

# KINGSTONIAN FC SUPPORTERS CLUB AGM 2019 - MINUTES

Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 7.30pm, King George's Field Bar

**Manager's Address** Unfortunately postponed, with many apologies from Hayden Bird who could not attend the meeting as he has had to deal with work emergencies due to Thomas Cook collapse.

1. **Apologies for absence** Geoff Austin, Lawrence Cooley, John & Stella Fenwick, Hayden Bird, Vicky Jones, Alan Leeds, Yioryos Vasilaras, Tina Belfiore-Vasilaras, Robert Wooldridge, Geoff & Maria Yorke. **Attendance 30.**

## 2. 2018 Minutes and Matters arising

**R Webster**

The minutes were passed, with 1 amendment: Peter C had incorrectly been noted as suggesting 2 items - to correct to Peter West.

1.	Publicity	ALL taking posters, fixture cards, provide to local shops;	Ongoing
2.	Publicity	ANY to either contact local cab companies or advise John Bangs/Tim Wells	Ongoing
3.	Publicity	As above	Ongoing
4.	Publicity	Match reports, information and photos are shared	Ongoing
5.	Marketing	Beer Mats – going ahead thanks to all	Ongoing
6.	Coaches	SC committee advised Rakat to continue with a 5pm return time, & no need for a second pickup point.	Noted & complete
7.	Coaches	Season ticket for coach travel - Investigated – not viable at present	Noted & complete
8.	Accessibility	Any issues & ideas, contact Margaret McCormack or email Supporters@kingstonian.com	Noted & complete
9.	Flags	Flags at King George's Field - going ahead with John McCormack	see Agenda point 8

## 3. Chairman's report

**R Webster**

Richard noted that a number of ideas from last year's AGM have been successfully implemented including closer Community and Youth ties (Kingstonian Ted is very popular with the children), and especially the beermat advertising. Particular thanks to John Bangs, Johnny McCormack and Tim Wells for these. Many thanks to Alan Leeds & Vicky Jones for very successful quiz nights, to Lawrence Cooley for a number of kind donations, to Alison and Sandra working hard in the club shop and Rosey for player sponsorships, stock & online shop including delivery. Many thanks to everyone selling matchday & 50-50 tickets and manning the bucket collections at our matches. Many thanks to Robert Wooldridge and Gary Ekins for website improvements and managing the requirements imposed by the League to accommodate restrictions on the new league sponsors.

Despite the small number of walkers (due to illness etc) on last year's Sponsored Walk, an amazing £1000 was raised for our three charities. This season we will be walking again, probably 11 April.

A Race Night has been confirmed for Friday 1 November in King George's Field bar, and tickets and horse sponsorship will shortly be on sale.

Richard advises that John Bangs has been elected as Deputy Chair.

## 4. Membership update

**R Wooldridge**

Membership as of 26.09.19 is 77, with 7 life members, 28 adult, 40 concessions, 2 U18s: 68 repeat from last year. Thanks to all.

## 5. Treasurer's report

**J Howarth**

The balance as of May 2018 was £6375.78. Income included player sponsorships, donations from Lawrence, £3366.70 from the Club shop; sundry income included £168 in unclaimed 50-50 and Golden Goal prizes, and £129 from Easyfundraising.com. Rosey noted this is free money for our club, costing nothing to the individual, and recommended more people join up.

Expenses included sponsorship of matchday balls for the season, sponsorship of 3 home games, and the cost of room booking for last year's AGM. We are pleased to be holding this meeting here in King George's field bar instead.

Adoption of Accounts was agreed by all; a vote of thanks for John Howarth's attention to detail on the figures. Comment to notes that a profit of £1900 for the year is impressive.

## 6. Amendment to Constitution

**R Wooldridge**

List of proposed changes was read out and had been sent to current members in advance: no questions or objections. The meeting accepted the changes unanimously, by show of hands.

## 7. Committee

**R Webster**

The Meeting agreed to retain current committee for the year 2019/20. Secunder: Alan Dean. Richard Webster, John Howarth, Rosey Wooldridge, Margaret McCormack, John McCormack, John Bangs, Graham Heywood, Tim Wells.

