



**THE ASSOCIATION OF PROVINCIAL FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' CLUBS
IN LONDON [www.apfscil.org.uk]**

**47TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023 AT 19:30**

At The HORSESHOE, 24 Clerkenwell Close, EC1R 0AG, T020 7253 6068

P = Present X = Absent A = Apologies

P	Aberdeen	P	Heart of Midlothian	A	Rotherham United
P	Barrow	P	Hull City	P	Rangers
P	Blackpool	P	Ipswich GL	A	Rotherham
X	Bolton Wanderers	P	Leicester City	A	Scunthorpe United
P	Brighton & Hove Albion	X	London Scottish	P	Sheffield Wednesday
X	Burnley	P	Manchester City	P	Southampton
P	Chester	A	Manchester Untd	P	Sunderland
P	Coventry City	A	Mansfield Town	P	West Bromwich Albion
A	Derby County	A	Middlesbrough		
P	Everton	A	Newcastle United	P	Football Rep
P	Exeter City	P	Norwich City	A	President
A	FCUM	P	Nottingham Forest	A	Webmaster
A	Gillingham	P	Plymouth Argyle		

The total number of clubs represented was 21, an improvement from 19 in 2022, 16 in 2021 the previous year, and matched the pre-covid total in 2019.

Top Table: Kevin Wells, Chairman (Leicester); Neil Le Milliere, Secretary (Exeter); and Roger Pyne, Minutes Secretary (Exeter). In attendance Phil Arnold, Treasurer (Leicester).

Meeting Opened: 19.39

Opening Remarks: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 47th AGM of the association.

1. Apologies For Absence

1.1 Chester/Rick Goby; FCUM/Nick Duckett; Gillingham/Andrew Plummer; Mansfield/Dave Cross; Middlesbrough/Arthur Turner; Newcastle/Annand Wiffen; President/Monica Hartland; Steve O'Brien/ Manchester United; Fred Motson/Derby; Chris Turner/Rotherham & Darts Secretary; and Sunderland/Ian Todd.

1.2 many thanks to all the teams of their apologies, there were only two, nominally three, teams who did not attend or send apologies.

2: Minutes of 45th Annual General Meeting

2.1 These minutes have been circulated and were agreed as a true record earlier in the year. The meeting duly approved the minutes of the 46th AGM.

3: Matters Arising

3.1 There were no matters arising raised prior to the meeting.

4: Chairman's Report - Kevin Wells (Leicester)

4.1 Rather boringly, not much to say from me other than to thank my fellow officers and confirm I am willing to serve another year if so required. There are a number of vacant places on the committee, so nominations would be most welcome.

5: Secretary's Report - Neil Le Milliere (Exeter City)

5.1 It's been a challenging year in many ways not least keeping things going again after the initial enthusiasm post the pandemic. Thankfully our Pool and Darts competitions have resumed although currently with less teams than pre-pandemic.

5.2 Dealing with the rail and tube strikes has proved challenging regarding arranging meetings and led to one being adjourned from December to January. Another issue caused the August meeting to be cancelled as the Horseshoe was not available at short notice and there wasn't time to organise an alternative. The same thing happened in May this year, but we used the Speaker in Westminster instead.

5.3 I received various requests and emails asking for help with different subjects and to publicise others which were all dealt with.

5.4 We unfortunately lost a few old friends during the year and these were communicated to members and sympathies passed back.

6: Treasurer's Report - Phil Arnold (Leicester)

6.1 I recently received confirmation that Kevin Wells and I are now signatories on the APFSCIL Santander bank accounts and that I have full access to the accounts online.

I would also like to thank Nick Head for continuing to prepare the monthly accounts during the time it has taken for me to be registered with Santander and for his advice and help.

6.2 My inclination is to retain the membership fee at £5 per club, subject to approval at this AGM.

6.3 Once the membership fee is decided the preference is for Bank Transfer where possible please, email the Secretary for the Bank Account details. Alternatively, please bring cheques or cash to this or the August meeting.

6.4 The membership fees recently has been kept at £5 because although in recent years expenditure has exceeded income, our reserves are still quite healthy. It should be noted that the association has in recent years paid to the Xmas buffet as well as subsidising tickets for the non-league finals day at Wembley.

