**Sunderland AFC Supporters Association**

**London & Southern England Branch**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the Grafton**

**13 September 2019**

**Present:**

See separate sheet

**Apologies for absence:**

Eileen Sproates, Aidan Daly.

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 20 September 2018 were approved.

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere.

**Committee Members Reports:**

Committee member reports had been handed out to those present and a copy is attached to these minutes. Committee members summarised their reports as follows:

**a) Chairman**: It had been a big year for the Branch with two trips to Wembley and the move to online membership. The Branch is in a healthy state with a successful pre-Cup Final social and a coach trip to Portsmouth It was also pleasing to see a growth in membership. Thanks were given to Committee members for their hard work during the year with particular thanks to those involved in the new membership and ticketing systems. Thanks were also given to the members and it is particularly pleasing to see younger members joining.

**b) Membership Secretary:** The year had seen the introduction of the new online membership system called membermojo. There were a few issues but in general the implementation of the system had gone well. Membership showed a healthy increase from 416 to 458 which is in part due to the new easier method of joining the Branch. Donations were a generous £759.

**c) Secretary**: There had been three committee meetings during the year with an average of just under eight committee members at each meeting. The major items discussed were the social and ticketing arrangements in connection with the two Wembley visits. Sadly during the year the Branch had lost long standing member (and darts captain) Keith Adamson. We had also lost the Branch’s former auditor, Bernard MacKenzie.

**d) Treasurer**: Draft accounts have been prepared and had been circulated. Aidan Daly was unable to attend due to holiday commitments. They will in due course be reviewed by Branch member Duncan Hooper. The Branch was in general in a healthy financial state although it had made a small loss for the year of £456. This was principally due to partly subsidising the two pre-Wembley socials. There was also a loss on match tickets some of which was due to the Club charging the Branch a fee for ticket purchases which was absorbed by the Branch.

**e) Travel / Tickets**: The system in general is working well and the greater use of payment by BACS instead of cheques has made life easier for both Andy and Aidan. We had got the tickets we needed for nearly all away games with the exception of the two Wembley games and the low allocation game against Wimbledon. Andy was aware of some email problems but is happy to receive applications on his personal email address. Andy had enjoyed the season and thanked Matt for his efforts in arranging pubs for pre-match meeting which had worked well

**f) Newsletter:** A report from Eileen Sproates had been distributed. Only three issues had had been produced during the year due partly to the uncertainty of the outcome of Wembley games but also because of her personal circumstances. Thanks were expressed to those who had submitted contributions.

**g) Sales**: There had been no new merchandise this season, a matter which perhaps could be discussed later.

**h) Branch socials**: It had been a good year for the Branch in terms of socials. A very successful social was held at the Butchers Hook and Cleaver prior to the Wembley Cup Final and the get together at the Swiss Cottage prior to the Play-off Final had also been well attended. In addition there had been a number of smaller get-togethers at the Southwark Brewery. It was also good to see lots of members meeting up in assigned pubs prior to away matches.

**i) Sports reports**: The sports reports had been circulated. A summary of the various teams’ performances is set out below:

1. Football: we have been competing in a six a side league on a Tuesday but have now moved to a seven a side league on a Monday. The squad is strong both in quality and numerically.
2. The darts team had won the Cup and finished second in the league. On a sad note though we lost long time captain Keith Adamson during the year. Belated thanks were given to him for his efforts over the years.
3. The pool team had had a disappointing season finishing fifth in the league. A poor start was followed by a good finish. They are also through to the semi-final of the Cup. Numbers are much stronger with a number of new players. Thanks were given to Peter Jackson for the use of Southwark Brewery where we have our home matches.
4. The quiz team continue to be one of seven teams in the Home Counties Quiz League. They normally finish mid-table. Numbers are satisfactory although there is always room for new blood.
5. Thanks were given to John McGirr for continuing to run the cricket team. They had won the Putney Cup and gone on their usual August Bank Holiday trip to Nowton. The team struggles for numbers from Branch members so new faces are welcome.

**j) Website / Social Media:** A full report on the website by Sam Andrews had been distributed. In general things are going well with a significant flow of traffic..

**Approval of accounts:**

A motion to approve the Branch accounts for the year to 31 May 2019 was passed unanimously.

Proposed by: Valerie Fairbrass, Seconded by: Rob Hutchison

**Election of Committee Members**:

The following Committee members were due for re-election and willing to stand for re-election:

Eileen Sproates

Ian Todd

Andrew Jordan

Sam Andrews

Mick Owens

Paul Swinney

All were willing to continue with the exception of Paul Swinney. Nick Swanson indicated he was willing to stand and a motion to re-elect the first five on the list plus Nick Swanson was approved unanimously.

Proposed by: Matt Woolston, Seconded by: Andy McIntosh

**Any Other Business**:

Ian Todd gave a brief update on the Branch’s relationship with the Sunderland Ladies Football team

The meeting closed at 7.35pm