



2nd Annual SAFC NASA General Meeting, April 25, 2015 - Columbus, OH Meeting Minutes

Present: Committee Members – (Chair) Derek “Degsy” Aspinall, (Treasurer) Justin Warner; (SAFC NASA Ambassador) Stephen Jennings; Members - Alex J Shahin (4D), Alex J Shahin 2 (4D), Andy Cooke (5), Blythe Aspinall (7), Bree Miller (7), Daniel Jennings, Dave Hyre (7), Derek McLaughlin (7), Di Gardner (7), Graeme Pritchard (9B), Ian Scott (7), Ian Smith (7), Jim Gardner (7), Joy Lincoln (7), Kevin Cook, Kevin Turnbull (9), Kevin White (7), Marci Cooke (5), Mark Pottschmidt (7), Martin Bates (1A), Martin Bates 2 (1A), Paul Smith (6), Paul Weir (9), Paul Whilliams (6), Priscilla Niederhelman (7), Riki Gilbert (9B), Steve Pottschmidt (7), Thomas Niederhelman (7), Todd Jenkins (7), Todd Swepston (7); Special Guest - Stan Cummins

Start of AGM – Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

NASA Chair welcomed members and guests to Columbus, Ohio. Committee and Special Guest, Stan Cummins was introduced with notable absentees mentioned. Received 78 apologies including Ellis Short and Ritchie Pitt. **34 attended the AGM (biggest NASA event to date), with a total of 40 Sunderland fans attending weekend events.

Opening Statement by the Chairman

Chair thanked all in attendance. Additional personal thanks going to the 2014/15 committee, notably Honorary Life President – Ritchie Pitt, the Regional Rep's and the SAFC Ambassador for their continued support throughout the year. Highlights of his year included:

Successful EGM in Santa Monica; progress made with improved communications (citing Gerry McAlroy as the key component to this outcome); increasing NASA representation to 18 regions across North America; Trialing 3M as a recruitment concept (Mackem. Membership. Mission); being present at [the then] record setting 32 attendee NASA Gathering (Columbus, OH – 12/06/14); being interviewed on SunFM with Michael Proctor and in A Love Supreme; being invited to and attending SAFC/DC United partnership launch at British Embassy in DC; continued work with SAFC and SAFCSA

Treasurer Report

Financial report delivered by Treasurer. Increase in membership fee announcement to \$10 per person/\$20 per household fee – this will cover costs of future guest speakers etc. Motion passed at meeting.

Discussed the need to move to 'not-for-profit' status. Member at large, Kevin White, offered to support this venture.

Secretary Report 12:10

Chair delivered Secretary Report in his absence. Mentioned membership numbers being slightly down on last year since the introduction of the \$5 fee – not overly concerned. More importantly, SAFC NASA now has 250+ contactable Sunderland supporters in North America. Biggest growth areas being Columbus, Ohio; Iowa City, IA; Reading, PA. Discussed 3M trial and outcomes – an association focus for the 2015/16 season (providing we stay up!).

Spoke of tighter bonds with SAFCSA and SAFC. Had committee and regional rep. presence at SAFC/DC United Launch event at the British Embassy in Washington, DC. By the time the season is out, SAFC NASA will have secured in excess of 28 tickets for home and away matches through the club for NASA members and their families - reminded all in attendance that ticket requests should be made through the committee. Continued work with SAFC to increase presence in North America. Looking to introduce team strips etc. for school/club programs. SAFC's commitment to our growth. Massive swing in focus on supporters groups. Further opportunities may be available moving forward. Announced NASA as the largest overseas SAFCSA branch.

Thankful of continued support from Honorary Life President who also helped secure match tickets as well as meet and greet those members attending games. Served very well, responsive and genuinely wants to help.

Appreciated the support from our UK-based Ambassador who regularly attends the BLC meetings, reporting back with information and providing window for two-way commentary. Announced that the NASA Banner shall be placed at the SOL for the start of the 2015/16 season.

Mentioned 'what we know' about upcoming SAFC Pre-Season Tours

Results of Young Player and Player of the Season Awards

Chair confirmed the voting for Player and Young Player of the season:

Young Player of the Year – Connor Wickham

Player of the Year – Lee Cattermole (+50% of votes)

Results announced of the 2015/16 board elections

The following NASA members were nominated and seconded and subsequently accepted these positions:

Justin Warner – Treasurer

Derek Aspinall – Chair

Stephen Jennings – SAFC NASA Ambassador

Graeme Beattie becomes new SAFC NASA Secretary with Gerry McAlroy, removing himself from the running:

Following vacancies exist and the committee will look to fill at the earliest opportunity:

Communications Director

Membership Director

Please note that Ritchie Pitt's role as Honorary Life President is not impacted by elections.

Current Regional Reps shall be contacted posted AGM to see if they wish to retain said position, if not, an alternative will be sort.

2016 AGM – Host City Announcement

Toronto was announced as the host city of the 2015/16 AGM. Criteria – SAFC game televised that weekend, MLS team has home game. Supports venue to host meeting. Possible friendly with local MLS fans.

If EGM is necessary, Houston, TX would host such event.

Any Other Business

SOL pilgrimage announced for 2018 – 5th Anniversary of SAFC NASA

****NASA Chair gave special thanks to Bree Swepston, Todd Swepston, Kevin White, Steve Jennings and Daniel Jennings as well as the World of Beer for making this weekend happen.

Special Guest – Stan Cummins – Q&A

Chair introduced the AGM guest of honor (Stan Cummins – Former Sunderland player). Q&A session with Stan followed and an photo opportunities with the man himself.

Raffle Draw

Meeting concluded with the raffle draw. Monies shall be split equally between NASA (recovering some guest speaker costs) and COCO International.

Columbus Crew vs. Philadelphia Union (Mapfre Area)

SAFC NASA members represented the association at the Crew vs. Union game. Started with tailgate hosted by the Crew Supporters Union followed by a tour of the stadium and the opportunity to go on the field with the players prior to kick off. The weather wasn't great but a good time was had by all.