6.5 Phil read out a brief resume of the accounts.

6.6 It was proposed that the 2023/24 membership fee be £5 per club, this was put to a vote and approved by the meeting.

7: Travel Secretary's Report – Neil Le Milliere (Exeter)

7.1 As mentioned under the Secretary's report the Rail and Tube strikes have caused members massive problems during the year and look to be continuing for the time being.

7.2 Members have shared relevant advice about travel which has, as usual, proved very useful and one of the benefits that membership brings.

7.3 Going forward please encourage your members to continue to provide feedback and advice about travel to stations and stadiums.

7.4 There followed a brief discussion among those present covering the new LNER one way fares initiative and other travel related items.

8: Sports & Social Secretaries Reports

8.1 Social Report Rob Madigan (Everton)

8.1.1 No one stepped forward to take this post on so, as Secretary, I took on the responsibility for a few things, the first one being the ever-popular Non-League Finals Day at Wembley which due to fixture clashes and an initial reluctance to return to this type of event was not as well supported as pre-pandemic.

8.1.2 Apart from this there was the traditional Buffet at the December meeting.

8.2 Darts Report Chris Turner (Rotherham)

8.2.1 Chris sent this report after the meeting:

8.2.2 The 2021/22 season ended later than normal which remains a legacy of the pandemic. This also meant that the 2022/23 season started later than normal. I would like to see the 2023/24 season start a little earlier.

The 2021/22 Division 1 title went to Nottingham Forest with Plymouth Argyle as runners up. Southampton won Division 2 with Newcastle United "B" finishing as runners up.

8.2.3 The pairs competition held in March 2023 was won by Craig Munro and Ian Davey (Nottingham Forest) who beat Phil Cordingley and Dave Porrit (Newcastle United).

8.2.4 The singles competition held in March 2023 was won by Pete Winter (Coventry City) with Raj Gujjalu (Leicester City) as runner up. Congratulations to all.

8.2.5 For the 2022/23 season I'm pleased to say that we still have 16 teams (8 in each division). Although we lost Manchester United to the league, Sheffield Wednesday came back into the fold. I'm hopeful Manchester United will be able to rejoin the league next season. The league appears to be progressing well, particularly Division 1. League fixtures should be played by the end of August 2023 with the team cup by the end of September 2023.

8.2.6 The 2023 darts AGM will be held later in the year, probably September 2023, to discuss the 2023/24 season.

8.2.7 Finally, I would like to place on record my thanks to the following people, Tina Robertson for her Chairmanship of the darts league, Phil Cordingley for reviewing the rules, Richard at The Horseshoe for his hospitality in hosting many matches, but also the singles and pairs competitions as well as the AGM, to all captains for their co-operation and of course to all the players across all the teams. The APFSCIL darts league continues in the spirit of friendship and sportsmanship.

Chris.Turner@communities.gov.uk

Tables and Results can be seen via our website

<http://www.apfscil.org.uk/sporting-fixtures.html>

8.3 Football Report Iain Walworth (Aberdeen)

8.3.1 Iain has been our contact for the past year on the Football section matters, though not formally appointed. It was confirmed that to all intents and purposes the Football section is now redundant with no hope of a revival. It had been headed this way pre-pandemic, but the pandemic has finally finished it.

8.3.2 During the year we received a request for a £200 grant from the Aberdeen team, one of only a couple of teams still competing, towards their expenses for the 2022/3 season. In the circumstances we were happy to agree.

8.3.3 It is thought that London Scottish and Plymouth still have football teams playing in other leagues/friendlies.

8.4 Pool Report Steve Grant (Southampton)

8.4.1 We're gradually catching up after a sluggish return to action after Covid. The 2022 Clydie Weeks Summer Cup was won by Exeter after a narrow win over Sunderland in the final.

8.4.2 This Summer's cup will kick off when the league has concluded. At the time of writing we are around halfway through, but with teams picking up the pace in recent weeks, so the hope is that we can be done by late July or early August, which would allow the Summer Cup to actually take place in the Summer for the first time in a while!

Cheers, Steve

steve@stevegrant.co.uk

9: Webmaster's Report – Liz Cocks (Blackpool)

9.1 Yet to be received. The Chairman thanked Liz for her efforts, we know she manages to do this despite being very busy in other areas of her life, and it is really appreciated.

10: Press and Publicity Report (Vacant)

10.1 No report as the position is vacant.

11: Election of Officers

11.1 As usual there are several positions that need filling and the remaining committee members could really do with some additional help so, please consider stepping up – it would be nice if we had someone not from Exeter or Leicester.

