

Carlisle United Supporters Club London Branch

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on 7th August 2025

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dave Brown (Chair), John Bowman, Andy Hall, Terry McCarthy, Peter Smithson, Simon Clarkson, Ken Hullock, Graeme Harker, Steve Batey, Amanda Caddy.

Apologies: Anna Jensen

1. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

i. Matters Arising

i. July meeting minutes were approved.

ii. Record of committee decisions made via WhatsApp or E-mail since last meeting:

1. Agreed that Jon Colman could join and listen in to the Tom Piatak Q&A
2. Agreed that the LB should pass on a small gift to Amy Nixon on leaving CUFC.
Also agreed that DB purchase present at c.£50 for TM to present.
3. Agreed to pay £60 for delivery of football kit, gifted by the club, to LB captain Chris Tembey. SC got it delivered for £31.
4. DB informed the Committee that he'd subscribed to DAZN on behalf of the branch at the bargain price of £99.99 for a year.

It was clarified in discussion that decisions made on WhatsApp were formally accepted if reported to, and ratified by, committee.

ii. May action notes reviewed.

1. **JB** said that although the issue of support for the Ladies team wasn't raised at the CUSG meeting it was raised with Tom Piatak at the Q&A

2. REPORTS

There was discussion about membership which is looking very good at 394 members in all categories despite a few people not renewing.

SB highlighted the key figures in the branch's finances which showed a healthy level of surplus funds at over £26,000.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

i. Tom Piatak Q&A

There was a discussion about lessons to be learnt from the Q&A held recently, particularly regarding the posting of a transcript of the proceedings on the fans messageboard.

DB highlighted the positives, especially the tremendous response it had generated on social media and particularly the website.

Agreed: That for future such events there will be a 48 hour embargo on attendees posting/publishing details publicly.

ii. Matchday

TM reported that it was not going to be possible for him to do as he outlined at July's meeting. Decisions on ticketing would have to be made on a match to match basis given the different approaches of individual clubs on the sale and distribution of tickets. So far tickets were sorted out for Woking and Wealdstone matches. He said that tickets for Sutton were likely to go on sale on Monday and that the ticket office would accept a bulk order from the branch. For Brackley on September 3rd it was likely that only 500 tickets would be available, so it may be necessary to limit it to members only initially.

GH's new 'Blue Army on Manoeuvres' fact pack on the website which can be downloaded in pdf form, was highlighted. GH also suggested that we could do a pre-match/awaydays podcast which he would look into with a view to doing one for the Sutton game as a trial run.

It was pointed out by AH that AJ was doing a live stream talking to fans pre-match at Woking

DB raised the issue of travel to matches with Altrincham presenting particular problems because of the potential for DAZN to choose the match for live streaming and moving the kick-off time at short notice.

Agreed: GH to look into doing a pre-match podcast for Sutton game.

iii. Camera equipment

SC gave AH details of camera that the branch had previously bought for the club. **AH** to provide relevant information, including cost. SC indicated that there were potentially a few former players who were happy to do an online chat with fans.

iv. Merchandise

There was a discussion about the form of merchandise we should be looking to make available for sale to branch members. KH suggested a polo shirt with a simple logo type design (such as on the branch flag). SC suggested that we use a company that would undertake the sale and distribution. SC, JB and GH said that they knew potential suppliers

Agreed: That SC, JB and GH provide details of potential suppliers at next meeting.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Date of next meeting:

September 4th.

ii. Any other business

Matches at the CSC

DB said that he'd made bookings at the CSC for matches to be shown on DAZN.

Agreed: DB to send the list of matches through to everyone

Sponsorship and Funding

Mascot Exchange – SC said that we had one for Woking.

SC also said that the club were looking for a sponsor for a scheme for first time visitors to Brunton Park which would include giving them a certificate.

Agreed: that Branch will sponsor first time visitor scheme.

Include Sponsorship & Funding on September meeting agenda

Hit the Bar

JB pointed out that the latest edition of HtB had included, inadvertently, some expletives as a result of a contributor copying and pasting some X (Twitter) posts. There had been a complaint from a branch member about this.

Agreed: That every effort should be made to ensure that no expletives are printed in Hit the Bar.

London Branch hospitality for home match in November

TC told the meeting that there was more than one option of facilities for our proposed home match hospitality.

Agreed: TC to book hospitality in the East Stand

New Members

It was noted that Barbara Abbott was one of the new people who had joined the branch. AH said that she was happy to contribute a weekly article.