 **CRAWLEY TOWN SUPPORTERS’ ALLIANCE**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes – 3rd December 2015. Redz Bar - 19.30hrs.**

**1.** **Welcome.**

The meeting was opened by Carol Bates who welcomed all attendees to this year’s AGM and thanked them for coming.

**2.** **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from: David Beard, Michael Dunford, Simon Hall, Geoff Slater, Henry Smith and Phil Townsend.

Phil Townsend asked if we could advise members a bit earlier of the date of the AGM to give more notice for arranging to attend. This was noted and we will aim to give one month’s notice, next year.

**3.** **Confirmation of last year’s Minutes and any matters arising.**

Last year’s AGM Minutes were approved.

**4.** **Introduction and address by the Chair followed by the Vice-Chair.**

CB thanked the past CTSA Board members for all their efforts and support and went onto introduce the 3 new members of the Board as well as the current Board Members.

CB delivered her address to the CTSA members, a copy of which is attached for your perusal. CB then handed over to Vice Chair, Mat Cowdrey, for his report to clarify the issues and results of his recent Exclusion Order and then opened up to the floor for any questions the members had. Chris Cheshire expressed her view that we should draw a line under it all now and move on.

**5.** **Treasurer Report** **– Simon Smith**

SS presented a summary of the finances and stated that details of the accounts are available for anyone to see. SS proposed the accounts were accepted and CB seconded. All voted in favour.

SS clarified a claim made by Susan Carter at “An Audience with” that the CTSA balance of +/- £30k represented profits from the Man. Utd. FA Cup match that we were “allowed to keep”. This was followed by a claim from a supporter online that “CTSA had been given £30,000 to share with all supporters”.

CTSA records indicate that the financial year end balance of £29,822 is made up of:

£12,028 from the old Supporters Association

£12,877 from the old Devils Trust, including donations.

£ 4,917 surplus since the CTSA was formed

SS has also spoken with Alain Harper who still has records of the Man United game and confirmed that the profits were +/- £5,200.

SS then went on to say that the CTSA maintain all records, an audit trail and receipts for all monies and the information of these accounts are open to everyone to view. The CTSA exists as a Limited Company and all 8 Board members’ names are registered with the Financial Conduct Authority.

The Financial Year has been a difficult one and we are finding it increasingly more difficult to sustain our position of raising money to cover expenditure.

Our turnover history:

2011/12 - £63k

2012/13 – £45k

2013/14 – £35k

Accounts for 2014/15- £26k

We are currently running at a loss of £1,084 which includes a loss of £650 as numbers are down compared to last year when we gave free membership to all Season Ticket holders. The Portakabin costs £103.00 per month and we have had broken windows twice at £250 each time, to repair.

The current bank balance is £28,800. Away travel and not selling 50/50 tickets are not providing funds. Some events are in the pipeline to boost the funds.

Constitution Update - There are Model Rules set up by Supporters Direct that we follow and there are around 170 trusts around the country that use these rules to reflect best practice. The four main amendments are:

1. Introduction of Withdraw-able Shares
2. The accounts must be independently reviewed at Year End – this is a formal requirement.
3. Administration with guidelines on how to conduct a Board meeting.
4. Asset Lock – the concept of this is to ensure that the Board are not allowed to dispose of certain assets without formal agreement of members. This is primarily aimed at protecting clubs against the loss of their ground to developers, and would not affect Crawley Town FC.

SS proposed the amended rules are accepted by the members and put into place and CB seconded. All voted to accept.

SS went on to talk about Supporter Ownership and the CTSA and its members owning a stake in the Club.

In the Football League there are currently 39 football clubs that are Supporter owned with a 51% stake, such clubs include Newport, Wycombe, Portsmouth and AFC Wimbledon. Outside of the league clubs include Bayern Munich, Dortmund and Lewes.

Discussions are taking place at a Parliamentary level, including a Private Members Bill, with a view to improve supporters’ rights, including the option to buy shares where more than 30% of the Club is sold.

