

## Bideford Blues and Appledore JFC AGM November 20th 2020 Minutes

The meeting is open to all members and parents not just current committee and coaches. Notification of this has been made via the club website.

**Present:** Pete Evans, Pete Yarde, Alan Mckenzie, Pat Mckenzie, Angela Colley, Jan Snookes, Adam Eley, Andy Lobato, Kat

**Apologies:** Linda, Stuart, Jamie, Gail

**Previous Minutes:** agreed as a true record

**Matters arising:** none

### Reports:

**Chair /Secretary:** Welcome to the AGM which is having to be via Zoom (and is later than usual) because of the current situation. A big thank you to everyone involved with the club during such a challenging year due to COVID and the continuing uncertainty it causes. It resulted in last season being curtailed (and declared void) in March with another month currently of no football. It must have been disappointing for last seasons under 16s not to complete their last season in youth football but I wish them all the best on moving forward: I see that many of them are already with adult teams. Thank you also to their coaches over the years – Alan, Martin, Darren, Dave Colley, Shonto, Jonathan and James. There was no June Tournament this year for the club (or for other clubs) – a big hit on finances. Covid has impacted nationally in that participation in grassroots football has fallen by over 30% and over 50% in some areas However, I have been really pleased with the way everyone has pulled together since March. I estimate that the club lost around £18k March – September, some of which was offset by grants. In terms of grants I want particularly to thank Jan and Alan, also Alan for his work on the pitches which are in great condition. Over the past year we have become almost completely reliant on grants, membership (thank you Linda for your continued hard work) and, when open, astro bookings (thank you Pete Yarde for this)

I have been grateful also to Gail for her help and guidance over COVID risk assessments. During the initial lockdown volunteers from Park Utd and Alan erected new fencing on the bottom pitch and constructed dig outs on the top pitch: this is much appreciated and has greatly helped the club's finances (as well as improving the facility). You will see from Linda's report that membership is down; I had expected numbers to level off around 200 but we will probably have fallen below that mark this season. We are currently exploring options to get the astro up to a standard that is acceptable to the FA: I estimate that this will cost the club £6-8k. We continue to work towards a full astro replacement (with a tarmac base): this will cost a minimum of £135k (inc VAT) so will depend on outside support, hopefully from the Football Foundation via Devon FA. Coaches remain enthusiastic and I'd like to thank them for their continued hard work: looking ahead it is uncertain how future courses will look and will possibly need to be on-line. With the current world situation, we are in a time of constant change and adjustment. This will cause varying degrees of stress to different people and we must be as supportive as we possibly can. However, it is important that members do not use football as an outlet for these frustrations and that we keep to the Codes of conduct for all involved.

- **Treasurer:** Jan gave an update on accounts for the club and a detailed description of grants obtained and money spent. Jan has given the Secretary a detailed list. Pete thanked Jan, for keeping on top of the accounts and for obtaining grants on behalf of the club. Jan also thanked Alan and Pete for obtaining grants on behalf of the club.
- **Presentation of accounts:** see attached

**Membership:** Membership was down from 249 members in 2018/19 season to 225 members during the 2019/20 season. The 225 consisted of 218 boys and 7 girls. Please note this does not include any figure for Mini Kickers. Payment by bank transfer is becoming increasingly popular and this means managers having less cash/cheques to hand over. Linda Dark, Membership Secretary.

Pete informed the meeting that numbers look like being below 200 for the coming season, partly as a result of losing two under 16 teams from last season (just one this season). There has been at least a 30% drop off in grassroots attendance nationally due to COVID.

**Welfare Officer.** Well, what a funny season it has been and seems to be continuing into this current season... luckily, I think we have managed to wobble along and are just waiting to come out positively on the other side...

Firstly, I need to thank a few people who actually make my job as welfare officer slightly easier...

