

Minutes of Senior Spireites Annual General Meeting – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
The sports hall, CFC Community Trust. Started 12:57

1. **Attendees:** Keith Arrowsmith, Terry Ashley, Graham Bee, Bob Berry, Tony Bettison, Glyn Booth, Stephen Boston, Tegpal Singh Butoy, Rob Church, Drew Cook, Rick Cunningham, John Dacey, Stephen Dallison, Ian Edmundson, Malc Emberton, Steve Gleadall, Nigel Green, Norman Green, Neil Haddy, Graham Hancock, Roger Hancock, Andie Harkness, Pete Harris, Alan Haslam, Steve Housley, Pete Jacques, Charlie Last, John Longstaff, Derek Lowe, Paul Markwell, Nicholas Marshall, Don Nicholls, Phil O'Gorman, Malc Perks, Stewart Parsley, Kevin Pritchard, Mel Pullen, John Quinn, Michael Quinn, Alan Reynolds, Kesar Singh, Jim Slavin, Barry Smith, Shane Starkey, Dave Walker, Dave Ward, Stephen Ward.

**Apologies for absence;** Phil Banergee, Dave Brearley, Stuart Brearley, Peter Butterfield, Mike Dalby, Daryl Davies, Jon Day, Garry Dean, Pete Dowling, Barry Emms, Carl Gibbins, Graham Green, Nigel Gregory, Paul Guest, Graham Harrington, Rod Hayes, David Hill, Doug Hill, Ged Loftus, David Moss, Manohar Raju, Dave Simpson, Jason Socket, Nigel Strong, Chris Tann, Paul Tenant, Graham Turner, Shawn Ward, John Warner.

2. **Minutes of the last AGM and actions arising, not on the agenda.**

Derek Lowe pointed out that he had been omitted from the list of apologies for absence but, otherwise, the minutes were agreed to be an accurate representation. There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's report.**

Welcome to the AGM. Special thanks to our committee for all their hard work over the last 12 months. To Ian, for probably spending more hours looking after us than the rest of us all put together. To Neil, for once again looking after our finances and along with Ian, helping negotiate a great 'fixed price' agreement with The Akademy for our daytime sessions. To Paul for keeping our website up to date, and as Membership Secretary, helping Neil and Ian with their tasks, and in doing so, reducing their workloads significantly. To Rob for the thankless weekly task of picking the teams and arranging all our social events. To Steve, the difficult task of trying to balance members expectations whilst attempting to construct competitive league squads time and again. To Pete, our kit manager, and travel agent extraordinaire. To Bob for looking after our Over 70s squad as well as the Tuesday evening session. Finally, to Roger who looks after the Hasland session, as well as refereeing at Dronfield. Thanks to all of you!!!

It's has been an eventful year. We've had a visit from a German radio station, Dr Gary Armstrong from the City of London University has come along on several occasions to gather information on the history of Walking Football. We played our first game against the ladies' team The Spirettes and since invited them back to join in with our sessions. But I suppose the day that stands out more than most, is the day when one of our own collapsed on the pitch and a day which could have ended in so differently. But out of initial panic, came some calm heads and finally confidence that a life had been saved. Thanks to Rob, Keith Jackson and others, the day ended well. And from that experience, we acquired 2 state-of-the-art defibs; members volunteered and attended CPR training. We set up a 4-club tournament with local teams to maintain the awareness and importance of knowing CPR.

The coming months look to be quite busy, with a further visit from The Spirettes next week and we are heavily involved with the World Cup in May. We continue to play against Worksop, Matlock and Mansfield Reds in the CPR Awareness Cup as well as our Over 70s squad have regular outings, and the Almelo Cup will again be attended in early summer. Finally, thank you all, and I'll now hand over to Ian.....

#### 4. **Secretary's report.**

I would like to start by thanking the committee for their support throughout 2023 and especially Paul Markwell for taking on a lot of work from me and for making such a success of the web site. Thank you all for attending today and for putting up with my lapses of memory through the year. It has been a year of steady growth for the club, growing from 106 playing members and 12 social members at the end of 2022 to 111 playing members and 21 social members at the end of 2023. Now increased to 115 and 19. We have welcomed several new members through the year but have also seen quite a few move to social membership due to injury or long-term illness. Sadly, but to be expected in our age range, we have also had to say farewell to some of our friends and just recently this has continued with the loss of Michael Wilson, for whom our mourning is very fresh.

The playing sessions at Dronfield and Hasland continue to be successful although the Tuesday evening session and the Hasland session have currently reached capacity, with a waiting list for new members. The loss of the fourth pitch at Dronfield is also becoming an issue for the Monday and Friday sessions as participating numbers grow and the committee has had to devise a cunning plan to handle the situation in future if more than 42 members turn up to play. The condition of the pitches and toilets at Dronfield is also an issue which the Academy management is well aware of and trying to improve but finance is a major stumbling block. We are in contact about it and will advise if there is any improvement planned.

Meanwhile, continue to enjoy your football, remember, and try to live up to, our motto of Fun, Fitness and Friendship – no running, no tackling from behind, minimum physical contact and no arguing with the referee, who is always right, even when he's made a mistake. Thank you, and I hand over to our esteemed treasurer, Neil.

#### 5. **Treasurer's report.**

Can I thank the committee for their support and advice and especially Paul Markwell for his sterling work in maintaining the subs record.

