



APFSCIL

(www.apfscil.org.uk)

Meeting 361

Monday 1 October 2012 @ 7:30PM

At The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, Euston, London NW1 2HR Nearest tube and mainline station is Euston

P = Present X = Absent A = Apologies

A	Aberdeen	P	Dundee United	P	Newcastle United
P	Barrow	P	Everton	P	Norwich City
X	Birmingham City	P	Exeter City	P	Nottingham Forest
P	Blackburn Rovers	A	Gillingham	P	Plymouth Argyle
P	Blackpool	P	Heart of Midlothian	P	Rangers
X	Bolton Wanderers	X	Hibernian	P	Rotherham United
P	AFC Bournemouth	A	Hull City	P	Scunthorpe United
P	Brighton & Hove Albion	P	Ipswich Town	P	Sheffield Wednesday
A	Bristol City	A	Leeds United	P	Southampton
P	Burnley	P	Leicester City	P	Stoke City
A	Cardiff City	X	Liverpool	P	Sunderland
X	Celtic	X	London Scottish	P	West Bromwich Albion
X	Chester City	P	Manchester City		
P	Coventry City	A	Mansfield Town		
P	Derby County	X	Middlesbrough	A	Football Rep

Top Table: Kevin Wells, Chairman (Leicester), Roger Pyne, Minutes Secretary (Exeter), Nick Head, Treasurer (Southampton) and Neil Le Milliere, Secretary (Exeter).

Meeting Opened: 19.35

1 Apologies For Absence: Andrew Plummer, Gillingham; Lee Jameson, Plymouth; Paul Welch, Brighton; Liz Cocks, Webmaster (Blackpool); Terry Cecil, Football Rep (Man City); Paul Morrison, Aberdeen; Rob Hughes, Cardiff; John Wood, Stoke; Mark Cooke, Bristol City; Steve Murray, Mansfield; Mark Burnett, Leeds; Chris Learnouth, Hearts and Chris Swales, Hull City.

2 Attending For First Time: Andrew Williams, Derby County, was attending for the first time and was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

3 Approval of the Minutes from Meeting 360

3.1 The minutes were approved by the meeting.

4 Matters arising from Meeting 360 not covered elsewhere

4.1 Steve Moon (Nottingham Forest) referred to the sponsored walk that was mentioned at point 10.4 of meeting 360 and reported that he had raised over £2,000 and wished to thank all those who had so generously donated.

5 Chairman's Report:

5.1 Nothing to report.

6 Secretary's Report:

6.1 The Secretary made a quick point regarding apologies for not being to be able to attend a meeting – they were much appreciated, but if at all possible could they be communicated to him as early as possible it would help, as he would be able to get them in the agenda.

7 Treasurer's Report

7.1 Balances

Current a/c £857.77

Deposit a/c £ 5067.17

Membership Subs Received (Full £15 and Associate £5) Leicester City; Southampton; Newcastle United; Coventry City; Derby County; Manchester City; Blackburn Rovers; Sunderland; Brighton; Aberdeen; Nottingham Forest; Hearts; Sheffield Wednesday; Hull City; Stoke City; Everton; Cardiff; Barrow; Norwich; Exeter; Gillingham, and Associate from Mansfield.

7.3 Darts fees received (also payable to the Treasurer, for the coming season are £16 league and £12 cup) Southampton; Derby County; Manchester City; Leicester City; Chester City; Burnley; Blackpool; Nottingham Forest; Exeter; and Gillingham.

7.4 Paul Woolfson, Sheffield Wed, told me (NB N LE M, Sec) today that the cheque for their membership, Darts, and Pool summer cup is in the post.

7.5 The Treasurer advised the meeting that there would be expenditure in the region of £400 for outstanding darts trophies and for pool trophies.

8 Webmaster's Report(Liz Cocks, Blackpool)

8.1 Apologies again for my ongoing absence, my work schedule does mean I will be at the next meeting.

I would ask that any ideas or suggestions for a new look website be sent to me prior to next meeting so that information can be collated. Basically what do you want on the website, do we want the website to be to attract new supporters associations or more of a members only or a combination of both.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to do a lot with the current website this is mainly due to moving house and a lack of Internet at present but hopefully this will be rectified shortly.

Please forward me your suggestions and any supporters page updates to elizabethcocks@sky.com

See you next month, **Liz Cocks**, elizabethcocks@sky.com

9 Travel Secretary's Report

9.1 Maggie Reeves, Man City, Letter to various MPs, Ministers, Civil Service Departments and the Transport Committee.

Maggie's letter has so far produced three replies. The first from the Secretary of State for DCMS's office who said it was not for his Department but for Transport who we have already written to.

The next was from Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, who said he has written to the Secretary of State for Transport about this matter and will be back in touch in due course.

