



## APFSCIL

(www.apfscil.org.uk)

### Meeting 399

Monday 5 September 2016 @ 7:30PM

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

Nearest tube & mainline station is Farringdon

P = Present X = Absent A = Apologies

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

**Top Table: Kevin Wells, Chairman (Leicester City); Neil Le Milliere, Secretary (Exeter); Nick Head, Treasurer (Southampton); Roger Pyne, Minutes Secretary (Exeter) and Rob Madigan, Social Secretary (Everton).**

**Meeting Opened: 19.33**

**1 Apologies for Absence: Sue Choularton, Chester; Terry Cecil, Football Rep (Man City); Paul Ashbridge, Hull; Alan Fell, Blackburn; and Linda and Phil Arnold, Leicester; Nick Head, Treasurer (Southampton); Terry Cecil, Manchester City; Mark Cooke, Bristol City; Andrew Plummer, Gillingham; Dave Cross, Vice-Chairman (Mansfield); Simon Newell, Newcastle; James Howell, Middlesbrough; & Phil Loy, Ipswich.**

**Terry Cecil could not attend as he has been injured in a road traffic accident. All at APFSCIL wish him a speedy recovery.**

**2 Attending For First Time: Mark from Blackpool was attending a meeting for the first time.**

### **3 Approval of the Minutes from Meeting 398**

**3.1 6.1 Remove the repeated 6.1. Jon Goddard also corrects the last sentence of that para which should read “Among other things, Jon confirmed that Maurice is still volunteering at St Paul’s Cathedral and attends cricket match at both Lords and the Oval. However it is now a bit much for him to attend Norwich home games.**

### **4 Matters arising from Meeting 398 not covered elsewhere**

**4.1 No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda have been raised prior to the meeting by any members.**

### **5 Chairman’s Report:**

**5.1 We were expecting some representatives of Tranmere tonight, but they did not make the meeting.**

**Kevin Wells, [kwells@gwc-accountants.co.uk](mailto:kwells@gwc-accountants.co.uk)**

### **6 Secretary’s Report:**

**6.1 I have received electronic forms from: Rotherham; Nottingham Forest; Sheffield Wednesday; Newcastle United; Middlesbrough; Leicester; Rangers; Everton; Shamrock Rovers, Manchester United; Nottingham Forest; Stoke; and Barrow. Please do state your contact email addresses clearly as we need them to check/update our database and website.**

**6.2 I circulated a request forwarded by David Cross from [www.nicetouchfootball.com](http://www.nicetouchfootball.com) who were looking for representatives from teams to do weekly predictions.**

**6.3 At the last meeting WCRS [www.wcrs.com](http://www.wcrs.com) did a presentation on an idea for promoting the Woman’s Aid campaign, Football United Against Domestic Violence. One or two of those at that meeting stated they might be able to help or get involved. Could those people contact me please so I can put you in touch.**

### **6.4 Attendance at Monthly General Meetings**

**As discussed and decided at the AGM; and as announced in the agenda and at the August meeting we are tightening up on the requirement for all members to be represented at the monthly general meetings:**

**“Attendance at Meetings. As mentioned at the AGM I have emailed some of those with the worst attendance records from last season. To remind all members, the rules (which were relaxed to the current requirements a couple of years ago) are that you need to attend at least 50% of ordinary meetings during a season and if you fail to attend three in a row then an explanation should be provided. After the views expressed during the discussion at the AGM we will be tightening up on monitoring attendance and taking any actions necessary.”**

**It is unfair and disrespectful to the officers and those members who do attend meeting for other members to not attend. We all have numerous members in our branches and it should not be a real issue to get someone to attend if it is properly addressed.**

**The slate was wiped clean for the start of this season and as such the following members are on their first non-attendance after the August meeting: Aberdeen; Blackburn; Bolton; Bristol City; Celtic; Chester; Derby; Gillingham; Hearts; Hibs; Hull;**

Ipswich; London Scottish; Mansfield; Middlesbrough; Newcastle; Scunthorpe; and Southampton.