**6.** **Travel Report – Sarah Moylan**

SM explained that some away travel has not been viable recently due to lack of travelling away supporters and numbers being too low to cover costs of a coach from Clarkes. We are trying very hard to keep costs down. Clarkes are currently the cheapest price and after getting some quotes from other coach companies for the Hartlepool trip we were quoted £1,400 and with only 16 members travelling this just wasn’t feasible to even cover anywhere near the cost.

We are extremely disappointed when we don't run a coach and this only happens if we can’t also find a volunteer to drive a hired mini bus, which is not always possible. We would like to thank the volunteers who have already given up their time to drive a hired mini bus for us to some of the games.

SM and SB will be working together to improve travel and will be doing an investigation into the service we offer.

For the Barnet and Wycombe games on the 19th and 28th December we are offering a price of £25 for the two instead of £15 each.

So far we have 31 booked for Barnet and 23 booked for Wycombe, to break even on the costs of the coach we need 30+ to travel each time.

SM thanked everyone who travelled with the CTSA throughout the season.

**7.** **Community** – **Joe Comper**.

JC talked about the partnership with the Community Trust working with Birt Kazim and Amy Fazackerly. The success of COG’s is a good example of this and we are working hard at doing more. Last season a lot of effort went into our quiz night which raised over £400 and the supporters tournament raised over £300.

We will be holding a 5 year Anniversary Man. Utd. Quiz Night on the 19th February. This will be advertised in January.

Moving forward in partnership with the Community Foundation we are placing our bid for funding to host 6 events over 18 months which will include:

* Sports for All Family Day
* Female Football Development Family Day
* Supporters and youth tournaments

JC asked for any volunteers to help run these events any for any further suggestions for events that we can put on for the community.

**8.** **Election of New Board Members.**

CB asked the new Board members to introduce themselves with their statements and these are attached.

CB proposed that all 3 were voted onto the board which was unanimously agreed.

The Board was elected as follows:

Carol Bates – Chair

Joe Comper – Community Officer

Mat Cowdrey – Vice-Chair/Club Liaison

Sarah Moylan – Travel Officer/Membership Officer

Sue Benn – Secretary/Travel

Simon Smith – Treasurer/Constitution/SD/FSF

Dan Charman – Communications Officer

Marilyn Loughton – Community – Projects Officer

**9.** **Plans for the future.**

JC mentioned more about working with the Community Foundation to get funding of £6,680 from the Premier League Fans Fund which involves hosting 6 events over 18 months:

* 2 Cultural events
* Sports for All – local sports clubs utilising the outdoor space to showcase their clubs and encourage new members & new football supporters – in return they possibly get free match day tickets
* 2 Tournaments – Male & Female – on the pitch, which will be for all supporters.
* Youth Tournament – under 8’s on the pitch
* Mauritian Community – Owen Pickering to be approached in help with this

JC said we are open to ideas and any volunteer help at these events will be greatly appreciated.

As a Supporter Organisation, we are looking to help increase numbers through the gate and we hope these events will do that.

CB made a plea for help with posters, flyers and anyone artistic to help with literature and promote events.

SS mentioned the cabin and in light of having 2 broken windows recently he’d looked into the cost of shutters but they would be £1,700, so one of our members, Dan Brown, who is a carpenter, has offered to replace the window with a wooden hatch. The Cabin is now being used as it should be, with the window and not people walking in through the door. We aim to use the Cabin as well, for the Community projects.

**10**. **AOB**.

1. CB mentioned that the 5 Year Founder Members’ membership will cease at the end of this season.
2. Chris Cheshire asked if we could thank everyone for all their help and support on the bucket collection which raised an amazing amount of over £2,000.
3. Chestnut Tree have asked for any help with their bucket collection and selling of Santa hats at the Dagenham & Redbridge game on the 12th December.

With no other business, the attendees were thanked for coming and the meeting was closed at 21.35hrs.