



Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Ilkeston Football Club Supporters Group to be held at New Manor Ground Club House, Ilkeston on 20th May 2015

Present: Duncan Payne – Chairman; Darren Jones – Treasurer; Duncan Lapping – Secretary; Lee Francis - Website Administrator/Media Relations Officer; Lynda Bacon – Travel Secretary; Jon Shapland - Membership Secretary. Other members of the Group – 45

1	Introductions and Apologies
	<p>Duncan Payne (DP) introduced himself as Chairman of the Group and proceeded to introduce the other post holders and committee members who were present.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Alex Middleton and Kevin Cross (Committee Members).</p>
2.	Minutes of the Meeting of the Second AGM on 14th May 2014
	<p>The minutes of the third AGM held on 14th 2014 were proposed by John Hendy and seconded by Liam Attwood as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were accepted as agreed and signed off by the Chairman.</p>
3	Chairman’s Report
	<p>DP presented his report to the meeting a copy of which is appended to these minutes.</p>
4	Treasurers report and presentation of accounts
	<p>Darren Jones (DJ) presented the accounts for the year to 30th April 2015 and advised the Group of the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total income: £21,115; • Total expenditure: £15,633; • Profit for the year; £5,482 • Accumulated Profit Brought Forward; £9,578 • Surplus balance: £15,060. <p>DJ went on to report on the travel activities of the Group and advised on the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The travel activity is supported by selling prediction sheets at £1 each. • Travel income £13,565 • Prediction Sheet Income £1,586

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football card income: £1,415 • Expenditure £14,475 • Net Loss: £910 • Surplus balance (after prediction sheet and football card income) £2,091 <p>DJ asked the members to note that the race night income is ring fenced to assist with funding the football club replacement tannoy project.</p> <p>John Hendy (JH) asked for the football card income to be shown as a separate line on the accounts. It was agreed that this could be done. JH also asked about income and expenditure relating to The Flying Robin fanzine.</p> <p>The Chairman (DP) agreed to show this in the next accounts, but advised that it may be taken over by the production of the matchday programme if the Group takes that activity on.</p> <p>With there being no further questions or comments it was proposed that the accounts be accepted by John Hendy. The proposal was seconded by Alan Savage and the accounts were duly accepted.</p>
5	Secretary's report
	Duncan Lapping (DL) presented his report to the Group. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.
6	Membership Secretary's Report
	Darren Jones (DJ) presented the Membership Secretary report and confirmed that the Group had 169 members made up of 147 adults and 22 juniors.
7	Website Administrator/Media Relations Officer report
	<p>Lee Francis (LF) presented his report to the Group. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes. and key points are summarised as follows:</p> <p>Website Hits: 2013: 7,899; 2014: 11,593; 2015: 5675 Twitter Followers: 268; Facebook Likes: 190 Easyfundraising: 40 Members; Donations: £776.29.</p>
8	Election of Officers and further members for 2014/15
	<p>In accordance with the Group's constitution all committee members duly tendered their resignations.</p> <p>All former committee members offered themselves for re-election.</p> <p>Steve Attwood acted from the floor to nominate all the former committee members to their former posts. All nominations were seconded by Chris Rix.</p> <p>All former committee members were therefore re-elected unchallenged to their former posts.</p>

	<p>The new committee was noted as being made up as follows: Chairman – Duncan Payne; Secretary – Duncan Lapping; Treasurer – Darren Jones; Membership Secretary – Darren Jones; Website Administrator/Media Relations Officer – Lee Francis; Travel Secretary - Lynda Bacon; Committee Members – Alex Middleton, John Attewell, Kevin Cross, David Potter, Keith Windley and Roger Brown</p>
9.	Membership Fees for 2015/16
	<p>The Chairman (DP) proposed that membership fees be kept at the 2014/15 rate of £5 for adults and £1 for juniors. The proposal was seconded by several members from the floor and approved following a unanimous show of hands.</p>
10.	Any other business
10.1	Constitutional Amendment
	<p>John Hendy proposed that clause 13 of the Groups constitution be amended so that should a committee member/officer of the Group intend to stand down permanently at the AGM, then members should be able to nominate and vote on the replacement of that committee member/officer at the AGM. The Group Secretary seconded the proposal and agreed to present a revised constitution for approval at the next AGM.</p>
10.2	<p>Comments and Questions from the floor:</p> <p>(i) What benefit is achieved from Group membership of the IFC 100 club? The Chairman (DP) advised he would raise this with Nigel Harrop at IFC.</p> <p>(ii) Matchday programme and The Flying Robin</p> <p>Alan Savage commented that the football club should be producing a matchday programme. His understanding is that league rules require 100 copies for Each fixture.</p> <p>The Chairman (DP) referred back to earlier comments about 'TFR' and the prospect of the Group producing the matchday programme if the football club didn't.</p> <p>John Hendy commented that to produce a programme would be a big task and other members felt that the Group should not take the task on.</p> <p>The Chairman (DP) responded to advise that articles would be produced in advance through the summer for use in the programme whether done by the club or the Group.</p>

(iii) John Hendy asked the committee to ask the football club to request that the last away fixture be one that would be suitable for a weekend trip e.g. Whitby.

