



**FOR ALL**

**FOR WILTSHIRE**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire County Football Association Limited, held at Green Lane on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 at 19:00.**

**Present:** Mr Clive Archer (Chairman of the Association) presided over the meeting. In attendance was Mr Paul Fox (President) and Mr Oliver Selfe (Chief Executive Officer). There were 31 members present.

**22/01 Chairman's Address:** The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight.

**22/02 Apologies for Absence:** The Chairman reported that he had received apologies from 22 Members.

**22/03 Welcome by the President:** Mr Paul Fox opened the evening. He reflected on Covid-19 pandemic and congratulated everyone on supporting football to continue, and for completing the first full season since the pandemic. Congratulations also went to Westbury United on their promotion to the Southern League, Swindon Town F.C and Chippenham Town F.C on reaching the playoffs, Swindon Supermarine who won the Premier Shield and Downton who won the Senior Cup. Also thank you to Ollie and Emma on the success of running a full season of County Cups. And congratulations to O Selfe and his team on the tremendous success of the first full year of operations at Green Lane.

**22/04 To pass minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire County FA Ltd:** The minutes of the 2021 meeting were agreed.

**22/05 To receive Directors Report and Accounts:** The accounts have been prepared by Charlton Baker Accountants for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. There were no questions on the accounts and all present voted in favour to approve the accounts.

C Archer spoke briefly about the success of Green Lane, also the success of the other facilities across the County.

A copy of the AGM Directors report was included in the pre-meeting pack, which was sent to members and downloadable on the website.

There were no questions on the AGM pack.

### **22/06 New committee structures**

C Archer and O Selfe introduced the new governance structure.

O Selfe explained the process for how the new structure has been created. This included a 12-month consultation in full collaboration with the Wiltshire FA Council.

R Murphy asked why we only have one senior referee space within the new committee structure.

C Archer explained that this is because we have two spaces from the Referee Association, which represents grassroots football, so there will be

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three roles representing referees in Wiltshire (x2 grassroots, x1 senior/pro game).

C Archer talked the members through the new Articles of the Association, which have been amended to reflect the new governance structure. These articles were approved by the Council at the last meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Council has been removed from the new articles of the association, as the new nominated/application roles will now form part of the committee terms of reference.

The members acknowledged the new articles without any further questions.

### **22/07 FA Representative Introduction**

Terry McCosh introduced himself as the new Wiltshire FA representative to The Football Association Council.

Terry McCosh spoke about his experience of The FA Council meetings and explained that his role is to provide a conduit between Wiltshire FA members and The FA.

O Selfe suggested that Terry McCosh should liaise with the Chairs of the two new committees and ensure that any information arising from the committees which are relevant to The FA are communicated via the FA Representative.

### **22/08 Appointment of accountants**

O Selfe explained the ongoing relationship with Charlton Baker accountants, who we have been utilising for accountancy services for the last 12 months. Charlton Baker have been brilliant in supporting Wiltshire FA with the transition to Green Lane and have even deployed accountants into Wiltshire FA for a brief period when Nery Lovell left the association, and we were out to recruitment for a new Finance Officer.

The members voted in favour of continuing to use Charlton Baker accountants for season 2022/23. All in favour with none against.

**22/09 Presentation to Honorary Members:** The Chairman recognised the following Honorary Members for 50 years' service to the game.

Mike Sear - Mike has been involved in football in the Salisbury and District League since 1970: - Club Secretary Figheldean - 1970-1980, Dean Valley – 1980- 1985. Mike has been a member of the Salisbury & District League since 1978, he has been Registration and Results Secretary since 1987 and held the post of Chairman 1986-1989. He is also a life member of the league and honorary member of Wiltshire FA. Mike will reach 42 years service in the league this season and continues to sit on the committee.

Richard Gardiner – Richard started playing in 1964 and during that time, at the start of the 1971/72 season, undertook the first of his many subsequent voluntary roles in football with the appointment as Chairman/Secretary of Hilperton United. Membership of the Trowbridge & District Football League followed in 1976, including five years as Fixture Secretary, prior to becoming a Life Vice-President in 1997. He was first appointed to WCFA Council in 1985 as a representative for the West Wilts Division and then appointed to the Discipline Committee one year later where he served as a Panel Chairman on countless occasions. His rise within the hierarchy continued in 1990 when he

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was elected Vice-Chairman of Council, a post he held until 1998 before becoming Chairman until 2014, where he presided over some extremely challenging issues with distinction. He became a Life Vice-President in 2006; was a director for twelve years prior to retirement in 2021; was President for three years from 2018 and represented WCFA on the FA Council for eleven years until 2021, again prior to mandatory retirement, where he served on four Committees including a final term as Chairman of the Youth Committee. The FA subsequently honoured him as a Member of the Fellowship.

Adrian Hunt - 70-year-old Chippenham whistle blower Adrian Hunt has just completed 45 years' service to the Chippenham Sunday league. Adrian, who qualified as a referee in 1976, is the longest serving official with the Chippenham Sunday League and he is also a member of the management committee. Before injury forced the former Chippenham Town player to take up the whistle he played for Westmead Albion in the Sunday League from the age of 16. Adrian has refereed on many local leagues which include the Mid-Wilts Youth League, Trowbridge and District League, Wiltshire County and Western leagues and also reached fourth official status in the Football League along with assistant referee in the Conference League. He enjoys referee so much that he has no plans to hang up his whistle just yet.

