



Summary Minutes of the Lewes FC Supporters Club Meeting, held at The Elephant & Castle, Lewes on Wednesday 28th May 2025.

1. Apologies
 - David and Barbara Arnold
2. Club Financial Update [Trevor Wells, Pete Bull, Miranda Kemp, Steve Watts]
 - Trevor outlined the situation: the club needs around £100,000-£125,000 to maintain cash flow during the off-season. This is not unusual for the club, but previously the funding gap has been met by donations.
 - Negotiations are ongoing with a sponsor and the club are optimistic that they will extend their sponsorship.
 - The club still owes some money to Mercury 13, but this does not need repaying immediately.
 - Barry Collins asked what the £100,000 the club is seeking to raise will be used for.
 - Trevor replied that the money will be put towards preparing the ground for next season, pitch maintenance and the electrics in the chip hut have broken and need fixing.
 - Barry Haffenden asked if the SC could have a list of maintenance projects?
 - The board members present agreed to compile a list of projects with the input of Damien (facilities manager) and share this with the SC.
 - Barry Collins asked about the interview John Peel has done with the Sussex Express suggesting the playing budgets for both teams will increase this season.
 - Trevor believes we will have an increased playing budget for next season, subject to sponsorship deals being agreed. The club is looking for sponsorships from larger firms and from smaller, local firms too and the board are pursuing both.
 - Barry Collins asked: if we are pushing up player wages how does this square with asking the supporters for donations to get the club through the summer?
 - Trevor replied that the club's financial position is quite strong but is currently in a cash flow crisis.
 - Pete Bull added: the money is required to get the club through to the start of the season. The club has also submitted an application for a grant to pay for a tractor to assist with pitch maintenance.

3. Fundraising ideas [Barry Haffenden]

- Several fundraising events have been suggested:
 - Quiz nights at the Elephant & Castle
 - Music bingo night
 - Car Wash day (provisionally scheduled for late July)
 - Sponsored Walk (provisionally on the day of the planned Lewes – Worthing friendly)
 - Curry night at Shanaz (25th June)
 - “an evening with..”
- Other fundraising ideas:
 - Player sponsorships
 - “A place in the squad” opportunities
 - Better organisation of the club shop
- Next steps – the SC will put together a calendar of events and allocate volunteers to them.

4. Proposal: Lewes FC Supporters Club to donate £10,000 to Lewes FC [Barry Collins]

- This discussion took place after the Lewes FC Directors previously present had left the meeting
- This proposal has been put to a vote of Supporters Club members – over 100 members voted, with over 80% voting in favour.
- BC: Four options to decide from: (1) hand over cash, (2) hand over cash in 2 tranches, (3) ask for a list of jobs and assign money to specific jobs in a similar way to the SC has operated previously, (4) use the £10,000 as a contingency fund the club can dip into as and when required.
- Option 3 carried overwhelmingly.

5. AOB

- Next meeting will be arranged for the start of the season in late July/early August.