Lastly we have had a letter from the Committee Assistant to the Transport Committee saying the letter is being made available to all members of the committee.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of State for Transport or any of the other copy recipients.

9.2 Campaign for Better Transport

Somehow, the following people have passed us by but luckily having made contact with the FSF a fellow SD Director has now pointed me towards them.

http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/about_us

Watch this space as I follow this up, they already have an initiative going with the FSF and Premier Teams.

Ian Todd (Sunderland) said that the campaign were starting with the Premier League teams and were investigating aspects of travel including timings, etc., with a view to influencing Train Operating Companies. With the present economic situations the TOC's were looking to promote themselves and maybe there could be some benefits arising from the initiative. Hopefully this will involve the other leagues in due course.

9.3 Neil Le Milliere (Travel Secretary) told the meeting that South West Trains were now proving cheaper than First Great Western due to the restrictions on buying Group Save tickets for more and more services.

Neil Le Milliere, neil_le_milliere@btinternet.com

10 Sports & Social Secretaries Reports

10.1 Pool

10.1.1 Summer Cup Update

The final of The Summer Cup (Clydie Weekes Memorial Trophy) takes place between Hearts and Newcastle on Tuesday 9th Oct at 8.15 pm at The White Lion, Central St., EC1.

10.1.2 New teams are welcome and the League will accept joint entries from APFSCIL Clubs. Barrow have shown an interest in fielding a joint side and anyone interested should speak to their rep Dave Leitch.

The entry fee is £20 (League & Cup) £15 (League only). The deadline for entries is Monday 8th October. Applications should be submitted to Steve Cole at

steve_cole99@btinternet.com Fees should be paid directly to the treasurer Kevin Wells on or before the November meeting. Cheques should be made out to APFSCIL. Please include your Club name and 'Pool' on the back of your cheque,

10.1.3 The format of the league will be finalised at the AGM. Currently, teams consist of 6 players (league rules allow for clubs to field 5 players). Games consist of 6 singles and 3 pairs and commence at approximately 8pm at pubs in Central London.

It was confirmed at the meeting that Hearts would be taking part this season and that Sheffield Wednesday would be able to take part in the cup competition.

Cheers, Steve, steve_cole99@btinternet.com Mob 07772047273

10.2 Football

10.2.1 We have not started our league season yet. We are currently playing the group games for our cup competition which we do on a 'champions league' type system with the top two of the group going on to play the other winners and runners up in the knockout stages.

10.2.2 After a bit of tweaking our the FA approved our league rules although they took some persuading that we had decided not to fine our members for every minor discrepancy despite the FA wanting us to. It is the policy of our league to give clubs every help and assurance and not financially penalise them when often the new managers (as they continually change) of these clubs are new and inexperienced, like us.

Information etc can be found on the MITOO website as follows:

<http://football.mitoo.co.uk/News.cfm?LeagueCode=APFS2011>

Terry Cecil, mancitylondon@googlemail.com

10.3 Darts

10.3.1 After much fun and games trying to sort out the fixtures using the League Republic software, we gave up and reverted to good old pen and paper which was MUCH more successful! You can now view the fixtures on the APFSCIL website and indeed the season is already under way, teams played the first games last week.

10.3.2 As seems usual there was a plethora of cancellations, partly due, to be fair, to the late arranging of the fixture list. The first week saw good wins for Ipswich Town in Division One and Plymouth Argyle in Division Three and, err, that's it so far!

10.3.3 The Presentation Evening and Supercup, between Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest, will take place next Monday, October 8th at The Horseshoe, Clerkenwell Close with an anticipated start time of 7.30 for the presentations and 8.00 for the darts match. All are welcome to attend but if you are coming could you please let me know as food will be laid on and it would help with the catering arrangements.

10.3.4 The Preliminary Round of the team knockout cup will take place during the week commencing November 12th. It is assumed all darts league teams will take part unless otherwise advised but all clubs are welcome to compete, just let me know before that date if you are interested.

Peter Reynolds pete.reynolds3@btinternet.com

10.4 Social Secretary – Position Vacant

10.4.1 We will have a guest in attendance at the meeting after the Secretary received the following message.

Dear Mr Le Milliere,

French journalist report on the British passion of Football

I am Marie Billon, UK correspondent for Radio France Internationale (RFI) :
<http://www.english.rfi.fr/>

Preparing a report on the British passion for football, I would like to feature The Association of Provincial Football Supporters' Clubs In London.

I am curious to see how you function, the aim of your association and perhaps talk with a representative and some of your members.

Do you think I could come to your next general meeting in London, next Monday October 1st?

The interview would be part of a 5-minute radio report.

Please do let me know what would be possible to do.

