

# Official Supporters Club Newsletter

February 2023



Welcome to the second edition of the WASC newsletter. We have had a very active season so far with a number of events for our members and lots of success through the Supporters Project with the Wigan Athletic Community Trust. As the Official Wigan Athletic Supporters Club we are proud to represent the fans of Wigan Athletic with over 1500 members every season. If you would like to join us visit our website [www.wiganathleticsupportersclub.co.uk](http://www.wiganathleticsupportersclub.co.uk)

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club would like to welcome Shaun Maloney as our new manager. It's been a challenging season so far on the pitch, but we are all behind you as you work with the aim of sustaining Championship football at the DW next season. It's always great to welcome back a former 'Tic and it's good to see your passion and love for Wigan! Good luck!

**#BELIEVE**

# Community Trust Update



## The Supporters Project

The Supporters Project provides funding to Wigan Athletic Community Trust through the 2020 Crowdfunder monies, some of which were returned to WASC by the administrators. Here we provide an update on the projects that are benefitting from that funding to improve lives in Wigan and Leigh.

### Secondary Schools Project led by Joe Rose

- From September, the Community Trust have facilitated 3 work placements across the football club and Community Trust projects as part of our new Key Stage 4 Alternative Provision. A further 2 placements have been arranged to commence in January.
- In November, the Trust hosted a Media Work Experience evening as part of Wigan Athletic's fixture against Stoke City. 10 students aged 14-16 were in attendance from 5 local secondary schools. As part of the evening, students were given a tour of the media facilities, before engaging in various workshops. Former Premier League Referee, Chris Foy and Community Media Officer Dan Newton both shared their experiences with the students. They then engaged in a mock press conference with Terry Angus from the PFA and 3 Academy Scholar's, before writing a match report from the press box.
- From January, the Trust are to commence delivery on a new KS3 Alternative Provision based at the Robin Park Learning Centre and Stadium Way, aiming to re-engage students who are at risk of exclusion.

### Extra Time – Support for older people in Wigan and Leigh led by Christine Blundell

- 21 new members joined extra time this quarter.
- 25 face to face sessions were delivered across the borough. Activities included in the sessions this quarter: dance, rock climbing, cricket, drawing, wreath making, scrabble competition, cheerleading alongside our usual quizzes, table tennis, boccia and curling.
- Extra time offered alternative specialised activities totalling 6 sessions:
  - 2 strength and balance classes from Wigan council BeWell team
  - 6 well-being sessions offering Tai chi, mediation, dance, and mindful crafting

- Our Choir grew by 8 members this quarter and we enjoyed a performance at the Dementia Café in Wigan on Friday 25th November, providing entertainment at the monthly community session
- 52 members enjoyed a day trip to Llandudno, where they spent the day at their leisure enjoying the seaside town and taking in the sights
- 15 members attended Wigan Athletic vs Watford and enjoyed pre-match hospitality of pie and peas provided by the Supporter's Club
- 4 health walks took place with an average attendance of 6 per walk
- 98 members enjoyed an afternoon at the DW Stadium for the Christmas party, including a turkey dinner, dancing, and singing.
- Linking with colleagues delivering in schools, Extra time enjoyed visits from:
  - The Deanery High School offering nail painting and refreshments
  - The National Citizenship Service delivered an activity and competition session, including providing refreshments
  - St Michael's Primary school Howe Bridge performed a Christmas Carol concert
- Extra Time in the community:
  - The Christmas parcel appeal launched on 12th December delivered 100 parcels' to nominated individuals and groups in the community.
  - 210 support phone calls have been made.
  - 37 garden gate visits completed.
  - A session has been set up in a sheltered accommodation venue in Worsley. Simple sports like Boccia and Curling take place, hoping to get more adults over the age of 55 involved in some physical activity.
  - From October to November a weekly mini extra time session at Ash Tree House in Hindley, involving simple sports like curling, boccia, seated volleyball and quiz time.

