



Disabled Supporters Association

LIVERPOOL DISABLED SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY 3rd January 2020 1PM

THE SIR KENNY DALGLISH STAND - SEVENS LOUNGE

COMMITTEE ATTENDING

Ann-Marie Barton; Ted Morris (Secretary); Tom Hutchinson (Chair); Graham Lewis; Karl Lindsay (Vice Chair); Kay Lindsay & Andy Ellis.

LFC STAFF & OTHERS ATTENDING

Debbie Joynson (Ticketing)*; Stan Tickle (Senior Specialist, Safety Officer) *;
Simon Thornton (Senior Manager, Diversity & Inclusion) *.

*denotes part meeting.

APOLOGIES

Ian Littlewood.

WELCOME

Tom opened the meeting at 13.00 hours.

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING & RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the December meeting were read and seen as a true copy and are now on the LDSA website www.liverpoolsda.co.uk. Proposed by Andy Ellis and seconded by Graham Lewis and agreed by members who were at that meeting.

TICKETING

- Tom asked Debbie to wish all the staff in the ticket office a happy New Year and said that they all do a fantastic job.
- Debbie said the only upcoming sale is Wolves.
- Debbie advised that they are awaiting information from Atletico Madrid.
- Ted asked about the possibility of photo ID being asked for when new members join up, Debbie advised that this is something that they are looking at.
- Kay asked is every supporter going to take part in the fan update process, Debbie advised that eventually all supporters are going to take part in the process.
- Tom asked about a wheelchair user obtaining a ticket for the Spurs away game.
- Ted mentioned about safety concerns that have been affecting away wheelchair supporters at Norwich City at recent fixtures. Ted will keep the ticket office updated when more information becomes available.
- Ted also mentioned the recent problems wheelchair users of Arsenal Fc experienced at Bournemouth, lifts were out of service and disabled supporters were treated extremely badly. The fsa and the premier league are investigating the matter.
- The club are looking at the process of how they allocate car park spaces. The current process is extremely time consuming and needs streamlining.
- Debbie asked the committee for input and explained that they are looking at contacting supporters who have already used the car park this season to offer them car parking spaces for the remaining games.
- The committee thought that this was a good solution and agreed to support this initiative from the ticket office.
- Andy asked about the possibility of having additional PA's being incorporated into the sales process when purchasing tickets for the new stand.
- Ted said the current sales process is better than it's ever been.
- Dale is continuing to monitor accessibility sections on matchdays.
- Andy asked about the ticket allocation for West Ham away, but no sales information is currently available.
- Ann-Marie asked was Lfc putting on an extra coach for Tottenham, Debbie advised that it wasn't, Ted will endeavor to get Ann-Marie a space on the coach that his daughters go on.
- Tom thanked Debbie for all of her support

SAFETY OFFICER UPDATE

- Stan explained that it had been an extremely busy week at Anfield with Liverpool having 3 matches in a week, 2 of them high profile.
- Stan explained that the issues disabled fans experienced at Salzburg away was due to the proposed area offered by Salzburg Lfc for wheelchair users being unsuitable.
- The night before the game Salzburg made concessions allowing wheelchair users to use the toilet facilities in one of the lounges and also gave them a better viewing area.
- Stan advised that unfortunately this was the reason that no away supporter information was made available for this game for disabled supporters but it was out of the clubs hands.

- Ted explained that Yonit and the team of stewards from Lfc went above and beyond what was expected of them and a good outcome was achieved due to their support and assistance. A real credit to the club.
- Stan is continuing to monitor the Stanley car park and carried out a reccy at the last game and will continue to monitor the situation.
- Kay said it was much better after the Wolves game and the exit on to Priory Rd was much easier.
- Stan appreciates the feedback and welcomes any more.
- Stan spent some time at the last game looking at procedures in L6 and L9 and it was much better, but he will continue to monitor this area and he noted that the stewards are actively policing the area.
- Wheelchair users sitting in GA seats in the Kop continues to be monitored along with storage of the wheelchairs.
- Stan explained the procedures that were being put in place for the visit of Everton in the FA cup with regards to the Anfield Rd being closed off to Liverpool fans due to safety concerns.
- Tom asked about what happens to Lfc wheelchair users who would normally be in the Anfield Rd, Stan advised that they are moved to other parts of the ground when the visiting supporters have the full end.
- Karl asked about fans who normally park in Stanley car park, stan advised of the best route to take.
- Andy mentioned to Stan that the Kenny Dalglish stand is running very smoothly with no issues at all.
- Kay asked Stan would someone look at the 4th steward seat in the Anfield Rd, the seat by the stairs, Karl said the spring action on the seat is broken, Stan will look into it today.
- Ann-Marie asked about the possibility of incontinence products being made available in the toilets. Stan will ask the question and get back to the committee.
- Tom asked about the lift in level 3 main stand Kop end being used incorrectly by supporters, Stan will look into it.
- Tom thanked Stan for his contribution to the meeting.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION MANAGER (DIM)