We hope to see you all represented at the next meeting on Monday 5 September at the Horseshoe.”

This prompted a lively discussion with various views being expressed (see below, Annexe II) and illustrated the various types of members we have.

This then prompted a lengthy debate at the meeting, what follows is a precise as we hope you will understand, a number of views were expressed at the meeting and the shorthand skills of the membership secretary and reasons of space mean that these minutes have tried to catch the overall tone of the meeting!

The Aberdeen representative, who is their football representative explained that monthly APFSCIL meetings did not have any utility to their club. It later transpired during the course of the debate, that Aberdeen, among around 50% other member clubs that take part in the football league, so not have a parent supporters' club as such, and exist purely to organise a team in the APFSCIL league. Neil Le Milliere, Secretary, said it was useful that the Aberdeen (and Shamrock Rovers representative) were at the meeting tonight, as this was not clear to the committee previously. During the course of the debate around these matters, Neil said that in instances such as those that have been pointed out, we might be able to offer an alternative form of APFSCIL membership. Neil said that he would have a chat with the football representatives after the meeting to see if we could flesh something out. Richie Cockton (Sunderland) said that now the circumstances of some of the football league affiliated clubs was now known, hopefully we could work something out.

Kevin Wells, Chairman, pointed out that in certain circumstances the accepted level of making meetings was not that onerous, with careful timing and ensuring apologies were always sent, clubs could fulfil the criteria and attend 3 or 4 meetings a year.

Neil Le Milliere, [neil\\_le\\_milliere@btinternet.com](mailto:neil_le_milliere@btinternet.com)

## **7 Treasurer's Report**

### **7.1 Balances**

**Current a/c £1857.49**

**Deposit a/c £5105.41**

### **7.2 Money due to treasurer**

**£150.00. FA Cup buffet**

**£366.66 darts medals**

### **7.3 Membership Fees**

**Subs due from: Aberdeen; Barrow; Blackburn Rovers; Blackpool; Bolton Wanderers; Bournemouth; Bristol City; Celtic; Chester; Derby County; Exeter; Hearts; Hibs; Hull City; London Scottish; Manchester City; Mansfield Town; Norwich City; Plymouth; Scunthorpe; Sunderland; and WBA.**

### **7.4 Darts Fees**

Darts subs due from: Sunderland; Scunthorpe; Rotherham ; Blackpool; Bolton Wanderers; Exeter; Manchester United; Burnley; Gillingham; Manchester City; Everton; Plymouth; and Derby County.

Nick Head, [nickjh1480@hotmail.com](mailto:nickjh1480@hotmail.com)

## 8 Webmaster's Report

8.1 Nothing to report currently.

Liz Cocks, [elizabethcocks@sky.com](mailto:elizabethcocks@sky.com)

## 9 Travel Secretary's Report:

9. As reported at the last meeting the next Rail Football Forum meeting is taking place on Wednesday 21/9 and unfortunately I'll be flying back into the country from holiday late that evening.

Phil Arnold has confirmed he is able to attend in my place and will report back at the October meeting.

9.2 Many thanks to Jon Goddard for his tips on visiting West Ham's new home and to Karen Briggs for her further tips about Virgin Red (East Coast) deals.

Ian Colley also mentioned with regard to West Ham United, you don't have to follow the crowds, Pudding Mill Lane DLR station can be accessed via Marshgate lane.

9.3 As usual if anyone has any information that they think may be of use to fellow travellers please pass it on to me for circulation.

Neil Le Milliere, [neil\\_le\\_milliere@btinternet.com](mailto:neil_le_milliere@btinternet.com)

## 10 Sports & Social Secretaries Reports

### 10.1 Pool

#### 10.1.1 Clydie Weekes Summer Cup 2016

The competition is slipping a little probably due to holidays meaning teams have been unable to get enough players to play.

Quarter-Finals: Newcastle v Exeter; Southampton v Hull; and Hearts v Middlesbrough.

