**Official Accrington Stanley Supporters Trust**

**Annual General Meeting - Minutes**

**Held** - Thursday 15th December 2022 at Coley’s, Accrington Stanley Football Club.

**Attendees** – Peter Warburton(chair) Peter J Leatham, Ken Jefferson, Mike Procter, Joshua Adcroft, Mark Lonsdale, Dean Lonsdale, Stephen Davies, David Young, David Barnett, Malcolm Isherwood, Andy Buckel, Jill Macintosh, Sue Wiseman, Tom Parish, Charlie Parish, Jodie Boast, Lindon Boast, Kevin Westell, Dorothy Westell, Yvonne Grimshaw, Yvonne Wilson, Donna Lorrotti, Robert Houseman, Kerry Houseman, Rob Russell, Mark Webster, Andrew Warburton, Andrew Trotter, Lindsey Trotter, Adam Scarborough, Dylan Cockshott, Adam Houlden, Julie Houlden, Matthew Tattersall, Alex Crook, Eugene Carroll, Brian Tattersall, Mark Kearns, Steve Sharpe, Joy Procter, Elliot Prestage, Alecia Holt, David Barwick, W Shuttleworth, John Bryan, E Riley.

Apologies – Debra Phillips, Dorothy Vernon, Jason Graham

**Introduction**

PW opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and stating the agenda.

There were no matters arising from last years AGM

**Chairman’s Report**

It was good to return to a state of relative “normality” after the Covid ravaged period of the last 12 months. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces returning to the Wham Stadium for their fortnightly dose of Stanley time and the Trust was able to resume many of its regular activities.

For the first time in living memory we were able to provide our official away travel coaches to every fixture in the season and we are extremely indebted to Ken & Adam, our travel team, for both organising and stewarding the coaches.

To their eternal credit we actually managed to return to Accrington with the same number of passengers that we started with. This role should not be underestimated as we try to cater, within the regulations imposed by Lancashire Police, to a varied fanbase, both young and old, who perhaps have slightly different perceptions of a “good” away day.

As the travel provider we have to adhere to the coach companies’ rules and also act as a responsible body which occasionally does present its challenges and it’s something we will continue to monitor in the future. We know the increasing financial pressures on our fan base and will continue to operate as competitively priced as possible even when faced with increasing supplier costs.

Our standard matchday activities continued on the Fanzone and, in the later stages of the season, in the new Coley’s bar, with match badges again selling well and it’s always a popular place for membership renewals on matchdays.

The annual end of season presentation dinner returned from being mothballed the previous season and was resplendent in its new home in the 1968 lounge. It provides a significant part of our annual incomes and we can usually make a good profit from the donated auction items and the other fundraising games on the night.

Another event to return was the annual golf day, once again staged at the excellent Accrington Golf Club and we were rewarded with not only bright sunshine but also a record entry in terms of teams.

Once again all enjoyed a good afternoons golf in the company of a member of the 1st team squad or team management and another few £’s was added into the coffers.

The memorial garden has continued to flourish, not only the trees and plants, but with the addition of many more fitting tributes to Stanley fans who have unfortunately passed. It’s a popular place for family members to visit, at any time, to spend a quiet few minutes reflection.

Our Supporters Trust Chaplain, Debra Phillips, conducted a wonderful Remembrance Day service on the garden, which was well attended by nearly 100 guests and this will be an annual event on our calendar and it was tremendous to see the garden being used for exactly the purpose for which it was designed.

I must thank the hardy souls who completed the annual Jack Barrett memorial walk on a soaking Saturday in October. It was a tremendous effort with one group walking, and running, from Rochdale FC and a second group following the canal back from Ewood Park to the Wham Stadium. As a result, we were pleased to present Hyndburn Baby Bank with a cheque to help their good works. We also were able to help the local Oswaldtwistle Scout group by delivering their annual plant sale leaflets through the area.

