



Manchester United Supporters Club Plymouth Branch
2020-21 Annual General Meeting
Draft Minutes



Date: Sunday 25th July 2021
Venue: Virtual (Zoom) Meeting
Time: 19:15

Attendance

In attendance were committee members Mark Wyatt (Chair and Membership Secretary), Dave Price (Secretary), Donella Bone (Treasurer), Chris Wyatt (Minutes Secretary) and Alex Bullard, plus the following four branch members: J Voaden, A Smith, N Parmenter, and K Keller.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Welcome Address

Mark Wyatt (Chairman) welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave his thanks for them taking their time to attend and for their patience and understanding in recognising that the Branch was working hard on their behalf through a very turbulent time. This is not just with Issues relating to the ongoing pandemic and its repercussions, but also from the major issues presented to the Branch, and especially the Branch Secretary, in dealing with the problems United were experiencing with their newly introduced digital ticketing system. As the new season rapidly approaches, the committee has often had to “second guess” their way through. He also praised the successful work done by the Branch using social media, and saw this as another tool for increasing the Branch’s ability to reach new members and of enhancing further its reputation.

Of the clubs performance on the field, he commented on a successful season overall finishing second in the Premier League and thus ensuring Champions League football for next season, but also of the disappointment of losing the Europa Cup Final. On a more positive note, he looked forward to seeing how United’s new signings would add to what was promising to be a very exciting 2021-2022 Season ahead.

He went on to express his gratitude to the Committee for their incredible hard work in dealing with the ongoing Covid restrictions. Additionally, they have come up with new initiatives to handle the added challenges ahead, especially when operating United’s new ticketing procedures.

In concluding his speech, he informed the attendees of the Committee's full commitment to remain organisationally and financial healthy in order to push on next season and that the Branch was fully prepared to continue delivering in the successful manner it has achieved for 26 years.

Acceptance of Minutes of 2019-20 AGM

Acceptance of the 2019-20 AGM minutes was proposed by J Voaden and seconded by N Parmenter. The minutes were then agreed and accepted by the meeting.

Secretary's Report

The Branch Secretary added his welcome to members in attendance. He then recorded his thanks to other members of the Committee for their assistance during last season. He said that this would be a shorter report than usual due to the ongoing uncertainty created by the current pandemic.

Ticket allocations and travel 2020-2021

The Secretary stated that he normally detail our ticket allocations, coach trips and finance associated with these for the previous season. The pandemic curtailed our activities during the 2019-20 season, but completely wiped out our match going activities for 2020-21. Several members did enjoy a memorable Zoom meeting with Bryan Robson to help celebrate our 25th anniversary as a branch. Beyond that, there is nothing to report.

Ticket allocations and travel 2021-2022

Normally, during July United would have informed supporters' club branches of the arrangements regarding ticket allocations and so on for the coming season. At the AGM, the Secretary would then outline the Branch procedures for members to make ticket applications and arrangements for coach travel.

The situation for 2021-22 is complicated by (a) the pandemic and (b) the fact that United have just moved to a completely new ticketing system. The new system is used for major sports in the USA. It is a digital system and paper tickets will no longer be issued. For individual members, the system looks fine. However, there have been a number of teething problems regarding the Branch season tickets. Some of these problems are still unresolved, and it is still unclear to me how this will work out. The Leeds United game will be a test. Hopefully, all will work well.

In some cases, a digital ticket will be transferred to a members' smartphone. In other instances, a printed barcode will be supplied. For the latter, United have stated that members will need to provide photo ID when using the code. We would advise all members using Branch tickets to carry such ID.

Due to the change to the ticketing system, there will also need to be changes made to the supporters club microsite used by United for branch administration. This is not yet in operation. Hence, we do not know how this will work when applying for tickets for members. In discussions with United, we have been informed that the allocation will be similar to that for 2019-20. Allocations, as usual, will depend on the number of our members with current United membership on 1st August.

Members will already be aware that the Branch is running a coach for the first match versus Leeds United. We hope to run our usual number of coaches to Old Trafford during the season. Of course, this will depend on the pandemic and whether or not Old Trafford continues to operate at full capacity. If further restrictions are introduced at some point, that will affect our plans.

Last year the Committee took the decision not to offer part season tickets for the coming season. Instead, it was anticipated that these would be available to all members, but of course, they were unused. For 2021-22, and subject to all conditions imposed by the Government and United, the same situation will apply.

Player of the Year 2020-21

Due to that fact that we were unable to attend games, we have been unable to use our normal system for voting for Man of the Match and for electing our Player of the Year. Instead, members were invited to give their vote for Player of the Year when renewing their Branch membership.

This year, in third place was Edinson Cavani, runner-up was Luke Shaw, and the winner was Bruno Fernandes.

Last season and the next

Last season was, in my opinion, a definite improvement on the previous year, which unfortunately we could not quite round off with a trophy. The signing of Sancho, with probably others to follow, gives us hope that we can maintain that improvement in the coming season.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Donella Bone), via email, had earlier provided the end of year accounts to the meeting's attendees. She went on to explain various details of the accounts to branch members and offered to answer questions from those present, but none were asked.

Election of Committee

With no new nominees wishing to be considered to join the Committee being received, it was proposed by J Voaden and seconded by N Parmenter that the current Committee should be re-elected for the coming 2020-21 season. This was accepted by all at the meeting.

Motion for Discussion

There were no motions submitted by the members to the Committee for discussion.

Any Other Business

The Committee were asked about the time scales for notification to the members of when coach travel will be offered. This is because, on occasions, some wished to make their own arrangements for alternative travel and accommodation, if the Branch were not providing travel to a match. Members were informed that the Branch completely understood the issue, and would look at how travel notification times could be amended to assist with that. However, the Branch itself also required sufficient time to determine if a coach could be provided for the benefit of all its members. The Branch would like to run a coach as often as it is practical to do so.

Another question asked about the possibility of a member using a Branch Season ticket having already purchased a ticket directly from United. It was suggested that he contact United directly to discuss their policy on refunds.

The Chairman once again thanked members for their attendance. He informed them that the Committee will continue to engage with all members throughout the coming season, via email, social media platforms, Branch website, *etc*, to ensure that the Branch remains in good shape for the challenges ahead. He looked forward to its first planned trip for the opening game of the 2021/2022 season against Leeds United.

The AGM meeting was then concluded.