



NOTICE

CHESTER EXILES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

To be held on Thursday 24 July, at The Jugged Hare,
172 Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1DX, starting at 7.30pm.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report (Pauline Meakins)
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report (Ian Riley)
6. Secretary / Membership report (Steve Mansley)
7. Committee reports:
 - 7a. Press and Sponsorship (Sue Choularton)
 - 7b. Darts (Rick Goby)
8. Election of officers
9. Any other business

MINUTES OF THE CHESTER EXILES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

Held on 25 July, at The Parcel Yard, King's Cross Station, London N1C 4AH, starting 6.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from: Ian Riley, Tony Arnold, Robin Hanford, Peter Oldroyd and Janet Harris.

In attendance (those who signed the attendance sheet): Steve Mansley, Rick Goby, Robert Evans, John Newsome, Toby Rosenbloom, Alan Parry-Jones, Tim Hillyer, Philip Lewis, Glyn Evans, Howard Jolley, Richard Hanford, David Evans, Pauline Meakins, Marilyn Jones, Peter Jones, Sue Choularton, Richard Mahony, Adrian Lee, Peter Clifford, Jonathan Legard.

2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were passed as a true record and were proposed by Peter Jones, seconded by Sue Choularton. The accounts were proposed by Alan Parry-Jones and seconded by David Evans.

3. Matters Arising

There were no specific matters arising.

4. Chester Exiles' Chair's Report – Season 2012/13

It has been a great honour to be Chairman of the Chester Exiles as the club achieved its third successive Championship in a row since it reformed in 2010. On behalf of the Chester Exiles, Committee and members, I would like to congratulate Neil Young and his backroom staff, Tony Durkin and the Board of CFU and everyone connected to the club for this phenomenal success. It has been a great pleasure to be a fan of Chester FC.

Season 2012/13 was also a milestone for the Chester Exiles as we officially became part of CFU but still retaining the responsibility for liaising with all CFU members outside of Cheshire and Flintshire. This has been greatly helped by David Evans who continued to serve on the Main Board of CFU and kept the Exiles Committee and members abreast of CFU activities and plans. I would like to thank David for all his hard work and commitment.

Our sponsorship of the BluesLive home match broadcasts ended this season when subscription charges were introduced. However, the excellent BluesLive broadcasts have been much appreciated by exiled members worldwide.

We continued to sponsor Marc Williams' home shirt and it was great to hear 'sponsored by the Chester Exiles' every time he scored. We were disappointed his appearances were limited but we were delighted that he was re-signed by Neil Young this season and we look forward to more goals from Marc next season.

We also purchased a number of season tickets to make a few tickets available to Exiles' members for 'all ticket' matches. This was not as successful as we hoped as we wanted to donate these season tickets to underprivileged junior fans who may not have been able to get to matches but it proved difficult to allocate the tickets.

As a Committee we have continued to meet during the year but it has been difficult to build up the exiled membership and raise funds with most of the 2012/13 fixtures being in the north of the country. Also, we had serious problems in using the members' database to communicate with our members. We are grateful for the assistance from one of our northern based exiles, Chris Hughes, to get these problems sorted out so we look forward to communicating with our members more effectively next season.

I would like to thank all the members of our Exiles Committee for all their hard work and commitment during this transition period. I would like give particular thanks to Rick Goby who kept the darts team going despite many challenges in raising a team during the season.

I would also like to thank Dean Taylor for raising our profile with some excellent newsletters but we are now looking for another newsletter editor and it is hoped that we can fill this vacancy at this meeting.

We are now entering the most exciting season in our recent history and renewing battles with old adversaries. It will be an emotional day for Chester fans as the team runs out at Barnet on 10th August but we are acutely aware that this is also going to be our most difficult season to date. As fans running our own club, we now have to pull together more than ever and I look forward to the Chester Exiles playing their part in keeping the Chester FC dream alive!

Thank you everyone for all your support.

Pauline Meakins, Chester Exiles, Chair, 25th July 2013

5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report – Period Ending 31 May 2013

You will notice that the accounting period end has changed from 30th June to 31st May this year. This is to align our year end with the football clubs year end. As we are now part of CFU, our income and expenses form part of the main football club accounts so it seemed sensible to have the same year end. These accounts therefore cover the 11 months from 1st July 2012 to 31st May 2013.