Pete Evans and Andy Lobato for the support whenever I need advice or just to clarify my thoughts.  
Alan for again the support and sharing the load on a couple of occasions through the season. and Dave Prouse for his hard work, making sure the DBS and criminal records checks are all up to date with the coaches within the club...

I am glad to say the coaches seem very supportive and seem to have taken these latest rules and regulations well and I would like to thank them all for the support, welfare and safeguarding they have given to all youth players within their groups. Without them giving up their time, these children wouldn't have football to enjoy.

I look forward to football starting again soon and I am looking forward to being able to support the club as in previous years. Angela confirmed that Dave Prouse is able to continue as DBS officer. Pete thanked Angela for her continued hard work and for dealing with several difficult situations over recent seasons.

- **Sandymere Blues.** Separate AGM to be organized between Stuart and Pete

#### **Additional optional reports:**

- **astro hire:** Everything now booked up except for a few 9 – 10 pm slots
- **grounds maintenance.** Alan continues to work on the 3-year plan and is now at the end of the first year. The grant Alan obtained for all the work has been amazing, allowing for such a big improvement in playing surfaces. The bottom pitch will need deep slitting again next year – this is helping a lot with drainage. (the fact that on one recent weekend only two matches were played in the adult league, one of which was at Sandymere is a clear indication of how the surface has improved) Pete Yarde commented that there had been a lot of praise from other teams about the excellent condition of the pitches. Alan has now completed, and passed, the Level 2 Groundman Course.
- **Website.** Terri Doodson is looking after the club website and Facebook page and was thanked for what she does for the club.
- **Tournament.** -did not take place due to COVID
- **Procurement.** Gail has been doing a grand job and is working really well with Jan and Linda and communicating regularly with coaches.

#### **Proposals to the committee:**

- Membership fees be held at £55 (for second child, £35). The proposal is that this will increase to £60 next season (proposed at committee meeting) **agreed** with proviso that situation may need to be monitored in light of COVID

**Constitution changes:** No changes proposed

#### **Election of Officers:**

- Chair: Kat
- Vice Chair: Alan Mckenzie
- Treasurer: Jan Snookes
- Secretary: Pete Evans
- Welfare officer(s): Angela Colley
- Membership Secretary: Linda Dark

The above was proposed en bloc by PY seconded by PM and agreed unanimously

Note that our constitution says that no single person should hold more than two of the above posts

#### **Appointment of additional Officers (can be appointed rather than elected):**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respect coordinator: Pete Evans</li><li>• Charter Standard Officer: Pete Evans</li><li>• Astro hire: Pete Yarde</li><li>• Hiring of facilities officer(s): Pete Evans to oversee</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteer coordinator:</li><li>• Assistant Secretary: Stuart Corbett (to confirm)</li></ul> |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General communications (website and Facebook): Teri Doodson</li> <li>• CRB Officer: Dave prouse</li> <li>• Ground/maintenance. Alan Mckenzie. Assistant: Adam Eley</li> <li>• Procurement: Gail Richards</li> <li>• Minute Secretary: Pat Mckenzie</li> <li>• Fund raising: Pat Mckenzie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coach coordinator(s): Jamie Sayer with possible help from another coach or committee member (3 coach meetings per year to be a priority*)</li> <li>• Coaching development officer: Jamie Sayer</li> <li>• Park Utd rep to committee: Adam Eley</li> <li>• Sandymere Blues FC rep to committee: Stuart Corbett</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date of meeting for new committee:</b> Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• <b>Presentations: for those leaving after being involved for three years or more.</b> Pete will move this forward but presentations may need to be without an audience of more than one or two.</li> <li>• <b>Any Other Business:</b> There was a long discussion around the quotes for astro repairs. It was decided to wait until at least three quotes were in before making any final decision.</li> </ul>	

**Date of next committee meeting:** : Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 for 7.15 via Zoom

\* Kat, as new Chair, would like to be involved initially with coaches meetings, giving her a chance to meet the coaches.