DP stated that he would contact the football club with that request.

(iv) John Flint asked how much do the committee think a new Tannoy for the NMG will cost?

It was confirmed that the club have had a quote for approximately £8,000 and that the Group has raised £1,707 towards this so far.

A comment was also made about replacement floodlights and it was noted that that is a ground improvement that remains in the hands of the football club.

(v) End of season presentations

David Gibson asked if a more formal event can be arranged and that would the committee investigate this. He suggested the Festival Inn at Trowel as a potential venue.

It was agreed that the committee would raise this proposal with the football club

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

Chairmans Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Ilkeston Football Club Supporters Group held on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at the New Manor Ground Ilkeston

When I called a meeting for January 3rd 2011 I had a vision for the future of our football club and supporters. We needed a Supporters Group, one which was numerically strong and one which was strongly committed to Ilkeston FC. Moreover, we needed one which would be relentless in pursuing the long-term stability of good quality semi-professional football in our town. I was determined that the events of September 2010 would never be repeated. We owed it to ourselves and future generations of Ilkeston football supporters.

Tonight, you will hear about what the Supporters Group committee has been working on and what they have achieved during the past 12 months. Each and every one of them, whether they have been in an officer role or not, have played their part, and I am extremely proud of their tireless endeavours, giving up their free time to ensure that funds are raised, to make supporters' experience a good one, and to make sure that your money is being spent wisely. Given my emotional vested interest in the Group, I would not make such a proclamation unless I believed it to be 100% true.

At times it hasn't been easy. Dealings with the club have been less frequent than I would have liked. Last Autumn, while Dave Mantle was still the owner, we met up with club officials although Mantle himself was not present. The Group came in for some totally unjust criticism from the club who believed that we were not helping them enough financially in the wake of the Gary Ricketts/John Thompson affair. Our response was that we were there if they needed us but unless they were able to openly approach us and tell us what the issues were and what it was they wanted from us, how could we be expected to help?

Even then, we were given little feedback about what was really required, with the exception that they needed more volunteers. Quite what voluntary work was expected was never fully explained, despite us stating that people may come forward if only they knew what was needed and their help had been requested. We offered to pay for club shop stock which was not servicing our fans needs due to appalling lack of availability, on the proviso that we would be reimbursed once the club had broken even on sales. This suggestion was warmly received but the club did not follow it up.

This was one of the main reasons why we stepped up the levels and range of Supporters Group merchandise over the past few months. We would not have done so if official merchandise had been made available to our fans.

Interestingly, since that meeting, all parties – including Terry Bowles, Mantle's right-hand man and Nigel Harrop – have disassociated themselves from the criticisms levelled at us and indirectly pointed fingers of blame at each other.

The sale of the club to Nigel Harrop has brought its own problems. The claim that Mantle left IFC debt free was not strictly true by any means, and our own committee man John Attewell has had to give up hundreds of hours of his own time trying to untangle the mess of what was IFC accounts and those of SR Education. For any potential outsider to step forward and invest in the football club, they would need to see a true and accurate position of the football club finances and it is only now that the accounts are pretty much sorted. And then, there was the issue of Kevin Wilson and Steve Chettle, and the need for a new management structure to be put in place as a result of their departure.

Interestingly, even if Mantle had not sold the club, Wilson would not have been retained and he was told as much back in September. Nigel Harrop could have

reversed that decision, of course, had he felt that it was in IFC's best interests. But for the club to stand on its own two feet – plus the requirement that club needed a Head Coach rather than a manager – he felt that it was the only decision. It was a difficult and brave one to make given Kevin's standing with supporters, but given what happened to Ilkeston Town I believe it was the right one.

All of this clearly put Harrop under a lot of pressure; taking on the ownership of a football club without these issues would have been tough enough as it was. For that reason, dialog with the club over the past three months has been sporadic, but at a committee meeting last month which Nigel Harrop attended, he convinced us that a top priority was regular dialog and openness with Ilkeston supporters.

This was clearly a step forward in the right direction and we will be pressing Nigel if he doesn't keep to his word. Certainly a Fans Forum before the new season is more likely than not, and this will be a great opportunity for all of us to hear what plans for the future he has. Hopefully, we will also get the opportunity to meet the new Head Coach.