You'll see that expenditure has exceeded income by £243 which is easily met by balances brought forward from previous years. The income includes £580, representing the £1 levy on CFU members living outside of Chester. An invoice was sent to the Football club in April for this amount but this amount has not as yet been received so it shows as a debtor in the balance sheet. Sponsorship of the football club last year amounted to £600 for 20 junior season tickets and £132 paid for the signage to accompany the refurbished Supporters Club stone.

Sorry I can't be present, but if anyone has any queries please let me know and I will endeavour to answer them.

Ian Riley, Chester Exiles Treasurer, 25 July 2013

Chester Exiles

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st May 2013

2012 Expenditure		2013	2012 Income		2013
(£15.00)	A.P.F.S.C.I.L	£15.00	(£0.00)	CFU Exiles levy	£580.00
(£0.00)	Purchase of Badges	-	(£177.00)	Donations	£164.00
(£145.00)	Prediction Competition Prizes	-	(£145.00)	Prediction Competition	
(£191.50)	Grenville Millington function	-	(£40.00)	Prediction Competition prize unclaimed	
(£40.76)	Printing Stationery & Postage	-	(£21.04)	Bank Interest	£19.04
(-)	AGM Buffet	£119.25			
(£150.00)	Football club sponsorship (20 Junior Season Tickets)	£600.00			
(-)	Flags	£140.00			
(-)	Signage for Supporters Club Stone	£132.00			
(£542.26)		£1,006.25			
(£159.22)	Excess expenditure over income	-£243.21			
(£383.04)		£763.04	(£383.04)		£763.04

Balance Sheet @ 31st May 2013

2012 Liabilities		2013	2012 Assets		2013
(£145.00)	Owed for 2011/12 Prediction comp prizes	£0.00	(£84.70)	Cash	£84.70
(£5,337.47)	Accumulated Excess @ 30/6/12	£5,178.25	(£672.16)	Bank	£284.91
(£159.22)	Less loss for year	£243.21	(£4,566.39)	Standard Life Bank	£3,985.43
		£4,935.04	(-)	Owed for CFU levy	£580.00
(£5,323.25)		£4,935.04	(£5,323.25)		£4,935.04

Prepared by: Ian Riley (Treasurer)

6. Secretary's Report – Season 2012/13

Formed back in November 1983 (as the Southern Supporters) the Exiles celebrate their 30th anniversary in four months time. During those 30 years we've seen many highs and lows both on and off the pitch before a series of well documented events saw Chester City finally being wound up on 10 March 2010.

Since that dramatic day in the High Court, the formation of a new community fan-owned club and a third successive championship, has seen Chester make a swift return to the Football Conference, the league they were expelled from, and the unprecedented success of Chester FC has brought well deserved national acclaim. The profile of the club is as high now as it has been since our formation back in 1983 – when we were 92nd in the League!

The return to a 'national league' brings with it more opportunities for exiled supporters all over the county to see the Blues play at a ground closer to home. With this in mind the setting up of regional hubs, to help facilitate shared travel etc, something that we started last year, could take on more significance – we have recently had an enquiry from a supporter wishing to set one up around the Leeds area and it is hoped this can get underway soon.

In the CFU database there are 580 Exiles (CFU members outside Cheshire and Flintshire), of which 56 are overseas members. It must be stated that the database we possess is now nearly two years old so we will be hoping to gain access to a more current membership list once the annual CFU membership renewal process is complete – which is anytime now – enabling us to target the membership more accurately.

As mentioned in the Chairs notes, we've experienced problems with using the CFU database to communicate with the membership, but thanks to the help of Chris Hughes it looks like we've finally managed to overcome the mass-mailing problems encountered in the past 12 months.

With the communication lines back on track, we are looking for a volunteer to help carry on the newsletter work that was undertaken by Dean Taylor over the last year. Whether the newsletter is in the form of a PDF attachment or an html email (my personal preference) may be dependent on the CFU mailing system restraints.

