



Notes of the NFFC Supporters Club Meeting

Dransfield Stadium Boardroom

Sunday 16th March 2025, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Attending: Tom Rickwood (mins), Brian Sugarman, Bob Rawding, Joan Butler, Brian Butler, Matthew Kempson, Martin Wood, Steve Dale, Jason Stevens-Read, Rod Chambers, Mark Leighton, Jill Thornton, Anthony Wood (via WhatsApp), Mike Birney, Lyndon Tebb, Beth Tyler, Oliver Fellows.

1. Apologies

See below.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves: Mark Leighton (Chairman), Tom Rickwood (Secretary), Rod Chambers (Committee member), Jason Stevens-Read (Vice-Chairman), and Steve Dale (Treasurer). Tom Rickwood gave apologies for James Chestney.

3. Last Minutes of 27.10.24

The minutes were agreed and signed off at the meeting.

4. Membership Update

4.1 Honorary Members

There are currently 8 Honorary members:

- Mike Birney
- Joan Butler
- Mike Dixon
- Gill Hare
- Les Hare
- Barry Johnson
- Clare Russell
- Anthony Wood

4.2 Member Pack 2025-26

Tom Rickwood highlighted the benefits of the Supporters Club being able to provide longer-term support for the football club over a three-year period, enabling greater financial commitment, support and sponsorship. Tom said this is allied with seeking to avoid the resource and time involved in the current annual renewal process.

Having a medium-term package in place will provide a combination of greater budget provision for supporters to decide on football club sponsorship and support, along with offering adult members a discount with a longer period of commitment.

The proposal is to introduce the following rates, which gained support at the meeting, and which will be raised at the next AGM:

- Adult 1 year - £10
- Adult 3 years - £25
- Under 18 single year - £5 (no change)
- Under 18 3 years - £15

The proposed 1 – 3 year adult rate gives members a 17% discount on the third year extended period. The meeting felt that the Under 18 rate of £5 remains reasonable considering the current benefits of membership and it was proposed that no change be made.

5. Communications/Social Media

Based on feedback from Supporters Club members at the meeting, and from previous feedback received from members, it was agreed that WhatsApp will remain as a 'push' format. Facebook and X will continue in their current form and consideration will be given leading up to the next AGM to setting up a Supporters Club Instagram account. Discussion ensued regarding seeking to increase the followers for each site, which might be helped by the football club sharing posts.

6. Bank Balance

The current bank balance is £3k, after the Supporters Club has also provided more than £3k funding for the football club in the current 2024-25 season, as follows:

- £1,500 Pitch maintenance hardware and maintenance
- £ 500 Sponsorship of matchday Programme and team sheet
- £ 300 Sponsorship of FA Trophy Reunion Programme
- £ 500 Sponsorship of end of season awards event
- £ 120 Sponsorship of Chris Bolder
- £ 120 Sponsorship of match ball (Villagers v Brighouse)
- £ 50 2024 Christmas prize draw gifts

An additional request for funding for pitch drainage materials and services was raised and the meeting felt this needs more consideration. Members felt it was important that any funding for football club sponsorship projects preferably includes clear visibility of the Supporters Club branding to note the support. Discussion continued, including views on support for the football club's capital and revenue needs.

7. Events and Fund-Raising – Update

Tom Rickwood provided an update on the range of Supporters Club activities this season to date:

7.1 League Ladders (August) – tickets sold at the start of the season with top, middle and bottom teams in the EFL and NPL confirmed at the end of the season in May.

7.2 Fans Forum (October 2024) – Thanks to Chris Bolder, Paul Robson and Nick Quantrill.

7.3 Evening with the Skippers (January 2025) – Thanks to Ebony Hepworth, Niall Tilsley and Nick Quantrill.

7.4 Sponsored Walk (February 2025) - Thanks to Tom Rickwood for arranging the walking and sincere thanks to everyone who donated to raise over £700

7.5 Quiz Night (February 2025) – 10 teams competing for the quizzers of the year. Thanks to the teams who donated their winnings (total £40) to the Supporters Club

7.6 Goals and Shutouts (Gasol) – thanks to Mike Birney for collecting the Gasol amounts. To date, Mike has collected over £500 this season. Thanks to all who have contributed.