During this period of uncertainty, John Attewell has played a crucial part in keeping some sort of communication going between the IFCSG and IFC and I would like to thank him for his efforts. It has been a tricky balancing act for him and I know that at times he has been concerned about any possible conflicts of interests. But I have met very few people with such great integrity as John in my life and I would like everyone to be aware of how appreciative I am of him.

You will hear in due course from Lee Francis regarding the Supporters Group commercial and website activities, but I would like to thank him in advance. His drive towards raising funds for the Group is endless and his result in acquiring a partnership deal with Erewash Sound has been both lucrative and beneficial to both parties. Lee has also been responsible for the production of IFCSG merchandise and, of course, our monthly magazine 'The Flying Robin', more of which later.

Jon Shapland's business head has also been crucial in ensuring that IFCSG funds have not been squandered. Whenever a project or merchandise idea has been conceived and costs have been taken into account, his attention to detail and finances has enabled us collectively to discuss whether or not such ideas are viable. Many a wonderful suggestion has been placed into the recycling bin as a result of his calculations, and this has enabled us to continue to raise money rather than lose it. Jon's biggest project last summer was to contact all the local coach companies in order to secure the best possible away travel at the best prices and as a result a considerable saving was made. He also managed the IFCSG Race Night, for the IFC PA fund, this year and it was a highly successful result.

But even with Jon and Lee's abilities in coming up with concepts and profit margins, it has needed a treasurer to keep a tight control of expenditure and once again Darren Jones has done a first class job on that score this year. Darren will talk you through a strong set of figures later.

Our Secretary Duncan Lapping continues to keep the rest of us in check by ensuring that we stick to our own constitutional rules and by producing minutes and agendas for all meetings, which can be viewed online, a task which takes a considerable amount of his spare time and for which he has my heartfelt gratitude.

All the other committee members, Kevin Cross, Alex Middleton, David Potter and co-optees Keith Windley and Roger Brown have all made worthy contributions by assisting the officers and making valid suggestions and opinions discussed at the committee meetings.

But finally, I must also mention the amazing contribution Lynda Bacon has made to the Group's success. Away travel is a service we supply to our members, the rationale being that as many people as possible get the opportunity to watch Ilkeston FC play away from home as possible. For that reason, we lay on at least one bus to every away game, even when there is a risk that the trip may make a loss. For longer trips, this means there is an extra charge for the passengers, but wherever possible these are kept to a minimum to maximise the number of supporters able to make the trip.

Despite the triple whammy of 2 midweek round trips to Workington and 1 to Blyth and the costs incurred plus the limited amount of fans able to go, the away travel has had an outstanding year thanks to Lynda and her small band of helpers. The outcome of it all, as the figures reveal, is that away travel paid for itself in 2014-15 with no losses to the Group funds. Lynda's outstanding contribution in all of this is not purely the financial aspects but also all the planning and arranging to make every trip is pleasurable experience as possible for supporters.

Being Chairman is something I am very proud of, and if elected again, I will continue to serve you all to the best of my ability. After all, I have a vested emotional interest in it all, and the IFCSG will not stand still while I am still Chair. For instance, following the successful campaign to get the speed limit reduced and a new pavement built leading up to the NMG, I will be channelling energies towards improved pedestrian safety around the canal bridge via our newly elected MP. In addition, talks are being held with the football club regarding turning The Flying Robin into the official match programme, featuring all the content expected in a programme such as stats, league tables and profiles of the opposition, but also including some of the most appreciated features of The Flying Robin in its existing format. Should we be able to succeed in our plan, this will be a big money spinner for the Group next year. The club has made positive noises about this idea but have yet to give it their full blessing.

But being Chair is not a popularity contest and I am acutely aware that the leaflet produced regarding fan behaviour didn't go down well with many. What I'll say is this. If I had my time again, I'd make the same decision. The leaflet clearly stated that the virtually isolated misbehaviour was by a tiny minority. No mention of drinking was made, only that deeply offensive discriminatory, homophobic and racist remarks aimed at players was unacceptable and that if any individual IFCSG member was found to be acting in such a way, then they could expect action to be taken against them. 99% of our members are superb ambassadors to the club and our town 100% of the time and it hurt me deeply to think that some people may think it possible that I am typical of the handful that let us down. I am sure you all feel the same way. It wasn't a decision I made lightly but it was made because it was the RIGHT thing to do. As for the wording... well, some felt that it was discriminatory because of the use of the word 'him', but if using a singular gender noun when referring to both genders is good enough for the standards applied by the Associated Press, then it is good enough for humble old me.