The committee met formally on four occasions during the year, with non-urgent issues being resolved by email exchange or informal meets at matches.

I would like to finish by thanking the rest of the committee for their hard work during the year in particular David who represents our interests on the CFU Board in his role as Exiles Liaison & Communications Officer.

Steve Mansley, Chester Exiles, Secretary, 25th July 2013

DISCUSSION

It was felt that we needed to target more home matches in the coming season for organised travel, either by car share or train with advanced tickets. The main problem with the advanced train tickets is they are non-refundable should any game be postponed or re-arranged at short notice, the onus is also down to one person to purchase a block of these to be reimbursed on the day of the match.

When we receive from CFU the latest database of Exiles it was suggested that we produce a Google map of the locations of all those CFU members outside Cheshire/North Wales this would help with contacting nearby members in an effort to car share to matches should any members wish to get together and help share travel costs.

7a. Press and Publicity Report – Season 2012/13

A number of publicity and sponsorship initiatives during the 2012/13 season have ensured that the Exiles continue to be a high-profile Chester FC fans' group.

We sponsored Marc Williams' home shirt, which not only gave us several mentions in the programme, but a name check each time he scored a home goal.

We also sponsored an information board now in place at the ground, explaining the origins and restoration work done on the original supporters' plaque from the Sealand Road stadium. The information board and the actual plaque have been in place near the ticket office window since May. Pauline Meakins and David Evans represented the Exiles at the official unveiling, which gave us some good publicity.

The Exiles also had publicity in a number of home programmes this season, including my article on my Olympic volunteer experience (Aug 22 v Workington programme); a piece on the Exiles' darts team (Dec 15 v Bishop's Stortford programme); a piece on the new Exiles' banners (Jan 19 v Stalybridge).

We purchased 20 Junior Blues' season tickets, with the intention of the club distributing them on match days and also giving us the right to buy a number of tickets for all-ticket games. The club put out a press release detailing our initiative.

This also gave us a mention on the official website, and other mentions on the site included a preview for today's meeting with Neil Young. I was also interviewed by Dee 106.3 FM about Neil's planned visit to London to meet the Exiles.

We had two new (6ft x 4ft) banners for away games made for us by Chester fan Sean O'Reilly, to replace our worn-out old banner. We also had two, larger banners, made by Sean permanently installed at the ground.

Unfortunately we didn't get out as many editions of our newsletter as we'd have liked, and we'd appreciate anyone who might want to help us on this task next season.

Our Twitter account (@chesterexiles) now has 278 followers, and our Facebook page has 121 likes. We updated these throughout the season, with information about meetings, pre-match pubs, darts results and various other items of news connected with the Exiles.

Thanks to everyone on the Exiles' committee for their continued hard work (much of it behind the scenes) in all we do to support our football club.

Sue Choularton, Chester Exiles Press & Publicity Officer, 25 July 2013

7b. Darts Report – Season 2012/13

Having been promoted to the APSFCIL Division Two last season the Exiles consolidated their newly found status finishing fourth. The new season comprising ten league games will begin at the end of September, all home games will be played at The Square Tavern, 26 Tolmers Street London NW1 2PE (nearest tube Warren Street). The committee expressed their thanks to Rick Goby for his organisation of the darts team.

8. Election of Officers – Season 2013/14

There have been no nominees for election to the committee. The following committee members are therefore up for re-election for the coming season:

Pauline Meakins (chairman), Steve Mansley (secretary), Ian Riley (treasurer), Rick Goby (darts), Sue Choularton (press and publicity), David Evans (special projects), Robert Evans (special projects), Dean Taylor, Marilyn Jones Peter Jones, Steve Musson.

There had been no reply from Steve Musson or Dean Taylor prior to the meeting. All other members were voted back on and both Steve and Dean could be co-opted back at a later date should they wish to rejoin the committee.

Proposed by Peter Clifford and seconded by John Newsome.

9. Any Other Business

There were no items for further discussion and the meeting ended at 7.30pm.

We were then joined by some more CFU members and friends as well as Chester manager Neil Young, along with the Conference North Cup, for an entertaining Questions and Answer evening superbly hosted by Jonathan Legard.