Brian Asher – Brian was a local referee for 30 years, 1970-2000 and received the referee long service award. He joined the committee of Salisbury and District League in 1990 and held the post of Fixture Secretary for 21 years, 1997 - 2018. He is a life member of the League and was made honorary member of Wiltshire FA in 2001. Brian worked tirelessly to ensure the cup & league fixtures ran smoothly over the weekends and worked with other local senior & youth leagues to ensure no clashes, and the issues that always rose during severe weather. He was massively instrumental in discussions with Salisbury Council on the introduction of no match fees on council pitches in Salisbury, which is so important in helping with the finances of many clubs in the Salisbury League.

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Mr C Parrot - Played for Trowbridge Town from 1959 - 1974 and that same year signed for Trowbridge Town Reserves so that he could help to run the Trowbridge Town youth team. In 1982 he was appointed as Assistant Manager at Westbury United and although this took up quite a bit of his time, he took an interest in becoming a Physiotherapist and dually took a course to be qualified to the required level so he could join Salisbury City which he did in 1990 until 2012. He later joined Forest Green Rovers as their Physiotherapist, finishing in 2018. No undertaking has been too small to warrant his attention and his colleagues value him more than he could know.

**22/10 Place of the Next Annual General Meeting:** The next Annual General Meeting will be scheduled for Green Lane Devizes on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7pm.

**22/11 Any Other Business:** Nick Bolton from Advanced Sports Coaching under the banner of Wiltshire Football AFC in the Junior Premier League has submitted an objection to the inclusion of Wiltshire Football AFC mandatory entry into the Wiltshire FA County Cup.

The premise for this objection is most of the grassroots football is played on a Sunday and JPL is played on a Saturday. This means that most players play in both these leagues. As a result players tend to want to stick together and represent the same club, meaning that the other club would not have enough players to raise a team in the County Cup Competition.



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Mr Nick Bolton could not attend the AGM however wished to submit via email his case for discussion by members.

Tony (Surname unknown) suggested the players will play in the County Cups regardless of whether a JPL club play in the competition or not, as they will move to their Sunday team.

Emma Cottier-Small suggested there will be other clubs who would be impacted, and should this request be accepted there is likely to be other teams who make a similar request. Emma Cottier-Small highlighted approximately 30 teams playing in the JPL and Testway League; the latter is also a Saturday league. This has potential to create huge issues for the County Cups competition.

Terry McCosh expressed his understanding of the club's feelings; however, supported the wider implications such a decision to change the stance for one team could have on the rest of the competition.

Tina McCosh felt that it is in the affiliation rules and all members know this and the clubs need to abide by the rules.

O Selfe felt that it is important to be equitable and fair for all and O Selfe felt it would not be equitable to have one rule for one and another rule for another.

R Cook felt that it was poor that this request was submitted by email and that Mr Bolton was not present to discuss with the members in person.

R Murphy felt that it was poor not to be present at the AGM and that the Wiltshire FA stance of the County Cups inclusion being mandatory is important to ensure the competition is sustainable.

Tony (Surname unknown) felt that JPL are not a club and they do operate differently, therefore it is important for members to consider this in a slightly different context from other teams.

T Williams felt there was a lot of pressure put on school children by JPL and that the JPL are very quick to stick to their constitution.

The matter was put to vote by the members in attendance. The members voted against the request with all against and none in favour.

The request was declined

**22/12** The Chairman closed the annual general meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.10pm

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Football Benevolent Fund 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022**

Read on behalf of Mr Ian Hibbard by Mrs Tina McCosh

"Good evening everyone, welcome to the 2021/22 AGM of the Wiltshire Football Benevolent Fund. Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this evening's meeting due to a prior engagement.

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You will all no doubt be aware that the purpose of the Fund, which is a Registered Charity, is to provide support to any member of a Wiltshire FA affiliated club who suffers proven financial hardship through injury sustained whilst partaking in an authorised football activity.

Our current constitution states that the Fund is to be administered by six Trustees of whom three are to be appointed by the WFA and three elected by the member clubs. I have to report however that whilst myself, Keith Cooper and Tina McCosh are currently serving the WFA's interests, it is John Gingell on his own who has responsibility for the clubs at the present time and also acts as chairman.

We met just once during the previous twelve months when, as recently as Monday of this week, an award of £750 was made to a registered player of one of our Veterans Clubs.

Cash in the bank account at the start of the year was £6123.33. Income received, via donations from clubs at affiliation time, was £84.

Expenditure, by way of a grant to an injured player, was £750 which as I reported at last year's AGM was in the process of being dealt with at the time.

This leaves a balance of £5457.33 at the bank which reduces to £4707.33 when the recently awarded cheque has been cleared and will be shown in next year's accounts.

You will have heard at the WFA's AGM which has just concluded, that the organisation is now about to embark upon a significant re-structuring programme which could affect the way in which Trustees of the Fund are appointed? I am pleased to report however, that the four current incumbents have agreed to continue to serve the interests of members during the transition period until such time as the details have been agreed.

Regardless of this uncertainty, it shouldn't prevent member clubs from continuing to elect their representatives. We need two more to bring us up to full strength and would welcome anyone who is interested to get in touch at the earliest opportunity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes my report of the Wiltshire Football Benevolent Fund's activities for season 2021/22.

Ian Hibbard  
Secretary/Treasurer

Proposer: T McCosh, Chippenham Town Youth.

Seconder: P Wallis, Bromham F.C

The meeting concluded 8.20pm

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