Semi-Finals: West Brom v Newcastle or Exeter; and Southampton or Hull v Hearts or Middlesbrough.

Cheers Steve [steve\\_cole99@btinternet.com](mailto:steve_cole99@btinternet.com) Mob 07772047273

[http://apfscilpool.leaguerepublic.com/l/fg/1\\_269910850.html;jsessionid=97FC9AEFF40F0D85E101B9DCAE737FFE.clubsites1](http://apfscilpool.leaguerepublic.com/l/fg/1_269910850.html;jsessionid=97FC9AEFF40F0D85E101B9DCAE737FFE.clubsites1)

### 10.2 Football

10.2.1 The season is due to start on the 18th September and as usual we start off with our cup qualifiers.

10.2.2 This season has been particularly trying for us as we have had a number of teams warning they may fold. The web site that we register to and allows everyone to view fixtures etc went down and the London FA have been unable to deal with the new on line registrations system. To date we are still unable to register our league and trying to sort this out with the FA is proving very difficult. They very rarely answer

calls or reply to messages, so once you have spoken to them and explain your problem there is a large gap between them coming back with a solution. To complicate matters further so far every solution they have advised on has failed and we are still in limbo.

It is now understood that the Mitoo website is back up and running again.

10.2.3 We have also had some internal issues which we have had to resolve. This has resulted in some committee changes with Gary (that's you, Gary) stepping up as chairman. I've had to take the role of fixture secretary along with league secretary. We have also taken in a new vice chairman in Alex, both of whom were present at the meeting.

10.2.4 At present we seem to have lost one club in Middlesbrough 2 but gain Panathinaikos. We are still actively seeking new teams. The Spanish team that we have been courting are playing friendlies so that bodes well for next year.

10.2.5 At our AGM we decided to accept the roll on roll off substitutes and trial it for the season. The hope is it will help clubs keep players who are not at the same level as more regular players. Other than that, aside from the national rule changes everything is as it were.

10.2.6 We look forward to the new season and if any clubs feel they can get a team together, please consider it and you can play friendlies before you commit to the league.

(Terry is hoping to get someone else from the football side to come along as he has a further operation on his crash injuries scheduled for 16:00 today. Sec.)

Cheers, Terry Cecil, [terry.cecil@gmail.com](mailto:terry.cecil@gmail.com)

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

<http://football.mitoo.co/Noticeboard.cfm?countieslist=LondonMiddx&LeagueCode=APFS2013>

## 10.3 Darts

### 10.3.1 10.3.1 League

The darts season begins week commencing 19 September. The proposed fixtures have been sent to darts contacts and are on the APFSCIL website.

### 10.3.2 Cups, Competitions, Presentations, and Subs

Proposed dates for cup rounds, pairs KO and presentation evening, and singles KO have also been sent, along with a reminder for teams to pay their subs (£16 league / £12 cup) as soon as possible.

Chris Turner [Chris.Turner@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Turner@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[http://apfscildarts.leaguerepublic.com/l/fg/1\\_661152872.html](http://apfscildarts.leaguerepublic.com/l/fg/1_661152872.html)

## 11 Social Secretary

### 11.1 Pontoon

Current standings for the Football Pontoon league can be seen at Annexe I.

Looks like Hull City will win with Man City for the first pontoon game of the season. According to the rules, if a team does not play over the weekend (Fri to Monday) they are given two goals respectively ... and with them sitting on 9 goals already, well that's the 11 needed to clinch the first APFSCIL Pontoon title of the season.

Random allocation of teams will automatically be drawn for the second round on Tuesday.

11.2 Rob also mentioned an Everton event at The Horseshoe on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 with Pat Nevin, APFSCIL members are welcome to attend.

11.3 The Holland darts trip is going ahead as scheduled, any others who fancy going please contact Rob as it promises to be a great trip.  
Rob Madigan [horseshoeclerkenwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horseshoeclerkenwell@hotmail.co.uk)  
APFSCIL Social Secretary

12 Press and Publicity Secretary – Position Vacant

12.1 Nothing was discussed.

13 Any Other Business

13.1 Date of Next Meeting

Our next ordinary General meeting is scheduled to be on Monday 3 October at the Horseshoe.

