



**Manchester United Supporters Club Plymouth Branch**  
**2022-23 Annual General Meeting**  
**Draft Minutes**



**Date:** Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
**Venue:** Virtual (Zoom) Meeting  
**Time:** 17:00

**Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received by the Branch.

**Acceptance of Minutes of the 2021-22 AGM**

Acceptance of the 2021-22 AGM minutes was proposed by J Voaden and seconded by G Dudley. The minutes were agreed and accepted by the meeting.

**Welcome Address**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He stated that, as with every year, the Branch always wanted to engage with its members, and expressed slight disappointment with the low turnout from members.

He went on to extend his thanks and deliver praise to the Committee for their ongoing hard work and commitment to the Branch, saying they had put in many additional hours over the past season to deliver a great service for the members. He also expressed his appreciation for the loyal support of all the members, who have continued to back the Committee and hoped this dedication would continue in what will be the Branch's 28<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

**Secretary's Report**

The Branch Secretary added his welcome to members in attendance. He then recorded his thanks to all other members of the Committee for their assistance during last season.

Online ticketing

In the second year of using an online ticket system, there were again various issues causing an unwanted workload on committee members. The Branch committee will have to keep certain aspects of the system under review. For example, we certainly cannot operate in the same way as we did last year regarding ticket cancellations. As I write this, there are a few new problems this year such as aspects of the ticketing system not working with certain web browsers. However, there are a variety of positive aspects to the system. For example, the Branch is now responsible for ticket allocation to specific members. This makes it easier to ensure that members of family groups are seated together.

### *Ticket allocations and travel 2022-2023*

In total, 131 Branch members applied for and received tickets for matches last season. This is slightly higher (plus 4) than the previous season which (following the pandemic) saw a record number of members attending matches. However, as with 2021-22, individual members attending matches went to fewer games compared to pre-pandemic times. The percentage of members who attended between one and three games was 81%, with 16% going to 4-9 games, and 3% attending 10 or more.

Last season the Branch ran 8 coach trips to Old Trafford for Premier League games. This was two less than the previous season. Additionally, various members made use of Branch season tickets to attend some of the European matches. For several years, the Branch has received a specified number of tickets for "A" games based on the number of Branch members, plus, for practical purposes, an unlimited number of tickets for the other Premier League games. For those latter games, it meant that we were able to guarantee members a ticket provided they applied before deadlines. Last season, only two "A" games were played during a weekend. These were both over-subscribed, as was the Barcelona game. For all other games, members who applied for tickets before deadlines were 100% successful.

For the 8th season in succession, the Branch gave a discounted coach fare for those members who went on more than five coach trips. Originally, the main aim of the discount scheme was to encourage more people to travel regularly on coaches. Unfortunately, that did not happen, but the Branch will continue the discount scheme for the coming season, as described in the *Terms and Conditions of Membership* and the *Ticket and Travel Ordering Procedures*.

Last season was the 7<sup>th</sup> season in succession where the Branch has lost money on tickets and travel (offset partly by other income). Once again, I mention in my report that this is not sustainable. The answer is to have more members who apply for more tickets for more games and with more "travel only" people on the coach. The tickets and travel loss last season exceeded £1000, and yet just three more people on each of our 8 coach trips would have eliminated that loss.

### *Ticket allocations and travel 2023-2024*

The Secretary informed the meeting that all the ticket and travel details are available on the Branch website, and that all related documentation, including match application forms, can also be downloaded from the website at [www.plymouthreds.com](http://www.plymouthreds.com)

As is usual, the Secretary made his annual plea to all members when applying for tickets to (a) apply early (see later), and (b) to ensure that all sections of the form are completed, including their preferred coach boarding point. Most of the applications received so far for this season have been completed correctly, but there are a couple with missing details.

Applications completed correctly saves a lot of time and effort chasing up those missing details. It also means that your applications for tickets are processed promptly, and without any delay. Thanks to all of you who follow the correct procedures – it really does make the Secretary’s life a lot easier.

For the 23/24 season, United have informed us that ticketing arrangements will be similar to those for last season, but with some important changes. The Branch can apply for a specified number of tickets for home games against City, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Arsenal and a higher number for all other games. If games are oversubscribed, then a ratio will be applied based on the number of Official Members registered with the Branch. With record demand for tickets, this will certainly be the case with weekend “A” games and maybe others. A major change for this season is that all Supporters Club members will also be able to apply for all tickets released to members by United, including those that are released after the initial branch allocation. Being a member of a Supporters Club branch gives you a significantly increased chance of obtaining match tickets.

Deadlines for ticket applications are set by United. This season, these have been set to 12 weeks before the game. Tickets are allocated by United to the Branch shortly after these deadlines. They must then be purchased by the Branch within a few days, or the tickets are lost. If the Branch cancels tickets, this may affect future allocations. Another change for this season is that the Branch can now apply for an allocation of home cup and Champions League tickets. However, deadlines for these will obviously be much shorter. Hence, members need to plan well in advance for the coming season.

Members will be aware that, for the early part of the season, we are planning to run coaches to the Wolves, Brighton, City and Luton games. There is still time to apply for tickets for the City and Luton games, although City is heavily oversubscribed.

#### Player of the Year 2022-23

As with last year, members were invited to give their vote for Player of the Year when renewing their Branch membership. The winner, and our Player of the Year for last season, is Marcus Rashford with the runner-up being Casemiro.

#### Last season and the next

Finally, I think everyone will agree that last season saw a big improvement in our football. The men’s side won the Carabao Cup, were FA Cup finalists, and finished third in the Premier League thus ensuring qualification for the Champions League. The women’s team also had a good season, qualifying for the Champions league as they finished runners up in the WSL, and were FA Cup finalists for the first time

Let us hope that during the 2023-24 season we will see further progress and more success.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer went through her financial report, starting by thanking J Voaden for his support with the finance accounts across the past year. She also wanted to record her thanks to the Branch Secretary for his continued dedication and hard work towards the Branch. Within the report, she detailed that the Branch had made a financial loss throughout the season for the 7th season in a row, although the loss was less than the previous year. She stated that the Branch were committed to finding ways to even out this deficit in future seasons.

### **Election of Committee**

With no new nominees wishing to be considered for the Committee being received, it was proposed by J Voaden and seconded by N Parmenter that the current Committee be re-elected for the coming 2023-2024 season. This was agreed by the meeting.

### **Motion for Discussion**

There was just the one motion submitted by member J Voaden to the Committee for discussion. J Voaden wanted to thank D Price for over 25 years of service to the Branch as Secretary, saying his tireless efforts to ensure members receive tickets for matches, as well as all the organisation and communications with United, was thoroughly appreciated by all Branch members.

In recognition of that dedicated service, J Voaden suggested that in honour of his hard work, D Price should be elected as President of the Branch. This is something the Committee wholeheartedly agreed with. D Price went on to thank J Voaden and the Committee for supporting the idea. He said that he would consider this proposal.

### **Any Other Business**

None raised. The AGM meeting was then concluded.