



**Notes of the Open Meeting of Ilkeston Football Club Supporters Group held at The New Manor Ground, Ilkeston on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

Present: Duncan Payne (The Chairman); Duncan Lapping; Liam Attwood; Billy Booth; Steve Attwood; Tony Booth; Jon Shapland; Kevin Cross; Keith Windley; Roger Brown plus 10 other members

<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Welcome/Introductions/Apologies</u></b>
	The Chairman (DP) welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting and recorded apologies from Alex Middleton, Wayne Morledge, Darren Jones; Lee Francis; Lynda Bacon and Diane Hall
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Minutes from the committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016</u></b>
	The minutes were circulated for the attention of all present and the action points were noted for future reference.
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Chairman's Report</u></b>
	<p>The Chairman (DP) provided a summary of activity and issues since the last AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Raisin (IFC Secretary) attended the first committee meeting held after the AGM in August 2016 to discuss the relationship between supporters, the football club (IFC) and the IFC owner, Nigel Harrop (NH)</li> <li>• The Group committee offered to help with communication but unfortunately NH has not yet responded.</li> <li>• The Group committee offered to produce &amp; sell club merchandise. That is something which came to fruition by way of an agreement at the committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September, The Group's own merchandise has sold well so we hope we can also do well with the IFC merchandise.</li> <li>• We will be looking for ideas from supporters about what items they would be keen to buy.</li> <li>• In summary, the relationship with IFC through AR is good but we are concerned about the lack of response from NH and the affect it has on the morale of the committee members and the supporters in general.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b><u>Group Committee Membership</u></b>
	<p>The Chairman (DP) commented on the resignation of the Group Secretary (Duncan Lapping) at the last AGM and the more recent resignation of the Group Treasurer (Darren Jones). While both DL &amp; DJ remain on the committee and are continuing to assist by doing the secretarial and treasury work on a voluntary basis it is important that these roles are filled to maintain the functionality of the Group and the committee.</p> <p>None of the other members present came forward to volunteer for the vacant positions. The Chairman (DP) expressed concern that if these roles aren't filled it may be necessary to suspend the role of the committee and continue to Group as a travel club only.</p> <p>After some discussion of the Group's financial position and membership numbers, it was</p>

confirmed that the Group would continue to rely on membership fees and prediction sheet income to support travel costs but other activities such as the race night (that need high resource input and expenditure) may need to be suspended.

**5. Website & Media Report**

DL advised that while Lee Francis was not able to attend, he had emailed the committee with the following report that was read to the meeting:

*Numbers show a steady increase in website traffic.  
2016 numbers currently register at 23,607 hits. (16,356 in 2015)  
40 new Twitter followers, now 425 (an increase from 385 at the AGM)  
Facebook Likes are now 267, (an increase from 243 at the AGM).*

*Easy Fundraising donations continue to come in and stand at £977.36 (+£43.38 since the AGM)*

*We currently have 43 registered Easy Fundraising members and we hope to achieve donations in excess of £1000 before the end of the year.*

*In addition, we are actively promoting this year's Race Night Sponsors on Social Media and hope this has a positive effect on both the businesses involved and the group.*

The Chairman (DP) asked that the thanks of the members be recorded for LF's provision of this report.

**6. Away Travel Report**

Liam Attwood took the floor to report on away travel and the main points he commented on are summarised as follows:

- LA thanked the travelling members for a good start to the season
- So far 12 buses arranged by the Group + 1 Club run service
- Total in the Away travel pot currently £663.85, after starting with £500
- Reduction in number travelling away this season - a lot less compared with last season
- Believe down to unrest at the club caused by start of the season & outside our control
- Hoping for numbers to start going up
- Away travel accounts sheet circulated to those present. This is just the accounts for the away travel and the home prediction sheets / football cards
- Some buses run at a loss e.g. Whitby, Halesowen, Rushall
- Has been a real struggle this season to try and make a surplus, but we have continued to run a bus to every game (exceptions of Blyth & Marine)
- Recorded thanks the club for running the bus to Blyth which we think is an effective middle ground of not paying £700 for a bus for 16 people, when the club can offer the service
- Note on prediction sheets: People can help - Sell them at work to family's etc. and to people who aren't at games; LA could email these to them each week, got to print off themselves; Get back to LA by Saturday