The relationship with our football club continued to flourish with regular Memorandum of Understanding meetings taking place and plenty of positives for both sides to work on. We have been able to support a number of projects in the period with a new defibrillator now sited in the

public area of the stadium, GPS vests have been supplied to assist the coaching staff in their player analysis. We were pleased to support the efforts of pitch supremo, Ben Kay, with some lighting rigs

to promote grass growth when and where required

All our stewards, who work tirelessly to keep supporters safe on matchdays, now sport new hi-viz vests sponsored by the trust and we were also pleased to replace their outdated radio system with a brand-new set of handsets.

As the new changing rooms were being constructed, we were asked if we could finance the purchase of a hydrotherapy pool to assist player recovery times and this has now been installed in the new building.

We hope to start a couple of new initiatives around inclusivity of supporters with Out Stanley Out now in place on our website and representing all LGBTQI fans in their fight for equality within the game. We have also had board member Jodie Boast accepted as our ambassador for the HerGameToo campaign which strives to eradicate sexism in our game. The trust and the club are both wholly supportive of both campaigns and we have dedicated pin badges to support both and also support local relevant charities.

All of this has resulted in a busy year and thanks must go to all our board members and other volunteers who give freely of their time to ensure we can continue to be the best we can for our membership and supporters. There are many a club who are envious of what we have at Accrington Stanley, both in terms of a clear community centric identity and a club that strives to maintain an excellent relationship with supporters, both our own and our visitors who contribute to help drive the club towards financial sustainability.

We will continue to do all we can as a trust to realise this ambition and give the borough a club, and the support, it deserves.

Peter J Leatham

Chairman

**Treasurers Report – provided by Joshua Adcroft**

Overall turnover increased significantly from £67.2k in 20/21 to £91.7k in the past year, this is nearly wholly attributable to the return of the away coach travel which saw a t/o of £26.6k last season.

Both membership and Club 1968 showed a small decline year on year, however we had the annual presentation dinner and Golf day profitably contributing to the figures in 21/22.

The two significant donations we received in 19/20 were indeed exceptional and the Xmas draw was also slightly down in this year’s performance. The match badge income returned along with the fans and they will general give us a decent margin over the season, the re-opening of the shop saw sales of donated Wham products return which is all positive on our bottom line.

*Vote accept the prepared account summary was proposed by S Davies and seconded by Dean Lonsdale and passed unanimously.*

**Board Election**

PW explained that in line with FSA/ FCA best practices 25% of the board members will need to resign at tonight’s meeting, Darren Woodhead resigned in year and the board had co-opted Jodie Boast and Robert Houseman also in year

The three members resigning are Peter Warburton, Ken Jefferson & Jason Graham all of whom are seeking re-election.

On behalf of myself and all other members I would like to thank Darren for all his hard work on the board.

The proposal is, as we have the full complement of board members and no further applications, that we accept “en masse” the board plus the two in year co-opted members.

Proposed by Peter Warburton, seconded by David Barnett, all attendees voted in favour unanimously.

**Audit Requirements**

*Vote to absolve the requirement for the accounts to be formally audited, in line with rules 83.3 and 83.4 an independent 3rd party examination is proposed.*

PW explained it was the boards intention to absolve the requirement for the accounts to be formally audited, in line with rules 83.3 and 83.4 and an independent 3rd party examination is proposed.

PW confirmed that David Wilson, managing partner of Hindle Jepson & Jennings Chartered Accountants will carry out the independent examination as in previous years.

A question was raised on how the independent examination would take place, PW replied by explaining that the Trust accounts were now all administered on computer software (Quickbooks) and that Hindle Jepson and Jennings had full access to the computerised accounts.

Proposed by David Young, seconded by Alex Crook, all attendees voted in favour unanimously.

**Any Other Business**

The board were delighted to present Jill Macintosh with an honorary lifetime membership in recognition of her service to the trust in a variety of roles.

**Meeting End**

PW thanked everyone for their time and attendance and for supporting the OASST. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.