Elected Positions

11.1 Chairman
11.2 Vice Chairman
11.3 Secretary
11.4 Treasurer
11.5 Travel Secretary
11.6 Press & Publicity Secretary
11.7 Social Secretary
11.8 Minutes Secretary

Current Occupants

Kevin Wells, Leicester City
Vacant
Neil Le Milliere, Exeter
Phil Arnold, Leicester
Neil Le Milliere, Exeter
Vacant
Vacant
Roger Pyne, Exeter

All the above remain in post and were elected unopposed. **Jon Goddard (Norwich)** has kindly agreed to join us as **Social Secretary** and was duly elected unopposed.

Appointed Positions

11.9 Webmaster
11.10 Darts Secretary
11.11 Football Secretary
11.12 Pool Secretary

Liz Cocks, Blackpool
Chris Turner, Rotherham
Iain Walworth, Aberdeen
Steve Grant, Newcastle

12: Supporter and Newsletter of the Year Awards

12.1 We have had two nominations from Clubs for Supporter of the Year.

12.2 There have been four nominations for Newsletter of the Year.

12.3 It was decided to defer the decision to enable the Committee to meet before the next monthly meeting to give all due consideration to the nominations and choose the winners.

Neil Le Milliere, Secretary

13: Date of Next Monthly General Meeting

The date for this meeting is Monday 7 August.

14: Motions

14.1 Resolution 1 “The monies previously belonging to the APFSCIL Football League be absorbed into the APFSCIL general fund. Any subsequent request for reimbursement of funds by former APFSCIL Football League clubs will be looked at sympathetically by the APFSCIL Committee and repaid subject to approval by the members at a general meeting.” Richie Cockton, Sunderland.
This motion was discussed by the meeting and approved.

14.2 Resolution 2 “I propose that future AGMs are held in May rather than June* as they were several years ago**”. In this way, there will be at least one meeting at which the new posts and accepted notions to be put into place before they might otherwise become hazy at the start of the new season following a long break.” Rick Goby, Chester.

*The Constitution says “5 (a) Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held no later than the 30th of June in each calendar year.” so technically this would not need altering if this motion was passed though it may be advisable.

**From the electronic records I hold the AGM has been held as the June meeting since at least 2005.

This motion was discussed by the meeting and not approved.

15. Attendance at Meetings

15.1 We will do a summary of attendances at our meetings from the last meeting until the AGM IDC.

16. AOB

16.1 Paul Ashbridge (Hull City Southern Supporters) asked to rise the following: At our AGM last week one of the items under discussion was rights for disabled fans. Facilities at some grounds are not ideal and although we can complain there seems a limited amount we can do, short of legal action being enforced. Where we can make a stand is in prioritising away pubs so that access for the disabled is a core element in our choice of hostelry.

We also spoke about possible reductions in membership fees for members with disabilities, and was wondering if other clubs have developed anything along these lines Monday?

16.2 Nick Brennan (Everton) raised the following issue recently and we both wondered if any other club had heard about this?
“Catching up on my professional reading I came across the attached article this morning. It suggests that ESCLA needs to register with the Trusts Registration Service as we are holding a bank account on trust for our members. This is all to do with the UK’s anti-money laundering rules. It is a transparency issue and not a tax matter. I’ll find out if APFSCIL has considered the matter and report back.

If as seems likely that we do need to register, it is a matter of providing our names and addresses, national insurance numbers and perhaps passport numbers. I’ll be in touch.”

My short answer was “This is not something I have come across with APFSCIL nor with the many, many, other organisations I am either a member of or on the executive of.” I did comment further but that’s not relevant at this time.

Nick confirmed that “Many sports clubs are constituted as charities or CASCs. What HMRC are saying is that the charities do not have to register but that CASCs are not excluded. They are not saying that other unincorporated bodies are excluded.”

My final response was “Thanks Nick but TBH I’m not bothered about it personally it nor as someone who holds Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and numerous other posts with numerous clubs. Just a (possible) can of worms that I’m positive will never be opened by anyone.”.

Kevin Wells, Chairman, said he would investigate this matter and report the outcome at the next monthly meeting.

16.3 Maggie Reeves (Manchester City) asked for suggestions for a venue for her club’s AGM. One suggestion was the Old Kings Head at London Bridge.

17. Meeting Closed: 20.36