Game	Balance Before	Bus Income	Football Cards	Prediction Sheets	Bus Paid	Banked	Balance C/F
Totals	N/A	£3295	£350	£412	£3893.15	N/A	N/A

- Proposal - flexible pricing system for Tuesday night games
- This is in terms of having the comfort of the 49 seater as oppose to the 21

- Everyone pays a bit more to make up the difference in pricing
- E.g. Rugby Town, 49=£320, 21=£295
- Difference= £25 - Everyone pays £1.50 extra - Rounded up from £1.19
- This would vary depending on the price difference
- But it is something that Tuesday night regulars are happy to do?

### **Marine**

- LA sought to clear up a few points and confirm some facts
- The problem was not to do with MFC supporters but the treatment of IFC fans by MFC officials
- Greeted by police; told to go through the gate, not to go get a drink from the outside clubhouse; told at HT we would be refused entry if we choose to leave the ground; not what Non-league is about; considered outrages; Lynda Bacon (LB) raised her concerns
- LB talked to travelling supporters several times at the tail end of last season and most felt there should be a boycott. LA also raised concerns with travelling supporters this season and it was made clear then that a boycott was a genuine possibility and most fans responded positively to the proposal.
- The proposal was raised with the committee and a decision was made that the Group would not book a bus for the trip. Not all Officers of the committee were present at the meeting and that this was not a unanimous decision, but the proposal was carried by a majority.

After LA's presentation there was some discussion about how the decision was reached. It was suggested from the floor that the decision should have been put to the wider membership. It was noted that under the Groups constitution the affairs of the Group are under the management of the committee. It is the committee's role is to make day to day decisions like this and the Group cannot put all decisions to a referendum. Also, the decision on not running a bus for a fixture would not be sufficient for an EGM. It was repeated that it was not a unanimous decision of the committee and that one of the Officers (Darren Jones – Treasurer) had made it clear about his opposition to the proposal.

### **7. Website and Forum**

DL took the floor to raise concerns about the use of the website forum. The forum should be a place for reasonable dialogue and interaction. He accepted that there will be a lot of banter between users but that the use of foul and abusive language; abusive and offensive comments; and unsubstantiated allegations and defamatory statements that could be considered libellous, are all things that bring the Group into disrepute. JS commented that posts can be removed by moderators if users felt that they were offensive etc... and that the Group does have a policy that allows for users to be banned from the forum. DL concluded this discussion by asking that users of the forum should show respect fo reach other and asked that his concerns be noted.

### **8. Race Night**

The annual IFCSG race night will be held at The Dukeries club on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016. It is expected that the IFC manager, Paul Holland and some players will be in attendance. The Chairman (DP) commented that over the years this event has been run it has raised an average of £400. In this instance, race sponsorship has already raised £250 with sales of dogs/horses(?) raising £16/race which equals £128. That's a total of £378 raised before the event. However, the cost of prizes for race winners and thank you gifts for sponsors needs to be deducted. A request was made for the donation of prizes for the auction race.

	It was confirmed that all funds raised go the NMG Tannoy fund. At 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 there was £2,989 held in the fund.
<b>9.</b>	<b><u>Merchandise</u></b>
	<p>All present were asked for idea's for merchandise that may be popular with supporters. The suggestions noted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Away shirts</li> <li>• Beanies/bob hats/scarves</li> <li>• Polo shirts with IFCSG logo</li> <li>• Polo shirts with IFC logo</li> </ul> <p>It was confirmed that these suggestions (apart from the IFCSG polo shirt proposal) will be carried forward to IFC as the merchandise items that the Group can assist them with.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b><u>Any other Business</u></b>
	<p>One point of AOB was raised with regard to the use of the Groups funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some supporters were concerned about the potential future use of funds given IFC's difficulties at the start of the season and the clubs long term future</li> <li>• It was confirmed that no proposals had been put forward to IFC due to the uncertainty of the situation.</li> <li>• It was felt that there would be no point in wasting the Group's funds on supporting a failing club</li> <li>• The Chairman (DP) re-affirmed the Groups policy in that the Group's funds are held to assist with the future continuation of senior football that is representative of Ilkeston and that any decision on the use of those funds would be made by a decision of the Group's membership.</li> </ul>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.35pm