13.2 Ian Colley said that there was now a revamped quiz league with 3 per team, could we get together APFSCIL team(s)?

13.3 It was confirmed that the 2015/16 newsletter of the year went to Barrow, and supporter went to Speedo Mick (Everton).

Meeting Closed: 20.45

Annexe I

APFSCIL PONTOON						
TEAM	Random Chosen Team	W1	W2	W3	TOTAL	
1 HULL CITY	Manchester City		2	4	3	9
2 BLACKPOOL	Barnsley	2	1	4	7	
3 Sheffield Wednesday	Chelsea		2	2	3	7
4 Ipswich	Grimsby Town	1	1	5	7	
5 Shamrock Rovers	Millwall		2	2	3	7
6 Stoke City	Arsenal	3	0	3	6	
7 Hibs	Birmingham City		2	1	3	6
8 Boro	Notts County		1	2	3	6
9 Bournemouth	Bristol City		2	0	3	5
10 Brighton Hove	Chesterfield	3	1	1	5	
11 Bristol City	Gillingham	2	0	3	5	
12 Coventry	Luton Town		1	1	3	5
13 Plymouth Bury			1	0	3	4

14	London Scottish	Carlisle United	1	2	1	4		
15	Rangers	Everton	1	2	1	4		
16	Blackburn	Leeds United			1	2	1	4
17	Rotherham	Shrewsbury	0	2	2	4		
18	Celtic	Swindon Town	1	1	2	4		
19	Sunderland	Walsall	0	1	3	4		
20	Mansfield	Cheltenham Town	1	0	2	3		
21	Exeter	Crawley Town	1	1	1	3		
22	Newcastle	Peterborough United	0	1	2	3	3	
23	Derby	Plymouth Argyle	0	2	1	3		
24	Gillingham	Portsmouth	0	2	1	3		
25	Southampton	Queens Park Rangers	2	0	1	3	3	
26	Aberdeen	Reading	0	2	1	3		
27	Scunthorpe	Watford	1	1	1	3		
28	Bolton	West Ham United	1	1	1	3		
29	WBA	Burnley	0	2	0	2		
30	Barrow	Cardiff City	0	2	0	2		
31	EVERTON	Ipswich Town	0	1	1	2		
32	Hearts	Oldham Athletic	0	1	1	2		
33	Manu Utd	Rochdale	1	0	1	2		
34	Man City	Swansea City	1	0	1	2		
35	Nottingham Forest	Crewe Alexandra	0	1	0	1	1	
36	Burnley	Norwich City	0	1	0	1		
37	Norwich City	Sheffield Wednesday	0	0	1	1	1	
38	Leicester City	Southend United	0	1	0	1		
39	Chester	Derby County	0	0	0	0		

## Annexe II

### ATTENDANCE AT MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

Ian Sheffield Wednesday “With respect, and mindful that things need organising and people put in a lot of work to achieve such; It might also be worth considering the wisdom of organising a meeting on the old traditional and what still is the Scottish August Bank holiday Monday , when despite the atrocious weather on Monday which wiped out the evening cricket programme, people's minds still aren't exactly geared up to being ready for the football season, and many people are on holiday. The non attendance list looks rather like that to go in the draw for the 2nd FA Cup qualifying round in 2 weeks time! Hopefully, we will get a bye until at least the 3rd. round.

\*\*\*\*

Chris: With regard to London Hearts I would like to make clear that our non attendance on Monday was not out of lack of respect or lack of recognition of the effort the committee put in. I was on holiday and not able to attend. I should have sent apologies before the meeting reminder was circulated. So sorry for that.

