

**Minutes of the Arsenal Disabled Supporters Association**

held on Saturday 11th February 2017 – Disability Lounge, Arsenal Football Club at 10.00am

Present: Anthony Joy AJ

Anne Hyde AH

Nicole Evans NE

Redmond Kaye RK

Ozi Kemal OK

Robert Greig RG

James Warren JW

Christopher Clelland CC (invited)

Berenice Low BL (invited)

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|  | Item |  | Who to Action |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence** | Allan Mabert (AM) |  |
| 2 | **Approval of minutes of meeting** | There were no amendments to the previous minutes and therefore approved. |  |
| 3 | **Matters arising from previous meeting** | Everyone to email AH with ideas about who could be approached as a Patron by 28th February.  Ideas are needed from everyone as to how the Disability Lounge could be improved as it is not conducive for supporters.  Allan had suggested a Buddie Scheme at the last meeting and this will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting as Allan was unable to attend.  AH reported that Arsenal were already looking at having a Sensory Room. AH would find out if this is going ahead for next season and report back.  Two photos and bios are now on the website for two committee members. The rest of the committee to send these to OK by the 28th February.  AH to speak with Arsenal Cape Town and arrange a link up asap.  AJ to produce a spreadsheet and distribute so that everyone can include their skills. | All  All  AH  AJ/RG / OK/NE AM/RK  AH  AH  AJ |
| 4 | **Communication** | It was agreed that OK and JW will work on the website and newsletters. AH to pass over information to JW.  It was unanimously agreed that communication would be by email to all members. AH said that some of the old ADSA members did not have emails but they had not responded back when messages were left.  RK explained that visual communication is extremely important for hearing impaired supporters. OZ and JW with RK to look at including a BSL video as some hearing impaired supporters may find reading English difficult.  CC offered to produce some visual video clips. CC also has a small Whats App page (arsenaldeafsupporters) which we can link to our website.  RK was concerned that staff had not received Deaf Awareness Training in case of an emergency. AH to check with Alun Francis.  OK and JW to look at You Tube for ways of communication and report back at next meeting. | OK/JW / AH  OZ/JW / RK  CC/OK  AH  OK/JW |
| 5 | **Understanding of Visually Impaired Supporters requirements** | As AM was unable to attend the meeting, this was deferred to the next meeting. |  |
| 6 | **Understanding of Hearing Impaired Supporters requirements** | RK and CC gave a beneficial account of what it is like at Arsenal FC for those supporters that have a hearing impairment.  The Arsenal website is especially difficult for BSL people as there was no support for them. It was agreed that AJ would speak to Allun Francis and Mark Gnellar.  Inside the stadium, the signage is ok. However, the wi-fi is very poor and this can be a barrier for the hearing impaired.  The Stadium Tour has organised an Interpreter in the past but this does need to be organised in advance.  RK suggested that a box at the bottom of the Arsenal Disability page with an interpreter would be beneficial. | AJ |
| 7 | **Finance** | NE had spoken with HSBC to set up the new bank account so that we can get the funds transferred. AH and AJ to send details of their nearest HSBC Bank.  It was agreed that ADSA would pay for a signer for Redmond at Face to Face Meetings.  All spends will be agreed by the Committee.  AH, NE and AJ will be signatories with two out of the three to sign cheques.  RG to sort out the Charity Number for ADSA and pass this to NE as this will be needed when setting up the bank account. | AH / AJ  RG/NE |
| 8 | **Official Arsenal Supporters’ Clubs Scheme** | AH reported that our members could get a discount on line but Arsenal had suggested that we order all of the items and distribute. It was agreed that this would not work for ADSA and AH will speak with the Club.  A discount of 50% was offered for our members with the carer going free. However, this is the same for the general public who have a disability and that we should pursue the extra 10% that other Supporters’ Clubs receive. | AH  AH |
| 9 | **Newsletter** | AH had drafted the next newsletter and would pass this over to JW.  All newsletters would be emailed out to members.  CC offered to video the Newsletter for the hearing-impaired members. CC to pass over to OK to put on the website. | AH / JW  CC / JW /OK |
| 10 | **Membership** | AH reported that we now had 107 members signed up to the new ADSA. 12 people had decided not to re-join. 60 members still had not responded or returned the membership form who had been old ADSA members. These people will be left on the list for the time being. |  |
| 11 | **AGM** | It was decided that this would be held on the last home match of the season which is against Everton and is currently being scheduled for Sunday 21st May. AJ will look at finding a venue. | AJ |
| 12 | **Any Other Business** | ADSA to become a full member of Level Playing Field next season. AH to arrange.  RG said that the Disability Lounge was not an ideal place to hold a meeting. AJ to look at approaching Red Action for a meeting room.  RG asked why we were not allowed into the car park until 9.45am. AH to speak with Alun Francis so that we can have access up to ½ hour before meeting.  David Seager had approached ADSA to advertise his book ‘Supporting Arsenal is a Funny Old Game’. This will be advertised in the next newsletter.  AM had spoken with The Match Day Shop on the Hornsey Road who had offered a discount to members who show their membership card. AH to follow up membership cards with Arsenal as they had said they would supply them. It was agreed that we would advertise this to members once the cards have been received.  AJ reported that the Club had organised an 8-person Guard of Honour at the start of the match against Hull in support of the Level Playing Field ‘Weeks of Action 2017’ which was good to see. | AH  AJ  AH  JW  AH |
| 13 | **Date of Next Meeting** | The next meeting will be via Skype – Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7.30pm |  |

Meeting closed at 11.15am.