



**Inaugural SAFC NASA AGM
May 10, 2014 - New York, NY
Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, May 10, 2014

Present: Committee Members – (Interim Chair) Derek “Degsy” Aspinall, (Interim Secretary) Gavin Frater; Members – Brian Churchill, Adam Churchill, Andy Cooke, Marci Cooke, Paul Whillians, Graeme Pritchard, Andy Holwell, Brian Frater, Frater Junior, Angie Pitt; Special Guest – Ritchie Pitt

Apologies: Committee Member – (Interim Treasurer) Justin Warner; Guest – Claudio Reyna; NASA Ambassador – Stephen Jennings; Members – Richard Johnson, Marc Goldberg, Luis Cardona, Ian Dawson, Andrew Little, Lucas Kuhlmann, Jerry Engel, Val & Guy Nicholls, Ian Boggon, Gavin Fogg, Cory Martin, Corey Donaldson, John Trotter, John James, Mike Traynor, Neil Turpin, Chris Andrews, Paul Smith, Ellis Short

Start of AGM – Welcome

The interim committee and special guest, Ritchie Pitt, was introduced to the group. All those in attendance were welcomed by both the Interim Chair and Interim Secretary and apologies were announced.

During brief speeches both members thanked those present for the growth of the association [in such a short period of time] and requested assistance in the continued development.

Short speech from the Interim Chair

Interim Chair highlighted the timeline of events that led to the NASA becoming an officially recognized Supporters Association and placed on record his thanks to the staff at SAFCSA - George Forster and Steve Dean; along with Louise Wanless, Adam Capper & Ellis Short from SAFC - the provision of tickets for the League Cup Final and the invitation to the cup final social event was and still is truly appreciated.

At the time of the AGM, SAFC NASA reached 180 members, boasting in excess of 700 Facebook 'likes'. Membership spans three countries – Canada, USA and Mexico.

The association appeared in the match day program, received allocation of Cup Final tickets, were guests of SAFC Chairman to the official Cup Final Party and had no fewer than 25 SAFC NASA members travel to London Cup Final weekend.

The Interim Chair also thanked the Interim Committee, Regional Reps and NASA Ambassador for their service in the association's first year.

Secretary Report

The Interim Secretary reiterated several of the key points made by the Interim Chair, focusing on the growth of SAFC NASA. He also stated that it was imperative that association continue to build on their good relationships with SAFC and SAFCSA.

Treasurer Report

Interim Chair read Interim Treasurer's Report providing the financial results for first year and expectations for year to come.

Supporter's Association's aim is to run as, and maintain, a not-for-profit organization status. That was achieved in Year 1, with a balance of \$0, on a spend of \$0, with an income of \$0!

However, there are small administrative charges by the club (Branch Liaison Committee) and for membership of the SAFCSA, which have been met out of pocket by committee members (mainly Degsy & Stephen).

Items such as T-shirts, Scarves, Flag needed to be paid for ahead of sale and again, this has been done out of pocket. Ditto the Branch Flag, purchased for the League Cup Final.

Committee recommended a flat-rate \$5 (USD) membership fee for the 2014-5 season (June-May) which was passed by all those in attendance. This will provide a float for future purchases – excess funds to be returned to membership as part of an annual draw or to be used to subsidize future get-togethers/AGM. Membership shall run from 06/01 to 05/31 each year.

A (US) PayPal account has been created to facilitate the payment of fees (and future sales) and will be used as the Association's "bank" for the interim - maintenance fees for a US & Canada Bank Account was prohibitive. If required at a future stage, a US account may be set-up to transfer in funds from PayPal.

We'll be looking into the launch of a member's store which is expected to be available before the start of the 2014/15 season (if not before!)

Results of Young Player and Player of the Season Awards

Interim Chair confirmed the voting for Player and Young Player of the season with a special note of thanks from SAFCSA who stated that NASA was one of a few to submit this information to them:

Vito Mannone – NASA Player of the Year

Fabio Borini – NASA Young Player of the Year

Results announced of the board elections

Interim Chair confirmed the make-up of the Association committee, this year nobody looked to challenge the interim committee, so the interim appointments were confirmed. The 2014/15 SAFC NASA Committee is as follows:

Derek Aspinall – Chair

Justin Warner – Treasurer

*Gavin Frater – Secretary

With Stephen Jennings retaining his title as SAFC NASA Ambassador

**Post meeting, position became available. Further communication to be transmitted to current members soon. New Secretary would serve in an interim capacity until an EGM can be arranged (TBC – October 2014)*

2015 AGM – Invitation for host cities

Chair set-out the bidding process and requirements for future AGM locations:

- Significant SAFC Supporter Presence & MLS franchise e.g. Houston, Toronto, Columbus, New York, Los Angeles....
- MLS Home & Sunderland fixture in same weekend.

***** Post meeting committee discussion – It was decided that bids to host an AGM must be presented and agreed at the time of/before the current AGM, that way, the city selected to host this event has ample time to prepare, giving greater opportunity for a successful event for our members i.e. those wishing to host the 2016 AGM must put forth their bid prior to/at the 2015 AGM. We want to be sure that all involved have sufficient time to prepare a ‘festival of football’ for those in attendance.**

Based on the previous information, SAFC NASA committee reviewed the cities that bid for the 2014 AGM and have since awarded the 2015 AGM host city bid to Columbus, Ohio! (More information to follow).

Any other business (AOB)

Chair announced the intention of creating stronger regional presence across the NASA.

Breaking down the 11 [Regions](#) into sub groups – for example:

- Region 9 = California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada
- Region 9A - New Mexico
- Region 9B - Arizona

9A & B are now supported by NASA Members who head up the Rep position for their respective state (versus an entire region) – reduction of responsibility for the previous ‘overall’ Region 9 Rep. If you’re interested in one of these positions, please review the ‘roles & responsibilities’ page at safcnasa.com prior to getting in touch.



******Group Photo was taken in front of the NASA banner.**

Richie Pitt – Q&A

Chair introduced the AGM guest of honor (Richie Pitt – Former Sunderland player and 1973 FA Cup Winner). There then followed a Q&A session with Richie and an opportunity for photos to be taken both with the 1973 FA Cup Winners Medal & with Richie Pitt himself.

Raffle Draw

Postponed – Online auction shall be launched soon! (Raising monies for [COCO International](#))

New York Red Bulls vs. Chicago Fire (Red Bulls Arena)

Supporters present went on to the New York Red Bulls Arena to watch the NYRB vs. Chicago Fire play out a 9-Goal Thriller!

Post Meeting Comments/Announcements

SAFC NASA welcomes Ritchie Pitt as Honorary Life President.

SAFC NASA recognizes COCO International as official association charity.

SAFC NASA welcomes Andy Holwell (Region 4), Graeme Pritchard (Region 9B and Adam Churchill (Region 9A) as NEW Region Reps and the return of Justin Warner (Region 1), Dan McGarvey (Region 2), Paul Whillians (Region 6), Derek Aspinall (Region 7), Matt Wheeler (Region 8), Jesse Burch (Region 9) and Ivan Sandoval (Region 11).

SAFC NASA search for various committee and non-committee positions:

Interim Secretary

Membership Director

Communications Director

SAFC NASA Reps for Regions 3, 5 and 10