Thanks a lot, I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards, Marie Billon, Freelance Journalist, UK correspondent, marie.billon@gmail.com
fromparistolondon.blogs.france24.com/

Marie would very much like to talk to anyone who has a few minutes to spare after the meeting so please make yourselves available if you can.

Marie was made welcome to the meeting and did indeed interview a few of those attending after the meeting. Hopefully it proved a fruitful exercise for her.

11 Press and Publicity Secretary – Position Vacant

11.1 APFSCIL CONTACTS

Hi Neil, I hope this finds you well.

You will remember at the September meeting we agreed that through my media contacts I would try to get APFSCIL and its member clubs positive publicity.

One of the drawbacks is the info about a number of clubs on the APFSCIL website is so out of date. Despite this month being particularly busy I have discussed a number of things with some TV and Radio stations and I feel I have stimulated interest.

There has been some success in updating the website, which is great, but a number of clubs' details remain out of date. This has been going on for some time now and we are not moving forward. One of the clubs is my own, Rangers! We are taking steps to rectify that.

Please find attached a simple form for each club to fill in. It asks for each club's website, and contact details for membership and media enquiries. If every club could complete it and then e-mail it back to me that would help tremendously. (Form attached at ANNEXE A)

If I am talking to a media organisation who express interest in speaking to someone from a particular club I can give them details promptly.

By completing the form, it will also help Liz get up to date information onto the website about each club.

Perhaps most importantly it will mean no missed opportunity for a club regarding membership and publicity.

We currently have a situation where in some cases the information is a decade out of date! A potential member looks up their club and phones a number that no longer works and reads the info which is no longer relevant. They would quite understandably come to the conclusion that the supporters club no longer exists!

My email address is jenkins55@btinternet.com

I would be grateful if you could forward a copy of this email and the attached form to each member club.

Any queries please ring me on 0785 6462690.

I will update everyone at Monday's meeting on the progress I have made. [NB Apologies but as I was away on holiday and then extremely busy this has had to wait until the meeting. NLeM Sec]

Thanks for your help, Kind regards, Robbie Jenkins
Rangers FC Supporters Association- London Branch

11.2 Robbie told the meeting that he had a meeting arranged with Radio London shortly and that this could well result in publicity for APFSCIL and member clubs. He also had links with Ace Media, who represent many ex-footballers and the like and said that he would like to try to get a representative from Ace Media to the next meeting. Kevin Wells (Chairman) thanked Robbie for his efforts and said that the Ace Media representative would be most welcome.

11.2 Paul Woolfson, Sheffield Wednesday, has e-mailed the following message.

“I was just thinking again about an APFSCIL Facebook page. Shall I set one up on a trial basis for a couple of months? If it is not working for the organisation then I can always remove it. I can keep it basic just to get some presence out there. Let me know what the meeting thinks.”

The meeting was in favour of taking up Pau's offer and Neil Le Milliere (Secretary) agreed to let Paul know. A straw poll was taken at the meeting and roughly one third of those attending were on Facebook.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 Ian Todd (Sunderland) brought up the subject of getting advance notice of televised fixture changes in advance, which as we all know would be of great help to APFSCIL clubs, as we have to organise travel well in advance of fixtures to get the best deals we can, and changed fixtures can cost member clubs a lot of money. Even if adequate notice is given, no consideration seems to be given to the problems fans have in travelling long distances for rearranged midweek fixtures. Apparently the system is not working as most had hoped, with vague details being disseminated. There are also problems with the involvement of ESPN and the input of Police forces and local Safety Advisory Groups regarding kick-off times.

Monica Hartland (Stoke City) said that the input of football clubs themselves was minimal, as they had signed up to the television contract and that money talks. She mentioned the totally fan-unfriendly kick-offs at 8 in the evening on Boxing Day as an example.

Mention was also made that apparently West Midland Police are trying to take a less aggressive approach to policing and instead are targeting known troublemakers. Ian Todd (Sunderland) said that the Olympic Gamesmaker approach could be a way forward, with Crystal Palace as an example of fans doing some stewarding functions with a more fan-friendly approach. Hopefully this would prove a success and other clubs could also trial this.

Kevin Wells (Chairman) mentioned a Derby v Leicester game in the recent past where TV held sway. On Police advice the game was to kick off at 13.00 to avoid fans drinking too much before the game. Sky decided they wanted to televise the game with a 17.15 kick-off. The Police, who previously didn't want a 15.00 kick-off agreed to the change!

Steve Moon (Nottingham Forest) brought up the subject of the Hillsborough report and expressed the hope that justice for the families and friends would not be too long coming. The meeting echoed Steve's views.

Maggie Reeves (Manchester City) agreed with Steve, and said that fortunately football has changed greatly and the treatment of fans has improved.

12.2 Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be the General Meeting on Monday 5 November – unless anyone knows different.

Meeting Closed: 20.30