

MEMBERS UPDATE MEETING FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

CHAIRMANS REPORT 100 DAYS

Hello everyone, if you're joining us at Grigg Lane this evening, welcome! We're delighted to have you with us for our second Members Update Meeting (MUM) and the first since the new committee was formally established at our Special General Meeting (SGM) on 2nd August.

As is customary in business and politics after 100 days in a new role, we felt it appropriate to take stock, review our progress, and set objectives for the rest of our first year/season. The purpose of these notes is to frame this update and, hopefully, encourage members to ask Mark and the committee some really easy questions (just kidding) this evening. These notes will also be posted on the committee section of the website, along with minutes from all our meetings, to keep the wider membership informed.

Those of you who attended our previous MUM or SGM will recall that our immediate objectives were straightforward, and can be summarised in three key points, which will form the foundation of tonight's update:

1. Avert financial disaster
2. Ensure football continues
3. Reinvigorate the club

So, let's dive in, starting with the finances.

It's no secret that things were in a perilous state back in June when our journey began, so I'll spare you the history lesson and focus on our progress to date. Under John Kelly's leadership, the committee's primary focus has been to steady the ship, gain a clear understanding of our financial position, and begin trading our way back into the black.

While there's still much work to be done, we're pleased to report significant progress with the support of our members:

- Monthly clubhouse takings are consistently up year-on-year, and the club is trading positively.
- Positive trading and negotiations with creditors have helped us avoid taking on further debt.
- Three months in, we have a clear understanding of all outstanding bills—no surprises.
- Over £10,000 of inherited bills/debts have been paid, with the remaining ~£3,000 expected to be cleared by Christmas.
- Besides occasional use of our overdraft, there's no short-term need for additional loans.
- We have a plan in place to repay the outstanding personal loan.
- A more assertive purchasing approach led to a revised offer from St Austell, saving ~£10,000.
- Returning and new sponsors are funding ground improvements and contributing to the Brockstock 25 budget.

Bottom line: We're on a positive path, and with careful management and continued support, we're confident we can trade our way out of trouble and into a better position.

Regarding football, it's clear that the game is very much alive and well at Grigg Lane, although we acknowledge that recent first-team results could have been better. As mentioned previously, we were fortunate to retain the services of Matt Parfect as our Director of Football, which gave the club a significant boost back in July. We're also pleased to report that Alison, Pete, and June are still with the club, performing a variety of crucial behind-the-scenes and match-day roles.

Our Development and U18 squads are now training regularly together, alongside the first team, and we're also hosting more games at Grigg Lane. These changes have been well received and have helped us reduce training pitch costs. Additionally, modest entry fees to matches have allowed us to cover referee costs. It's worth highlighting that our U18s had a strong run in the FA Youth Cup, being the last Wessex League team left in the competition! We've also taken steps to engage with our Youth section, exploring ways we can collaborate. This is evident in Jerry Hill joining the committee to represent Youth Football.

The Committee are fully supportive of football and believe we have taken necessary steps to ensure we remain in the Wessex Premier League this season.

- The playing budget of £27k set by the prior committee has been honoured.
- Significant investment in time and money are being made to ensure the ground is certified by the FA.
- Turning around the club's finances will enable further investment in football next season.

We are also blessed with many dedicated volunteers who keep the club running smoothly. While there are too many to thank individually, special mentions go to Burt and Ian for handling the grass and pitch lines, Jamie and Laura for catering, the match-day high-vis crew, the tea hut ladies, and everyone else who helps make match days a success!

Reinvigorating the club is a broad topic, ultimately focused on making Grigg Lane an inviting and safe place for all to socialise and enjoy. While this effort involves the entire committee (and many others), it is being overseen by Andy Brook. The work can be summarised into three key areas:

1. **Essential Work:** These are known health and safety risks that need prioritising, overseen by Gill Reid. Much of this involves behind-the-scenes certification and compliance, which requires ongoing attention and regular updates. More visible but equally essential are items like ground safety, signage, trip hazards, safety rails, and ground security. There's a long list of things to address, but if you look around the clubhouse and ground, you'll see the progress being made.
2. **General Maintenance:** This covers the numerous ongoing repairs and maintenance tasks, most of which are handled by volunteer work parties (overseen by Stan) or small projects carried out by individuals under Andy's supervision. Many hours have already been spent addressing the "low hanging fruit," such as cleaning up the grounds, gardening, and painting. More specialised work, like floodlight certification, fixing the stand lights, and removing a dangerous dead tree on Grigg Lane, has also been completed. Of particular note is our recent FA inspection, which resulted in a list of tasks we need to complete for ground certification. These are being absorbed into the Essential Work and General Maintenance efforts.
3. **Projects:** These larger tasks, overseen by Andy, require funding and careful prioritisation due to our financial situation. While there are numerous opportunities to spend money on ground improvements, the initial short list, based on readiness to proceed and after careful consideration by the committee, is as follows:
 - Ladies' loo refurbishment – We're losing event bookings and goodwill.
 - Cellar refurbishment – There are health and safety concerns, and we're cooling the village!
 - Roofs of the greenkeeper shed, sett end, and ticket office – Damage is worsening, and water ingress needs addressing.

We've covered a lot of ground this evening, all in the spirit of being open and transparent with our members, as we're all in this together. If we've achieved our objectives, we hope you're leaving with a sense of satisfaction about the progress we've made and optimism for the future.

In summary, our report boils down to this: We've tidied the place up, we're trading positively and ahead of last year, making solid progress on paying off inherited debts, hopeful for a positive result with St Austell, preparing for Brockstock 25, advancing ground improvements within our financial means, and essentially breaking even. We're also delighted to see members returning and enjoying the club once again.

Looking ahead, what would success look like for the remainder of the season? The committee would propose the following objectives:

1. Discharge all remaining financial commitments and finish the season debt-free.
2. Complete our essential tasks, achieve FA ground certification, and finish the three priority projects.
3. Run a successful Brockstock that generates funds to propel us forward into the 2025/26 season.
4. To achieve these objectives while remaining in the Wessex Premier League