

LEWES FC SUPPORTERS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Minutes of the meeting held at The Rook Inn, The Dripping Pan at 19:30 on Thursday 23rd January 2025.

1. Apologies for absence

- Terry Parris

2. AGM Business

- To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LFCSC held on 16th January 2024
 - Approved with no objections
- To receive the Annual Report on LFCSC activities for the year 2024

Barry Collins presented [the report](#) to those present. Highlights include:

- The SC has raised over £20,000 across the year
- The money has been used for new toilets, a washing machine, glass washer, non-slip mats and a new fence
- Work will start shortly on resurfacing the path between the car park and the main stand, to restore an accessible route to the main stand
- The work is mostly done by the Thursday maintenance gang, saving the club money that otherwise would've been paid to contractors
- The SC has 318 members signed up ([for free via the website](#)) and 2,000 members in the [Facebook group](#)
- The quiz nights held at the Elephant & Castle have raised close to £5,000 for local charities and the quiz nights at the Rook Inn have raised additional funds for the SC
- The SC has donated £2,373 to the Brain Tumour Charity in memory of our former chair, Dave Evans
- The SC has added a [Museum section](#) to our website

Barry also outlined some aims that the SC has for 2025:

- The SC still needs to improve our representation of the whole supporter base, particularly with respect to female supporters and supporters of the women's team
- Adding more items to the [Museum section](#) of the SC website
- Running more social events, but unfortunately no nominations were received for the new "Events/Fundraising" post on the committee

Others in the meeting had comments on the report:

- Miranda Kemp asked if a cross-check had been done between SC members and those on the Facebook group – BC said this had not been done and wasn't sure if it was possible
- Alan Sayers singled out Stuart Finnegan for thanks for his help with the Thursday maintenance team

c. To conclude the elections to the LFCSC Committee

- i) Vote for the Vice Chair position
- ii) Affirmative votes for the Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Secretary and Communications Manager positions

Those elected to the committee and confirmed by those present in the room were:

- Barry Collins (Chair, Communications Manager – both unopposed)
- Barry Haffenden (Vice-chair)
- Michael Wallis (Secretary – elected unopposed)
- Alan Sayers (Treasurer – elected unopposed)
- Jeff Sheldon (Membership Secretary – elected unopposed)

The election for the vice-chair position was contested between Barry Haffenden and Stuart Fuller. Barry Haffenden was elected.

No nominations were received for the events/fundraising manager position.

3. Motions to the AGM:

a. Charlie Dobres: *In following the values of inclusivity of both Lewes FC and the town of Lewes, the Supporters Club should stop all activity and withdraw from Twitter/X. Given the continued non-inclusive, xenophobic, intolerant utterances and gestures of the platform's owner, and the increasingly intolerant views openly expressed by its users. Staying on the platform is an implicit acceptance of values that are abhorrent to the people of Lewes and Lewes FC. The SC should move its activity to the BlueSky platform where it can continue to provide its excellent match commentary service and other news updates.*

- BC responded: The SC would like to leave X but unfortunately the live broadcast feature on Twitter Spaces is currently not replicated anywhere else
- The SC will look into setting up a BlueSky account as an alternative to X
- BC and MW will investigate how the SC does matchday updates and commentaries and see if this can be improved
- Next steps: referred for further discussion and will report back at a future meeting.
- Postscript: [Lewes FC Supporters Club now has a Bluesky account](#)

b. David Arnold proposed that: *the Supporters Club collect money for the 12th Man Fund, creating a separate donation channel from the day-to-day Supporters Club aim of improving facilities at The Dripping Pan.*

- Barry Haffenden, Ash Head and Richard Irving all spoke to disagree with this motion
- Steve Watts was unsure what the current status of the 12th Man Fund was
- Stuart Fuller thinks it still exists, but with only a small sum of money being held in it
- SF also suggested that the SC could organise the player sponsorship that has been run in previous seasons
- Next steps: BC will ask the board about the current status of the 12th Man Fund and if the club has any plans for it

4. New Lewes FC club structure – open discussion

- The SC ran a survey of its members in early January 2025:
 - 63 people responded
 - 76% were aware of the proposals, of those who were both members of the SC and owners of the club 90% were aware
 - 18% were in favour, 22% were against, with the rest (60%) being unsure
 - BC has shared anonymised comments from the survey with the club's board and CEO
- Steve Watts spoke on behalf of the Lewes FC board:
 - The club has sought to address some of the confusion surrounding the changes to the club structure
 - The club is committing to keeping “one owner one vote”
- Barry Collins outlined some concerns that had been raised from the SC survey that investors that put in large sums of money will have disproportionate influence. SW denied this would be the case and said investors would be looking for a return on their investment.
- Stuart Fuller suggested that the club should look at either a “crowdfunding” type approach and/or using “board advisors” to bring expert advice into the club
- SF has also contacted the CEO and the board offering to help but has not received a response
- Ash Head asked if the owners of Lewes FC would still have the final say, as per the constitution
- Duncan Thompson suggested that the club should have tried Crowdfunding before restructuring the club
- DT was expressed scepticism that the additional capital would help the financial situation

5. Foundation Update – Pete Bull

Pete was not available on the day, so this item has been deferred to the next meeting.

6. Any Other Business

None raised

Note: The above resolutions and affirmative votes require a simple majority to pass.

Michael Wallis
Secretary, LFCSC
25/01/2025