

**Minutes of the Arsenal Disabled Supporters Association AGM**

held on Sunday 6th May 2018 at The Arsenal Hub at 2pm

Present: Anne Hyde AH

 Nicole Evans-Dear NE-D

 Anthony Joy AJ

Robert Greig RG

James Warren JW

Tom Head TH

Redmond Kaye RK

Judith Purdue JP

Jackie Purdue

Tim Hyde

Alun Francis AF (Disability Liaison Officer)

Shelley Evans

Daniel Evans

James Barnes-Miller

Steve Foord

Peter Williams PW

Gordon Moser GW

Steven Gamble

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Item |  |
| 1 | **Welcome and Introduction**  | AJ welcomed everyone to the The Arsenal Hub and introduced the Committee. |
| 2 | **Apologies for Absence** | Allan Mabert Mark Brindle (Supporters, Clubs Liaison Officer)Ozi Kemal (OK) |
| 3 | **Approval of minutes of meeting** | Minutes of the previous meeting (21st May 2017) approved. |
|  | **Matters arising from previous meeting** | None |
| 4 | **Chair’s Report** | AJ welcomed Alan Francis (Disability Liaison Officer) who ADSA has had a positive relationship with throughout the year and thanked both Alan and his team. Thanks went also to Mark Brindle (Supporters, Club Liaison Officer) for support and being a source for advice.AJ explained that more wheelchair spaces had been installed which was a credit to Arsenal and the Club now has excellent facilities including Changing Spaces and a Sensory Room. Overall capacity of the stadium has been reduced but this is being addressed at the end of the season when a new tier will be added in Club Level. This means that there will be no Emirates Cup because of these works.Ticket purchases can now be booked on line and for the first time season tickets could be renewed online. We encourage all members to use this method.ADSA were advised of some individual issues and these have been passed on to the Disability Liaison Team to look into.AJ attended a Stadium Meeting as there were concerns over evacuation procedures. The Stadium Management are looking into better communication for the hearing and visually impaired supporters. AJ had suggested a trial exercise out of season but this has yet to be actioned.ADSA are now full members of Level Playing Field who focus predominately on football.AJ explained that he had been invited onto the Premier League Disability Group which met on the 14th March at Old Trafford. They are looking at having a questionnaire for Away fans where facilities can be rated. More information will be available later this year.Crosby Associates had approached ADSA to offer us a free magazine, similar to the Manchester City magazine but AJ suggested that it is discussed later in the meeting.An ADSA Survey is being looked into to find out what our members would like from the Committee. This will be sent out electronically through SurveyMonkey. A suggestion of having our own merchandise has been raised but we will ask our members through the survey on this.AJ said that for this forthcoming season we have decided not to charge a membership fee but this will be reviewed at the next AGM. |
| 5 | **Secretary’s Report** | AH explained that we were in our 2nd year since the relaunch of ADSA in December 2016. Our membership has grown this season from 188 to 209.AH reported that one of ADSAs members had passed away, Tom Blyles and our thoughts are with his family and friends.AH attended the Level Playing Field Launch of Weeks and Action and gave a speech on how supporters not only from Arsenal but other clubs can attend matches. This is available on YouTube.AH is in the 2nd year of sitting on the Fans Forum and attended two meetings. Tom Head kindly stood in for the other meeting and AH thanked him. Mail Chimp is now being used to communicate with our members which is saving AH a great deal of time. This system is free and we will continue to use this for the foreseeable future.GDPR is coming on the 25th May 2018 and AH has emailed everyone to respond. Reminders will go out before that date but members will not be able to receive the newsletter and any communication unless they agree to it.Mark Brindle kindly arranged for some of our members to ‘Meet the Coach’ and Joyce Taylor, Debra and Graham Stripe, Andrew Coker and Emma Patton were the lucky ones.Mark also arranged for us to receive a signed First Team Shirt which we raffled and the lucky winner was Luca Shafiq. This was presented to Luca at Wembley Stadium before the Final of the Carabao Cup.AH thanked Mark Brindle and Alun Francis for all their support and help over the past year. AH also thanked Emma Wells (The Hub) for arranging the facilities and refreshments for the ADSA AGM. |
| 6 | **Treasurer’s Report** | N E-D reported that the ADSA Account was open in August 2017 which was due partly to the delay in the funds from the old ADSA being received and issues with the bank. AH managed to receive £100 compensation from HSBC for all the problems we had setting up the account.£782.24 was received from the old ADSA. There was some expenses such as paying for the shirt for the raffle and Level Playing Field membership. The raffle profit was £266. The Committee had agreed to change the website address to arsenaldisabledsupporters.com which is currently costing us £36 per year through WordPress. |
| 7 | **Communication** | JW explained that ADSA had looked at changing the format of the newsletter and the way we communicate.The website is currently being kept up to date by OK and AH.JW explained that social media is being used and access to our Twitter feed is on the website. AH suggested that JW has access to Mail Chimp so that this can be used in future for the newsletter. |
| 8 | **Election of the Committee** | As all the members of the Committee were elected for two years and that everyone was prepared to stand, then there was no need for an election. |
| 9 | **Proposed Priorities** **New Magazine** | AJ explained that the Manchester United magazine was excellent but they have a member who has been involved in the publishing business. PW felt that he would prefer to receive communications electronically rather than a glossy magazine.JP asked how it would be distributed as this could be costly. PW said that many supporters cannot get to the ground.It was agreed that AH would write to Crosby Associates to thank them for their offer but ADSA will decline. |
| 10 | **Questions from the floor** **Arsenal Website****ADSA Website****West Ham United and Brighton****Disability Lounge****Seating for Ambulant Disabled****ADSA Banner****Congratulations****Thanks** | PW asked why we were not on the Arsenal FC website. AJ explained that there may be a situation where we may want to criticise the club and they would not want that on their website.AJ suggested that the Committee look into making our website better for the visually impaired.GM said that there he had issues when visiting West Ham United and Brighton. He felt that West Ham United was dangerous as an ambulant supporter. AH suggested he forwarded her an email and copied in AF to take up with the club. AH also suggested that all members if they have an issue at away game, to post it on the Level Playing Field website as they will also investigate. AH to send out a link to this page to all members.AJ explained that the Premier League Disability Group were looking at ambulant seating.A member from the floor suggested the ADSA website had a page where members could leave comments about their experiences and AH said that this would be investigated.PW asked if the DLT could open the Disability Lounge after the match as well as before as the Holloway Road station is closed and it takes about 45 minutes to queue to get into the Arsenal station. AF said that this would not be possible as the Museum is closed before the games. AJ reminded the floor that some bars are open after the match. PW said that his seat is the fourth row from the top on the Upper Tier and asked if ambulant seating could be available lower down. AF to look into this on behalf of member.TH suggested we had an ADSA banner for the stadium for the home games. AH said that she will ask MB to see if one can be arranged. GM said that he new someone who would be able to come up with a logo. The Committee to pursue this suggestion.AJ congratulated N E-D on the forthcoming birth of her baby in July.AJ thanked all those who attended, and JP thanked the Committee for the work they have done over the past season. |

Meeting closed at 3.15pm.