

Association of Tartan Army Clubs (ATAC)
Meeting, 13:00hrs, 6th December 2015
The Phoenix Bar, Broughton Street, Edinburgh

Representatives present: Jim Brown, Gareth Finn (WESTA), Martin Riddell, Dave Harley (ETA), Scott Rae (WEBTA), and Peter Morton (KTA).

Apologies: Kevin Smith (Carnoustie TA), Maurice Hickey (BASTA), Scott Warrander (Granite City Scots), Mike Scales (LADTA), Hamish Husband (WESTA), Kevin Donnelly, Stevie Imlach (Loony Alba) John Callaghan (KoFTA) and Graeme Baxter (DTA).

Jim welcomed the reps to the meeting and noted that the bad weather and closure of the Forth Road Bridge had led to a number of apologies from reps who would have otherwise been in attendance.

1/ Interim Chair's Report

Jim informed the meeting that he had met with reps from the SFA and that a report on that would be given later in the meeting.

Despite the number of apologies for this meeting it was encouraging that a number of club reps had responded to the notice of the meeting as well as provided feedback from their membership in advance of the meeting with the SFA.

There were a number of clubs however who had been silent in recent months and it was proposed that Martin Riddell, as Interim Vice-Chair, would reach out to these clubs to gauge whether they were still established and wanting to be involved in ATAC. Martin agreed to this and the meeting gave its approval.

There had been a request from Granite City Scots for the next meeting to be outside of the central belt – it was proposed that Martin, in his reaching out to clubs, contact Fair City TA and Incy Wincy TA with the view to one of them hosting the next meeting in Perth.

2/ Interim Treasurer's Report

Scott was still in the process of getting the current bank details from the former Treasurer.

It was proposed that a new bank account be set up to avoid the inconvenience of changing signatories which from experience is very time consuming.

It was also proposed that the Interim Committee would be the signatories of this new account which was approved by the meeting.

Scott was encouraged to set up online banking as the experience of club treasurers had been positive when dealing with the accounts in this fashion.

Club fees would be due from January in advance of the AGM in late April.

3/ Interim Secretary's Report

Attended the ATAC/SFA meeting with Jim and Martin.

Still coming to grips with the Google Group.

4/ ATAC/SFA meeting

Martin provided an overview of the meeting between our reps and the SFA going through the main points that were covered and discussed.

Positive meeting which was held in a good atmosphere after a somewhat frosty start and the SFA reps were open to our proposals.

The door was left open for a future meeting with a potential date being in April

Questions and points were raised by the reps which Jim, Martin and Gareth answered and responded to.

One issue was raised regarding the renewal process: would members who failed to renew during the early bird period but joined soon after be joining as new members and therefore losing any away points they had accrued? Jim resolved to contact the SFA regarding this issue.

5/ ATAC Membership

Clubs were expected to pay £25 to be part of ATAC – this would offer some ownership to clubs and hopefully encourage to become involved in the organisation.

There had been some discussion previously on whether individual memberships should be available for those unaligned to clubs or who were uninterested in joining a club. The positives and negatives to this approach were discussed and it was felt that the energy of the organisation should be channelled into building up the clubs across the country to ensure that individual supporters were picked up.

It was proposed that to increase activity and awareness of ATAC that we ran an event at some point in the New Year. Jim proposed that the event be on the security measures that take place for home and away matches which most fans are affected by in one or another. Previous security briefings were positively attended by groups and this briefing could be on the plans for the qualifying campaign ahead.

This was agreed by the members with a provisional date of late February being accepted. Jim would be the lead person on this and contact the relevant people.

6/ Football Supporters Europe (FSE)

We were still receiving correspondence from the organisation although we did maintain some distance from them due to differing aims. Initial contact was through Fans Embassies but our idea of fans embassies differ greatly from FSE's.

Graeme Baxter had indicated that he would like to be more involved and it proposed and agreed by the meeting that Graeme (should he accept) be our rep to FSE with the possibility of Kevin Donnelly also being involved.

Scott Rae agreed to approach Graeme to gauge his interest in the position.

7/ Supporter Direct Scotland (SDS)

Gareth provided the meeting with a background to dialogue that had taken place between WESTA and SDS as well as Scottish Football Supporters Association (SFSA).

SFSA was a work in progress which surrounded one individual whilst SDS was well established and now has a seat on the SFA council to provide a voice for football fans.

Following meetings between WESTA committee members and SDS it was proposed at a recent meeting that WESTA sign up to SDS – this was approved by club members.

The details of membership are still to be ironed out but it was believed by WESTA members that the positives of joining would outweigh any negatives.

It was recognised that individual TA clubs have different issues which concern their members and it was not the intention of WESTA to encourage other clubs to join up but to encourage clubs to invite Andrew Jenkin of SDS to make a presentation to their meetings in order for them to work out whether it merited joining up to or not.

8/ Any other business

i/ Website:

Dave had updated the website to include the achievements of ATAC. He was going to check the “contact us” section of the site and ensure that emails go to the secretary, the “online” reps and possibly to an ATAC mailbox too. This would mean that individuals could still raise points via the association and we could discuss whether or not to progress them.

Discussion took place on the merits of setting up a Facebook page that would allow us to reach a greater number of Scotland supporters and also allow for clubs to advertise their meetings, buses they were running or any events that they had planned – Dave would look into this and report back.

ii/ Provisional date for next meeting would be early March.

Jim thanked the reps for their attendance and closed the meeting at 15:40.