/2008

Martin Peagam gave his Chairman's report for the 2007/08 season (which was circulated to those present, but had also been made available prior to the meeting via the web site and an ezine distribution). The key points being:

Financial Position: the key aim for last year had been to address the poor financial position and this had been achieved with a significant loss the previous year being substantially reduced (and almost turned into a surplus).

Away travel: the Supporters Club had provided more coaches to more matches than in the previous year, whilst at the same time reducing the loss incurred from coach travel and providing better-quality coaches. This had been achieved by hiring smaller coaches where necessary and seeking competitive quotes for each away trip. Martin emphasised that if the performance and results on the pitch were good, the numbers travelling increased. Martin thanked Tony and Peter for their efforts.

Social Programme: Tony and Emma had produced some excellent socials, with Tony's pool tournaments being a great success and the beer and butty socials before a home match also proving very popular. In addition there had been four talk ins, including one with the Chairman of the Newcastle Falcons.



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Communications: The Committee was trying very hard to keep in touch with everyone – the web site had been redesigned by Peter and Margaret had developed the ezine distribution to keep people informed of events and activities.

The Review: Martin apologised that a Review had not been produced this season, the reasons being explained, and an assurance was given that a Review was in preparation for distribution soon.

There were no questions on the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking all of the outgoing committee members for their dedication and hard work over the previous year, and also thanked his family for being so patient with him.

5. Treasurer's Report for 2007/2008

In Kevin Nergaard's absence, Martin Peagam delivered the Treasurer's Report (which was circulated to those present, but had also been made available prior to the meeting via the web site and an ezine distribution).

The key points highlighted by Martin were:

1. The accounts showed that a loss of £4,152,01 last year had been turned into a small loss of £290.96 in this year.
2. The coaches only lost £88.67 per coach this year as opposed to £228.50 last year.
3. A sum of £1,000 had been donated to charities thanks to initiatives involving the Supporters Club. The Chairman noted that despite regular expressions of concern, the cheque sent to a Worcester hospice had not been cashed., and proposed that if the cheque was not cashed within the next week, he was going to cancel it and give the money to a local charity. This decision was unanimously agreed.
4. Barbara Scott asked for the fundraising elements on the report to be explained, which Martin did so to Barbara's satisfaction.
5. Jack Stewart proposed, and the meeting agreed, that thanks be recorded to the Treasurer for the clear and concise report which had been produced.

6. Membership Fees

The Chairman proposed that membership fees be held at the current level for this year, with a possible £1 increase next year.

It was proposed by one member present, and endorsed by the meeting, that following the decision taken at last year's AGM, the Committee have authority from the members to increase/stabilise membership fees as they see fit, subject to the average annual increase being limited to 5%.



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7. Election of Committee Members 2008/2009

The Chairman said there were nine members wishing to stand for election. Pen Portraits were circulated to those present, but had also been made available prior to the meeting via the web site and an ezine distribution, as had Proxy Voting Forms.

The members standing were:

Margaret Smithurst
Peter Taylor
Emma Peagam
Martin Peagam
Kevin Nergaard
Helen Roberts
Michael (Tony) Shaw
Stef Walter
Steve Richardson

Votes were cast and counted by appointed tellers.

The elected committee for the season 2008/2009 was announced by the Chairman, Harry Sharp as:

Margaret Smithurst
Emma Peagam
Martin Peagam
Kevin Nergaard
Helen Roberts
Michael (Tony) Shaw
Steve Richardson

8. Any Other Business

1. Margaret requested that if anyone changed their email address, that they remember to let her know so that the database could be kept up to date.
2. Sponsored Players

The Chairman invited views as to which players the Supporters Club should sponsor next season, advising those present that the recommendation of the Committee was that Phil Dowson be released from sponsorship, that the supporters Club continue to support Rob Miller, and that the Supporters Club take up the sponsorship of new coach Alan Tait.

A discussion ensued during which Margaret advised the meeting as to the players that are available, how much sponsorship costs, and what each package contained



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per player/coach. The meeting expressed the view that it was felt invaluable to continue to sponsor a coach/first team player because of the benefits of the package which was received and made available to all Supporters Club members through draws and raffle prizes.

The meeting endorsed the proposal made by the out-going Committee and asked that Margaret inform Anna Humphreys of this decision as soon as possible.

There was no other business and therefore, the outgoing committee were thanked for their hard work over the last season and Harry Sharp was thanked for acting as Chairman for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.45hrs.