On a subs income of £9252, we have shown a surplus of £1460 – more than most league clubs! At year end, we had £5383 in the bank, Currently, our bank balance stands at £6035 having just paid for the Academy daytime pitches for April (we pay in advance). We are also owed £160 by the Australian Walking Football Team - we have paid for the Queen's Park pitch they needed for practice. We'll get that back in May when they get here.

However, the pitch fee for Hasland for 2024 has risen by another 25% to £1200. It has doubled in 2 years. I would not blame CBC, their funding has been squeezed by central government and they have little choice. On a lighter note, it still means we break even with 13 players and comfortably exceed that most weeks.

If you've had time to look at the final accounts for 2023, the biggest expense is pitch hire (61%). As things stand, we have negotiated a fixed £330 per month for Monday and Friday – which is a good deal. Tuesday evening is due to increase in April meaning it will rise to £2125 pa. So total cost of pitches in 2024 will be £7285 – up from £6377 – 14% increase.

We were able to show a modest profit, allowing us to subsidise the pre Xmas lunch and new kit etc.

As a result (and this is where I can sound like the Chancellor – except we know what we're doing) I would not recommend any increase in subs this year unless something extraordinary happens.

Note: The annual accounts can be found on the club web page at

[https://www.chesterfieldwalkingfootball.co.uk/\\_files/ugd/96892b\\_060d57cd5b0d45d5a10b86b843b5c50a.pdf](https://www.chesterfieldwalkingfootball.co.uk/_files/ugd/96892b_060d57cd5b0d45d5a10b86b843b5c50a.pdf)

## 6. Election of New Committee

No nominations for committee posts had been received ahead of the meeting and none were received from the floor so, all committee members, being willing to stand for another year, were re-elected to their posts.

Chair: Malc Perks

Treasurer: Neil Haddy

Secretary: Ian Edmundson

Membership secretary: Paul Markwell

Social secretary: Rob Church

Fixtures secretary: Steve Housley

Kit Manager: Pete Jacques

Dronfield Representative: Bob Berry

Hasland Representative: Roger Hancock

Web site manager: Paul Markwell

The secretary pointed out that, while it is pleasing that the work of the committee seems to be appreciated, he feels that it would be good to get new members onto the committee, with new ideas, to prevent it becoming stale.

## 7. Proposal from Gary Millward for membership ID cards

In Gary's absence the secretary read his proposal: Can I suggest a potential agenda item for the Clubs AGM meeting in March please.

Membership/Registration id Cards for members.

Apologies if this has already been suggested or if you already have a membership card system.

1x Plastic credit card size membership card for all players at the Senior Spireites, similar to what you have at other clubs like Golf Clubs etc. or CFC season ticket etc.

● There are local Chesterfield printing companies that provide this service which we could use, so we are providing local businesses with the revenue.

● Funding could be taken from the clubs running costs accounts or members could be asked to fund as a "one off" payment for a membership card.

● It could double up as a Registration id card with Name, date joined etc., DoB etc. for producing at tournaments and vents if required.

Many thanks

Gary Millward

A discussion took place during which it was pointed out that such a card would qualify for a 10% reduction at Go Outdoors. However, so do many other membership cards and only one 10% reduction is available. Some concern was expressed about the work needed to maintain such a system and what happens when someone leaves the club. It was put to a vote and the proposal was defeated.

## 8. Any other business.

a) A suggestion had been received from Yashin Umerji that we should consider playing at weekends. This resulted in a considerable discussion with problems identified being the

difficulty of securing pitches at weekends, many members watching professional football matches on Saturdays and Sundays, the extra cost of hiring pitches at weekends over daytime rates during the week, and family commitments for retired people who can play during the week. It was suggested that working members who can only play on Tuesday evenings might benefit and the possibility of entering tournaments or friendlies, where the pitches are provided, was also suggested.

A majority at the meeting were against a regular weekend session but there was potential interest in occasional weekend tournaments. It was agreed that the committee would consider this and look into the possibilities.

b) Glyn Booth asked if we could find a way to include more new members instead of a waiting list at Hasland, so as not to exclude people. There is a similar problem at the Tuesday night session and Bob Berry advised he keeps a spreadsheet of Tuesday night players who advise him whether they will be attending the following week. He asked if this could work at Hasland. A similar problem is starting at the daytime Dronfield sessions and the secretary advised that an emergency plan has been devised to select an extra team if the numbers exceed 42 so that each team takes it in turn to stand off for ten minutes. The session can be extended so that all players get sixty minutes of playing time. Another suggestion was to split the sessions with an earlier start for some and a later session for others, as we had done during school holidays when fewer pitches were available. After a considerable discussion it was agreed that the committee would consider the various options and generate a google survey for members to vote on their preferred way forward, with the aim of maximising inclusion in the club.

c) Jim Slavin defined the issue of placing the new goals at the Hasland session as far back as possible to enlarge the playing area and play on off the back walls. Several members agreed that this caused confusion and thought it would be better to have the goals in the original position of the previous traffic cones so that there was a goal line and corners were taken if the ball went behind the goal. It was agreed that this was a matter for the Hasland players to resolve but that Jim's idea should be tried to see if it resulted in a better game.

d) Rob Church advised that, following the success of last year's Christmas lunch at the C.F.C. Senior Spireites monthly lunch, this would be repeated this year on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Members need to commit to attending in advance so that places can be finalised by June 2024.

The AGM closed at 14:24 and was followed by

9. **Ten Year award** presentations to Roger Hancock, Steve Housley and Malc Perks.