7.7 Grand National Sweepstake (April 2025) – all 34 horses have been sold, and the race takes place on 5 April.

8. Away Coach Travel

All seats were booked on eight of the ten scheduled coaches to away games. From the two remaining coaches to Newton Aycliffe and Heaton Stannington, there is only one seat remaining for Heaton Stannington. Thanks to all who have supported the club's away coach journeys.

9. Matchday Resources

9.1 Litter Collection

Tom Rickwood thanks all supporters who work so hard after each home game and said the list of names will be reviewed in preparation for the season 2025-26.

9.2 Sales Raffle Tickets (volunteers required)

Mark Leighton said raffle ticket sales continue to generate important revenue for the football club and thanked all who had sold the tickets at home games. The list of sellers will be reviewed in preparation for season 2025-26.

10. Football Club Activities/Events

10.1 New Comedy Night - this was a successful evening, arranged for the NFFC men's 50's football team and thanks to the Supporters Club members who supported the event and helped make it happen.

10.2 FA Trophy 10th anniversary Reunion - Sunday 30th March - This event is taking place on 30 March at the Mercure Hotel and thanks to those who have bought tickets. The Supporters Club will be sponsoring the special Programme produced for the event.

11. Football Supporters Association www.thefsa.org.uk – Update from Matthew Kempson (NFFC SC nominated representative)

Matthew Kempson is the Supporters Club nominated representative with the Football Supporters Association (FSA), which is the national, democratic, representative body for football supporters in England and Wales. The FSA is a leading advocate for supporters from steps 1 – 6 teams and provides a platform for views and empowerment. Matthew raised two specific issues regarding FA Cup replays and due diligence to club ownership. Members were encouraged to contact Matthew for more information on the FSA and to access the FSA website and engage with issues of the day. Further updates will follow as necessary.

Matthew Kempson is also Editor of the VFTAE fanzine and welcomes articles from Club members.

12. Constitution – Annual Elections

There are no immediate changes to the Constitution. However, any necessary amendments will be made after the AGM to reflect alterations to Committee membership following the annual elections.

Tom Rickwood will be requesting nominations for supporters club members who wish to join the Committee between 1 April – 30 April. Nominations will then be considered prior to the AGM in May.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 - Turnstile Duty – Supporters Club to consider if it can assist with turnstile duty at peak times. It will be key to establish which supporters would be prepared to do this.

13.2 Welcome Pack - Club Membership

Various suggestions for the Welcome Pack, including keyrings, writing sets and car stickers. Rod Chambers suggested including packets of seeds, which was received positively, and will forward links to suppliers. All items will be considered however, the key point is to minimise cost. Jill Thornton suggested including two vouchers per pack to be presented for discounts on purchases.

13.3 Pitch Squares

Tom Rickwood said the Pitch Squares have raised £1k in season 2024-25, and current sponsors will be contacted to ask if they intend to renew sponsorship for the new season.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting – May 2025 (date to be confirmed)

Apologies

Christine Henderson-Begg
Neil Henderson-Begg
Susan Stevens-Read
David Jones
James Chestney
Steve Himsworth
Dave Galloway
Simon Lunt
Neil Halder
Wendy Leighton
Tony King
Jeff Gill
Charlotte Rickwood
Mike Clemson
Lindi Brown
Bob Hare
Les Hare
Gill Hare
David Neal
Lee Walker
Kenneth Hare
Paul Sleight
Paul Bowes
Devon Bowes
Gary Hammond
Michael Betts

David Worrell
James Worrell
David Lovell
Nick Quantrill
Darren Norton
Clive Musson
Glenn Smith
Adam Rickwood
Andrew Tyler
Aaron Coneyworth
Paul Johnson
Henry Smallpeice
Geoffrey Smallpeice
Ian Puckering
Mike Tyler
Neil Baxter
Matthew Baxter
Geoff Golliker
Colin Daniel
Dave Plowright
Alan Daniels
Kayden Wells
Phineas Anthony Hoffman
John Wheatcroft
Julian Wild
Paul Herrieven
Toby Herrieven
Rafa Gomez
Robert Frost
Tim Emmerson
Martyn Russell