Duncan Payne
Chairman IFCSG
20th May 2015

ILKESTON FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS GROUP
Income and Expenditure Account
Year to 30th April 2015

	2015	2014	Variance
Income			
Bus Travel	13,565	11,070	2,495
Prediction Sheets	1,586	1,920	-334
Memberships	747	877	-130
Sales	3,039	971	2,068
Sales from 2014	715		715
Race Night	351	414	-63
Donations	196	180	16
Easy Fundraising	152	152	-1
Tannoy Funds	765	177	588
	21,115	15,762	5,354
EXPENDITURE			
Bus Travel	14,475	11,900	2,575
Purchases	822	444	378
Player Sponsorship	144	144	0
Sundries	0	39	-39
Insurance	60	58	2
Trophies	9	47	-38
100 Club	48	48	0
Market Stall Fees		20	-20
Car Parking	45		45
Telephone	30		30
	15,633	12,700	2,933
Profit for the year	5,482	3,061	2,421
Accumulated Profit b/f	9,578	6,517	3,061
Working Capital	15,060	9,578	5,482
Represented by			
Bank Balance	12,853	8,987	3,866
Travel Float	500		500
Tannoy System - Ringfenced	1,707	591	1,116
	15,060	9,578	5,482

Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Ilkeston Football Club Supporters Group held on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at the New Manor Ground Ilkeston

The committee generally meets on a monthly basis. During the year since the Third AGM on 14th May 2014 the committee has held eleven meetings in total. Since the last AGM we have moved on from holding meetings at The Little Acorn on Awsworth Road to the sponsors lounge here at the New Manor Ground. I would like to record my thanks to Ilkeston Football Club for their hospitality and for letting us use the room for no charge. We see this change as part of the process of forging closer links with the football club and would hope to maintain the sponsors lounge as the preferred venue for committee meetings for the foreseeable future.

At our last committee meeting on Wednesday 13th May, we had the pleasure of welcoming Nigel Harrop as the new Chairman and owner of Ilkeston Football Club. We were able to have a full, frank and honest discussion with Nigel and he was able explain his ambitious vision for the future of the club. It was agreed that fans forum meetings are an essential element to aid the clubs communication with supporters so we hope that some will soon be arranged so that Nigel and the future Head Coach can explain the future vision for the football club to all supporters. However, it always has to be remembered that given the commercial position of the football club, not all items discussed at the committee's own meetings with the football club can be published. We as a committee respect the wishes of the club in such matters and hope that other supporters do so as well.

During the year one committee member, Alison Wall resigned, however in the meantime David Potter, Keith Windley and Roger Brown were co-opted and volunteered to help with committee business.

You will be aware that the constitution requires all committee members to resign and stand for re-election (should they choose to do so) for the forthcoming year. Therefore, the Chairman will in due course hand over the management of the meeting to a member from the floor who can ask those members of the committee who have been nominated and wish to stand for re-election to state so for the minutes and also, any other members of the Group who have been nominated and wish to stand to become an officer or committee member to confirm their intentions accordingly.

Duncan Lapping
IFCSG – Secretary
20th May 2015

Website Administrator/Media Relations Officer report to the Annual General Meeting of the Ilkeston Football Club Supporters Group held on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at the New Manor Ground Ilkeston

This year as seen the introduction of many media outlets for the IFCSG.

The first point in this report is on the continuation of our website which is updated with Travel News, Easyfundraising and promoting events and activities. We have embraced social media with Facebook and Twitter pages which have grown significantly in numbers and engagement, over the last 12 months.

This season we secured sponsorship from local businesses that cover the cost of the IFCSG domain name and web hosting. Coupled with our Community Board, where local businesses can have their business card on our website for £5, we are in profit. Our prediction sheet has also been made available to download from our website and you will have noticed the Erewash Sound advert on the website, prediction sheet and the back of the current IFCSG Membership Cards. This partnership has been a successful one in that Erewash Sound have been actively promoting the Supporters Group and Ilkeston FC with events and information on their radio station. It is hoped that this partnership will carry on for next season, and indeed for years to come.

Perhaps the most successful media channel we have introduced is a monthly fanzine called The Flying Robin. Still in its infancy, the long term goal of the fanzine is unknown, with tentative talk of TFR replacing the matchday programme. What is for sure is to continue providing readers with rich content, and something different that the current IFC match day magazine provides. The feedback on this venture has been positive. Next season we hope to take advantage of the potential revenue streams this media can have with advertising space. We want to point out that this will not affect the quality of content currently available. It is also important we disclose that the Flying Robin has been profitable and in the event that the publication could lose money, it will have to be evaluated.

I would like to close with some figures which we will continue to supply in a report at future AGM's to show year on year figures for the website and media channels.

Website Hits: 2013: **7,899** 2014: **11,593** 2015: **5675**

Twitter Followers: **268** Facebook Likes: **190**

Easyfundraising: **40** Members Donations: **£776.29**

Lee Francis

Founder Member and Webmaster of the IFCSG

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