I should correct a misapprehension about London Hearts. We do not have numerous members. London Hears does not really exist as an organisation as such. There are a group of Hearts fans who meet up whenever Hearts are on TV. There are enough of us who are interested in playing pool to enter into the pool league. But as you found out last season, it can be a struggle to get a team together. The evenings are enjoyable, so

**I think it is worth persisting with our participation in the pool league. However, going forward there will be real difficulties in getting someone to regularly attend the monthly meetings. I will not be able to get other “members” to attend. I will do my best but it can be difficult to get away from work and the pub is awkward to get to.**

**All I can do is say that I will do my best to attend in future.**

**\*\*\*\***

**Martyn McGrath: Dear all, as an introduction, Elliot and myself have just been elected as co-chairmen of DCSCLB (Derby County). Between us we will ensure that we have a representative at each meeting. I look forward to meeting you in due course.**

**\*\*\*\***

**Sue: Without entering into the general debate about the monthly APFSCIL meetings, we did have a discussion about our attendance at our own committee meeting last night. You'll be pleased to hear that we plan to attend on October 3 and are hoping another rep will attend on September 5 - but that needs finalising, and we'll be in touch nearer the time.**

**One point about our Chester group that you might not be aware of.....We are the first (and still only - as far as I know) fan-owned club to stream the monthly club meetings at our football club. Our Exiles group actually paid for the technology (camera etc) to make it happen. As the meeting progresses, there's a chat page where we can ask questions - and then see/hear them get put to the directors. It's been a very popular service and is used by people around the world, as well as those in Chester who just can't make the meetings. I'm not suggesting the APFSCIL meetings should be streamed - but just to make you aware we are conscious of the difficulties of getting to meetings. We've even persuaded the club to move this year's AGM to the eve of a Saturday home game to make it easier for Exiles to attend. Just thought you might be interested!**

**\*\*\*\***

**Lee Plymouth: APFSCIL was once a great organisation and when I was on the committee at the turn of the century the meetings used to be standing room only.**

**Like our own supporters clubs support is dwindling that mainly due to modern technology.**

**The reason I stopped coming to meeting was due to the fact that in recent times meetings lasted no longer than an hour and you had to wait around after work for an hour or two until the meeting started.**

**I think we need to be really carefully naming and shaming clubs or trying to cause embarrassment to member clubs, they could very easily separate from the organisation and set up their own darts, football and pool leagues.**

**The attendance of member clubs was an issue that has caused a lot of controversy over the years and nothing has changed. In my time as committee member for both PASALB and APFSCIL we never really struggled to get a member to come along to meetings, know we are sending out a begging note to members to attend.**

**The sports guys did not sign up to attend monthly meetings, some clubs are luckier, they have stalwarts who almost treat it an a monthly holiday, some people who attend**

are retired (Yes Neil you are the exception to the rule) so it is easier to attend, many reasons on both sides to why people struggle to attend or those who can always attend.

Like it or not APFSCIL is a dying and ageing organisation and if you force the matter the organisation could fold sooner than we would have liked.

APFSCIL needs to reform just like many of the supporters associations if it is going to continue. Indeed PASALB had to reform, we held meetings every month and we had to reform so we had to look at its constitution and changed it so our little organisation could function.

Finally I would like the organisation to carry on and I would like all member clubs to attend but we have to be realistic about it and only reforms will make the organisation survive. I have also met and have lifelong friends through APFSCIL so I want the reform as bad as the founder members.

\*\*\*\*

Ian Sheffield Wednesday: I have sympathy with the supporters of the 4 Scottish clubs who have been organising travel to places like Kazakhstan every other recent week, with about 72 hours notice of the fixture, especially if they are still actively involved in European competition this week..

It being barely 9 weeks since my club's season ended, and having spent subsequent some time in France, I have no appetite for the fare about to be served up in two or three days time.

Thankfully someone else in our club has and attended the meeting, but not all clubs are as lucky as Lee subsequently eluded to.

\*\*\*\*

My response to Ian: Sorry Ian but that just doesn't wash.

With the numerous members each of our clubs has then finding one person to attend really shouldn't be an issue if the effort is put in. Yes there are very real and valid apologies made by some but when it is the same clubs, meeting after meeting, and apologies on the day you know that there is an underlying problem.