## 8. Activities for 2019/20

J Bangs/J McCormack

Fundraising, Marketing, Sponsorships, Fun Days, charity

We have been forging stronger relations with the local community, including a stall at the New Malden day (where we met the Mayor), and sponsoring other Kingstonian teams including Kingston MIND team and buying overcoats for one of our Youth teams; the introduction of Kingstonian Ted has been a popular one with many people.

Flags – we have agreement from groundsman for 6 flags, and Johnny McCormack has several designs to select 2-3 from; we will also purchase reuseable hand flags to be used at the ground, in one of these designs.

Match posters are available and need to be made more obvious online and at games. Hayden Bird has previously mentioned his wish to add more K's colour to the ground, and while we cannot permanently paint or 'Kingstonian-ise' the ground, we will be purchasing flags and invite fans to drape scarves, and cheer more positively.

Rosey asked fans to reduce the impact of a small minority of Kingstonian people who are loudly and continuously negative, shouting criticism through the game. This not only demoralises players and other fans, but creates a bad impression for newcomers and opposition. Although paying fans do have the right to voice opinions, Ali agreed that relentless catcalls and abuse of our own players for the whole game cannot possibly encourage new players or fans to stay and is just counter-productive. Suggestions include drowning them out with more positive calls and addressing the individuals. A reminder that these are not interim players, but have been brought in to stay, and they wouldn't want to if a section of the crowd is permanently barracking them and saying they are useless. The meeting is advised that shouting about a poor move or pass is fair, but it is not acceptable to repetitively jeer that a player or the whole team is completely useless.

## 9. Motion

Peter West

"Kingstonian Supporters Club is disappointed that the Isthmian League has chosen to accept sponsorship and naming-rights to its competition from an online betting company and, in view of the mental suffering and poverty that such betting can cause, urges the league to re-consider its decision by withdrawing from the sponsorship arrangement at the earliest possible opportunity".

Thoughts include:

- A quotation from the Director of Gamble Aware, who regard gambling as a public health issue.
- A number of clubs and boards including our own directors, have already made it clear they are not pleased with this new sponsorship; what action can we hope the league would make, is it futile to contact them?
- The Isthmian league has produced a large number of new instructions and requirements to mitigate the influence of the sponsor – showing they have issues with it; can we hope they will not extend the contract?
- The club website, programme and paperwork refer to the Isthmian League, and the sponsor appears in small print on the programme.
- Features such as 24/7 availability make it potentially more addictive and harder to recover from than gambling at a casino or betting shop. The internet also has made gambling accessible to minors who typically would be barred as under age at a physical betting establishment.
- The meeting is not against all kinds of gambling, but disapproves of the closer links being forged with this kind of company with their unrestricted 24hr betting. This can be a real danger for the vulnerable and could be compared to placing a 24hr bar in an alcoholic's lounge.

**The motion was passed with 29 in agreement, 1 abstention. Supporters Club Committee to contact Isthmian League on behalf of the Supporters Club.**

## 10. Any Other Business

Suggestion for media link to Surbiton newspaper 'The Good Life'; send reports to Surrey Comet if applicable.

Concern around lack of supervision at the bouncy castle at the last family fun day, Rosey to investigate.

If Kingstonian draw in FA Cup requiring away midweek replay, can SC arrange coach travel? Normally SC does not provide midweek travel but we will ask for a quote from Rakat and any other company, and also ask Hayden regarding the players' coach.

### Matters Arising including Updates since the meeting:

1.	Potential Away travel for FA Cup	If we draw the next round(s) of the FA Cup we would need to travel for a midweek evening replay; can the SC run a minibus or can we get any space on Players' coach?	<b>Hayden agreed in principle to allow 4-5 supporters onto the players' coach; Travel Liaison advised it is too far to be comfortable by RAKAT minibus</b>
2.	Flags	Flags at King George's Field - designs to be chosen	<b>Feedback and further designs received by John McCormack; to select 3 designs on flag posts, one for hand flags.</b>
3.	Isthmian Sponsor	Motion passed, to advise League of SC discontent with current League sponsor.	<b>SC Committee letter complete</b>
4.	Bouncy castle issue	During Family day 2018/9, Bouncy castle was unmanned at times, this is not safe. SC to investigate and complain,	<b>Rosey to report this concern to the company via Yioryos</b>