- Simon informed the committee that the Anfield Rd redevelopment is moving to the 3rd stage of the consultation process.
- The club have appointed an access specialist to support the project and he advised that he would like to meet the committee, Simon will keep us updated.
- The access audit is still out for tender and is due to close shortly.
- Simon will laise with Tom with regards to the POTY.
- Andy asked about meeting points for the LDSA and he enquired about the possibility of an LDSA meeting point being incorporated into the plans for the new stand.
- Simon will ask the question on behalf of the committee to the relevant parties.
- Ted said the support that the LDSA get from Lfc is exceptional, very much appreciated and is a benchmark for other clubs to follow.
- Tom thanked Simon for all of the work and support that he has given the committee in 2019.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Tom explained that he wanted to read out his report of what he intends to do for the next 12 months and once approved send a copy out to all members.
- Tom explained that he would be introducing an event management committee to manage LDSA events.
- Tom said that he wants to introduce an awards night to the LDSA calendar. He said that he doesn't think it's fair to our members that we very rarely get any attendance from our first team squad at our events, unlike the majority of other DSA's who get good player attendance at their events.
- Tom has instructed the secretary to start liaising with Lfc to see if this matter can be addressed, Ted advised that he has already started this process.
- Tom then advised the committee the following awards would take place on the night:
 - Player of the Year
 - LDSA disabled supporter of the year
 - Accessibility steward of the year
 - Special achievement award
- Tom then explained the selection process for all of the awards.
- Tom said he would like to introduce a children's Christmas party for our members, he explained that this would be a long awaited but welcome addition to the LDSA calendar.
- Tom said he is delighted to announce that June 2020 will see the launch of the very first LDSA magazine. He explained that there would be 1000 hard copies of each edition of the twice early publication and a digital edition will be available online.
- Tom advised that the LDSA will have this magazine published completely free of charge and the magazine itself will also be free to all.
- Tom said that to have an LDSA magazine that costs us nothing to publish is absolutely fantastic and will be welcomed by our members.
- Tom then went on to advise the committee that in keeping with most other DSA's he would like to nominate a local charity that the LDSA will promote and support in 2020.
- Tom with the committee's approval said he would like to nominate the Owen McVeigh foundation to be our nominated charity for 2020.
- Tom then went on to say that he would like to invite Mark and Joanne McVeigh to be the LDSA presidents for 2020.
- Tom said that this would be true to the values of our association in recognising 2 individuals who are making such a difference to children's lives in Liverpool, north West England and North Wales who are battling childhood cancer and also in supporting families that have lost children through cancer.
- Tom said that he knows he will have the full support of the committee in meeting his objectives.
- Tom explained to the committee that he had spent a lot of time in getting his report together.
- Kay asked what is meant by charitable support.
- Tom advised that it is mainly promoting the foundations aims and objectives.
- Ann-Marie asked about the cost of having an award for a fan of the year.

- Tom said it can be a simple certificate which will be of minimal cost to the LDSA, Ann-Marie was satisfied with the answer.
- Ted also said there was the possibility of getting the award sponsored and hence there would be zero cost to the LDSA.
- Kay said it's a new year and a new start and that the last year proved that we need to do things differently and we should all back this.
- Tom said we need to get the LDSA name out there and change people's perception of us.
- Tom wants to make the next 4 years the best years that the LDSA has ever experienced.
- A discussion then took place about the future of the LDSA and that we don't want to be shackled by the past, Kay said new year new start, the committee was in full agreement.
- Graham asked about getting players to the party.
- Kay said that the LDSA used to go through player liaison and not through Simon.
- Ted asked was everyone in agreement with Tommy's report, Kay agreed wholeheartedly, and the rest of the committee followed suit and unanimously passed it.
- Ted said that this is a massive step forward for the LDSA and Kay said it finally gives us a future which was warmly welcomed by the rest committee.
- Tom thanked Ted for the hours he put in helping him put together his report.
- Karl asked about a gentleman's evening which Tom said can be discussed by the committee going forward, anything and everything is possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Ann-Marie said the current account balance stands at £14,927.52
- Ann-Marie then informed the committee that we had 3 invoices to pay to Lfc:
- Ann-Marie then went on to advise the committee that 2 further invoices were outstanding that Ted has told her to put on hold while we try to resolve the matter.
- Ann-Marie advised the committee that both herself and Ted have been working on addressing these invoices for the past 2 weeks.
- Ted thanked Ann-Marie for the tremendous support that she had given him over the past 2 weeks, the matter would not have been resolved without the assistance of Ann-Marie in what was an extremely trying time.
- Ted said that for transparency this matter must be raised at the AGM and explained to members in April. The committee agreed.
- Kay personally thanked Ted and Ann-Marie for the time spent in dealing with these invoices especially with it being over the Christmas period and especially after the trauma she suffered dealing with the Phil Lee situation.
- Karl said to leave the matter with Ted, and he will feedback to the committee.
- Tom also thanked Ted and Ann-Marie for working so diligently to resolve these matters.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Graham said that we currently have 234 members.

- Karl advised that he's updated the online joining form, but he has also left the printable one on the page.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE

- A full and frank discussion was had on the Christmas party and the committee have big plans on how we run events for the future.
- A discussion was had on spending and it was agreed that all purchases must be pre-approved by the treasurer and the chairman and discussed with the committee.
- Ted advised that going forward all Lfc communications must go through the secretary to ensure that we have a full paper trail, this will allow for scrutiny and continuity for the committee and was unanimously agreed by the committee.

The meeting closed at 15.30 hours.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 7th February 2020 at 1pm. The relevant lounge has been booked in the **Kenny Dalglish Stand**.

If members have queries or comments about these minutes, please feel free to contact us by E-mailing ldsa@liverpoolfc.com The Secretary will respond to all enquires as soon as possible.

Please Note:

These minutes may have been edited to remove confidential information.