Either clubs want to be members and therefore comply with the requirements of membership or they don't. The dates are known months in advance, it's not a surprise.

\*\*\*\*

Paul Celtic: Sorry, that's a pretty wide brushstroke. We're a small football club of c. 20 members, the few (currently 2) of us who devote time, energy and money to the running of the club also have busy work schedules. This Summer we're again having to work extremely hard to bring in more players and the past 2 weeks have struggled to muster enough players for a squad. It's an effort on a weekly basis to organise squads for games, never mind ask our players to attend this meeting on our behalf.

We don't have a darts team, a pool team we don't travel by train en masse to away games in Gillingham or Burnley. We attend the APFSCIL Football League meetings and have even had a representative on the committee the past few seasons but we are committed to the football league and nothing else.

**I fail to understand why clubs should be forced or somehow shamed into attending a meeting that is 99% irrelevant to them. I understand the football league is represented by the secretary or chairman, surely that's sufficient.**

**\*\*\*\***

**My response to Paul: Thanks for this Paul.**

**Our intention is not to shame or force anyone to attend meetings and we do appreciate the participation of those that do try to attend meetings and/or communicate with us. We know that all clubs are experiencing exactly the problems you describe, fewer and fewer people being prepared to do their bit which puts more pressure on those who already do. Personally I am finding this across all the different voluntary organisations I am involved with.**

**However no club has to be a member of APFSCIL, it is their choice but with that choice comes a responsibility to fulfil the conditions of membership and that is all that we as a committee and as an organisation are asking members to do.**

**If the organisation didn't exist there would probably be no sports leagues to play in. I and the other committee members volunteered to fill the committee positions because no one else was prepared to and thus keep the whole organisation and thus the sports leagues going. We have then had to continue filling those positions for exactly the same reasons. This involves a lot of time, work and effort on our part so all we ask in return is that members comply with the conditions of membership and attend at least 50% of the monthly meetings.**

**We have continually been tasked by successive AGMs to tighten up on the attendance of clubs as those who do attend understandably feel aggrieved that others do not and that is what we are now doing.**

**Celtic's attendance record for ten meetings in 2015/16 was none attended and only one apology.**

**\*\*\*\***

**Kari Newcastle: Please let me know the time September's meeting will start. Thanks!**

**\*\*\*\***

**Kari: Thanks Neil. I usually have meetings until 7pm so unlikely I'll get there early!**

**\*\*\*\***

**Arthur: I have volunteered to act as Middlesbrough Supporters South APFSCIL delegate, as we strive to tidy up the issue of our attendance at meetings. We have recently had a changing of the guard in our committee, and we are keen to improve things. While this probably does not mean I will be attending personally, as I work evenings, I will act as the point of contact and will try to ensure either attendance or at least apologies. For the record, we anticipate the next meeting to be attended by James Howell and Phil Waugh. Should it be with yourself that I conduct these communications, or with someone else?**

**Please let me know how best to proceed.**

**\*\*\*\***

**John: We sent the Stoke membership form and cheque off to Nick Head. However the Stoke committee has had a shake up and the travel information on the form is now out**

of date. As it's only that aspect that has changed I'll send an electronic copy to you for updating travel contact databases etc.

Monica will continue to attend APFSCIL meetings. We'll send an alternative when Monica is unavailable to keep within the attendance rules. I must say though at our latest committee meeting we discussed the round robin emails on attendance and support the comments made by Lee Jameson.

\*\*\*\*

Pauline: Hi Neil, just to confirm that I will be attending the APFSCIL General Meeting on Monday, 5th September on behalf of Chester FC. I am the current Chair of the Chester FC Exiles.

This is my first meeting (difficult for me to get to meetings as I live in Cambridge and no longer work in London) so just wondering if you have any minutes from the last meeting so that I can catch up on current matters.

I look forward to meeting you and the other representatives.

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Mark Bristol City: Please accept my apologies this month, I am working in the Netherlands this week. I will try to send a representative but as a club we are struggling for numbers these days.

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