



# West Ham United Supporters' Club

## 2022 Annual General Meeting – Held via a Teams Call

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7:00pm* | Meeting called to order by Andy Read (Acting Chair)(AR)

### In Attendance

28 members including 3 Committee members were present by 7:05pm to allow the meeting to commence.

Committee present: Chair - AR, Treasurer Colin James (CJ), Social & Events Paul Christmas (PC)

The meeting agenda was shared by the Chair on the Teams call.

### 1. Welcome from the Acting Chair (AR)

AR opened the meeting by welcoming all the members present and thanked them for their attendance.

### 2. Apologies for absence (AR)

4 received: Donna Heuerman, Andy Castle, David Broad and Kim Perryman

### 3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2021 AGM (AR)

The accounts had previously been circulated by email to members and online voting had been available with the adoption of the minutes being passed:

Proposer: Andy Read    Seconder: Colin James

In favour of adoption: 30

Not in favour of adoption: 3

Abstentions: 1

### 4. Acting Chair's Report (AR)

AR said that the first season after the pandemic has been a difficult but good one for the Supporters' Club (SC). Taking over the whole of the Last Drop was a big step to take but the SC had gone from strength to strength in terms of membership numbers. After rolling over memberships twice due to the pandemic the SC hit 1500 members in total and had just had a great renewal rate considering this fact with around 1000 already having renewed.

AR said the Committee had decided to stop accepting memberships earlier this year as attendances were starting to hit capacity more often and the SC had built up quite a substantial waiting list showing the enthusiasm for the matchday bar. AR said the SC now had over 250 new members for the 2022/23 season, many of whom were regular guests of members.

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## 5. Treasurer's Report & Adoption of the accounts (CJ)

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CJ said that the accounts had been made available to all members in advance of the meeting and he had not received any questions by email.

The accounts had previously been circulated by email to members and online voting had been available with the adoption of the accounts being passed:

Proposer: Andy Read    Seconder: Paul Christmas

In favour of adoption: 30

Not in favour of adoption: 3

Abstentions: 1

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## 6. Matters Arising (AR & PC)

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Matters arising were as follows:

### 6.1 Castle Street Clubhouse

AR said as CJ mentioned in his Treasurer's report, we finally sublet our old Clubhouse in Castle Street to UK Fitness Ltd in June 2021 who took on the massive refurbishment project and finally opened up early this year. In return for agreeing to vary the use of the building from a social club to other types of trade the SC had to agree a rent sharing arrangement with London Borough of Newham.

However, AR said having achieved the suggested market rate for the building, the SC is now in a position where it will have a quarterly income stream (subject to tax) to help fund other costs like the matchday bar.

### 6.2 Matchday Bar

AR said as most on the call were probably aware, the arrangement with the Last Drop relies on the SC hitting bar spend targets. Whilst the SC usually exceeded the targets for midweek matches especially the European games, the SC struggled to hit the weekend targets due to the number of games that were moved to Sundays. The venue only started to charge the SC for shortfalls from Boxing day onwards and the total paid out was around £22.5k of which £9k related to Boxing day and the FA cup 3<sup>rd</sup> round match v Leeds.

AR said the SC had other costs involved with getting new cabling to allow Sky to be shown upstairs on the big screen but the installation of Sky has been well received. The SC managed to negotiate a discounted rate of £770 pcm with Sky which is considerably less than they originally quoted for a venue of that size. Although it is expensive when compared to how much the SC has been able to use it, the Committee believed it is a key offering to encourage members to go to the bar before or after the West Ham match to watch a live TV game.

AR said that the Committee have tried to get the venue to make various improvements to the matchday experience but have often hit a brick wall or been promised something which has then never materialised.

Despite the occasional dissatisfied member, the general feedback has been that members enjoy what the Committee has tried to do at The Last Drop but realised that the Committee's hands are tied on most aspects of how the bar operates.

AR said the venue was about to undergo a change of operator which the SC had only just been advised about in the last week but the SC had had initial discussions with them and they are keen to work with the SC and to provide a better level of service in The Last Drop alongside plans they have for the other parts of that area that

they now have responsibility for such as the Orbit next door. The Committee were hoping to hear more from them this week.

### 6.3 WHU Independent Supporters' Committee

PC gave an update on his involvement with the Independent Supporters' Committee.

PC reminded members that they could send him comments, suggestions, questions etc and he would take them forward to the ISC meetings.

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## 7. Election Of Officers

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2 Committee members had to stand for re-election but there had been no other nominations for the roles currently occupied or any of the vacant roles.

Secretary – Donna Heuerman – Proposer Andy Read – Seconder Paul Christmas – elected unopposed

Treasurer – Colin James - Proposer Andy Read – Seconder Paul Christmas – elected unopposed

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## 8. Meeting Closure

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AR said that the Committee was aware that the SC had suffered the sad loss of a number of members or past officers of the Supporters' Club since the last AGM and we just wanted to pass on our condolences to all members who have lost loved ones recently.

AR mentioned some that the Committee had been informed about were Fred Ansell, Colin Milne and Martin "Chas" Chandler. PC made some comment on Fred Ansell's involvement with the SC and AR commented on his memories of Chas Chandler.

AR thanked everyone for attending the AGM and said the Committee looked forward to seeing everyone at The Last Drop on 7<sup>th</sup> August for the start of another season!

Meeting closed.