**MINUTES OF AWJFC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT ST. DUNSTANS CHURCH HALL**

**3RD MAY 2016**

* 1. **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman introduced himself and when on to try to paint the bigger picture of what it is like to run a Junior Football Club. As he explained, we have 13 teams plus 6 & 7 age groups which equates to approximately 200 children which in turn means that there are almost 400 parents. We operate in 2 leagues and play over 5 venues and communicate with 2 Councils. As he stated, he has only been Chairman since September of last year and has only now realised how naive he had been about the running of a Junior Football Club. He also pointed out that the committee he had inherited are a very pro active and enthusiastic bunch which has made his role that much easier.

The Chairman is very keen for the club to get its original identity back regarding team colours and that we intend to bring out a range of Ashurst Wood track suit tops etc. which can be purchased by parents. He explained that some clubs give these as part of the registration however, the cost is added to their fees and we still remain one of the most value for money clubs in the South East.

The Chairman explained that when he took over in September, the club was in need of an injection of cash. With this in mind, two fundraising evenings were arranged very quickly. The first of which was a quiz night and was a huge success. However, the casino and auction night was poorly attended and he pointed out that other than coaches and committee less than ten parents turned up. Despite this approximately £2,500 was raised over the two events which enabled the club to keep going.

The Chairman made a point that everyone in junior football could learn from the success and story of Leicester City which proves that lesser players can achieve great heights if they play as a team.

The Chairman welcomed the Sussex County Welfare Officer Sandra Redhead and thanked her for her attendance and the loan of her presentation equipment.

* 1. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Chairman introduced the committee and asked for a show of hands for their re-election for the next season which was carried unanimously. He also put himself up for election which was also carried unanimously.

* 1. **CHILD WELFARE PRESENTATION**

Helen Buck, Child Welfare Officer gave a very informative presentation with accompanying videos and discussion with those present. The Chairman thanked Helen for her very professional presentation which was much appreciated by all.

* 1. **TREASURERS REPORT**

Rachel Du Feu, our treasurer, gave her report as follows:-

This season has seen the club return to a financially stable position, setting us up well for next season.

The Club has seen a good profit overall for the year, this has been aided by increased membership numbers with the club now having around 200 members.

The improved results are also largely a result of additional income through 3 fundraising events, grants received and the Easter Coaching days we held. Any profits for the end of season awards and BBQ later this month are not included in these figures.

Expenditure has ended up less than we expected for pitch hire and referee fees due to the weather causing problems with waterlogged pitches meaning that not all matches were completed or double header matches were played instead.

This season we set up a small budget for each team to spend on whatever kit or equipment they wanted based on an amount of £12 per fully paid member. However none of the teams have actually spent their full budget meaning that Kit and Equipment is not as much as expected. All unspent budgets will be carried forward to next season for teams to spend in addition to their new budget which has been raised to £20 per player.

Many of the expenses this season have reduced from last season due to strict cost controls and last years Under 16s and Under 15s moving on therefore reducing costs.

A considerable amount this year was spent on Coaches Courses in order that we could complete the required Charter Standard Application, although we did receive a grant and funds from the Crowborough league towards these costs meaning they have not ended up as costly as we originally expected.

We have taken the decision to increase membership fees next season as we want to be able invest further in all our players, we know the majority of expenses are going to increase again by around 3% and having reviewed our fees we have not increased them for a number of years and are still cheaper than other clubs in the area.

Therefore in summary we have had a good year, but without the additional income sources and if all scheduled matches had been completed and teams had all spent their allocated budgets we would have been around the breakeven point for the year leaving us with continued cashflow problems. However as it currently stands we now have a healthy bank balance and a contingency reserve for the future and will be able to invest surplus funds directly into all the children, improved equipment and our coaches.

**1.5** **VACANT POSITIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE**

The Chairman stated that there are various vacant positions on the committee and asked for volunteers for this, he also asked that if anyone would like to get in touch about this after the meeting to feel free to contact him personally.

**1.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ricky, the coach for next years U13’s asked where he would they would be playing next year and he was assured that this was in hand.

Perry Rigler agreed with the Chairman about improving the identity of the club and suggested that maybe we should look into the possibility of managing the clubhouse ourselves. The Chairman agreed that this would be put on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

Kevin Sewell bought up the subject of signage at the Rec. and this was also to be put on the Agenda for the next committee meeting.

Domonic, a representative for Saint Hill Blues stated that his club was disbanding and that he would like to bring his team to play on a Sunday in the Mid-Sussex League. He was invited to attend the next committee meeting to discuss this further.

Matt Townsend asked how the FA Charter application was progressing and was told that it had been submitted. Sandra from the Sussex FA did not foresee any problems with attaining this once all coaches had attended their courses. He also asked about facility grants that might be available once this had been granted and it was suggested that we keep a close eye on the Sussex FA website.

**1.7 CLOSING OF MEETING**

The Chairman pointed out that he would like to see a good attendance at the end of season Bar b que and he asked that if coaches who did not want to give medals or trophies still participate on the day with whatever they are going to present their boys with. He and the committee were very disappointed that so few parents attended the AGM as they felt that their efforts are going unnoticed.