# Tom Flower 1977-2022

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club were saddened and shocked at the passing of Tom Flower, Head of Community at Wigan Athletic Community Trust.

During administration Tom was a huge support and friend to the Supporters Club, helping to find solutions to save Wigan Athletic.

More recently, The Community Trust Supporters Project became the legacy of the fans of Wigan Athletic, as funds raised by supporters during those dark times were used to benefit the most needy and vulnerable in Wigan.

Tom was committed to ensuring that as many people as possible could be reached by the work of the Community Trust. From older people attending the Extra Time social and activity clubs to providing work experience and career opportunities for young people in Wigan, Tom and his loyal team have reached thousands of Wiganers and changed lives for the better.

We are proud that WASC has been able to work with Tom over the past few years and we will continue to work hard to ensure that his vision lives on through our links with the Community Trust.



## Conduct on WASC Away Coach Travel

Following the statement made by the Football Club regarding behaviour at the DW Stadium, WASC would like to remind supporters that anti-social behaviour will also not be tolerated in any form on away coaches.

Over recent weeks, issues have been raised regarding the behaviour of a small minority of the Club's supporter base during travel to away games on the Official Wigan Athletic Supporters Club coaches.

These include smoking, vaping, drinking on coaches, all of which are illegal during coach travel to WAFC away games. In addition to this, we have received complaints regarding inappropriate chanting, loud and lewd behaviour on coaches and damage to coaches by groups and individuals which have resulted in repair and cleaning costs.

As a result, we have revised our terms and conditions of travel which can be found via our website and with

immediate effect, any person under the age of 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult for travel.

We will reserve the right to refuse travel and following a meeting this week with the Football Club we are fully supported by them in our actions taken to ensure that all away travel is safe and enjoyable for all.

Everyone attending, stewarding or taking part in a football match has the right to feel safe and valued, and WASC encourages all supporters to continue to play their part. WASC has delivered safe, affordable travel to Wigan Athletic games for over 40 years, and we realise that the actions of a minority do not reflect all our members.

We hope that these are isolated incidents, and we will continue to take supporters to away games as we support the Football Club in our push to secure Championship Football this season.



# WASC Activities this season



## WASC Quiz Night – in aid of the Community Trust Christmas Appeal

In October, the first WASC Quiz Night of the season was a big hit as over 100 people turned up to test out their knowledge whilst enjoying the hospitality of Whelan's Bar. Quizmaster Barry Worthington put the teams through their paces with rounds ranging from popular music to Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup. The eventual winners were 'One Size Fitz Hall' with an impressive 64 points, bagging the £100 top prize.

Other prizes were given out on the night, including hospitality, signed shirts, framed signed shirts, wine, beer and chocolate.

£300 was raised for the Community Trust Christmas Appeal to provide Winter comfort packs for elderly and vulnerable people in the Wigan Borough,

## Pie and Peas

For the past 10 years WASC have been providing the annual Christmas Pie and Peas pre-match over the festive season for our members. This year the treat was offered to all members v Sheffield United on 19th December 2022. Over 400 members enjoyed the benefit of a pre-match pie and all remaining food was donated to a local food bank.

## Members Night with Mal Brannigan

On Thursday 15th December we held a special Members Night in Whelan's Bar. Barry Worthington and the PWU Podcast team interviewed CEO Mal Brannigan and players Graeme Shinnie and Anthony Scully to discuss Latics return to the DW following the international break.

Free pizza and a prize draw were on offer to all those attending plus festive special offers in the Club Shop. The event was a great success and our members enjoyed the evening and meeting the club representatives. We look forward to our next Members Night in the Spring.

## Hospitality Winners

Congratulations to all our members who have won our hospitality draw so far this season. Membership of WASC means that you are automatically entered to win a pair of hospitality tickets for each home game. The prize includes two tickets for the Carling Lounge with inclusive bar, 4 course meal and seats in the West Stand.

Stephen Tither was our recent winner who attended the fixture v Hull City on 2nd January 2023

# Away Travel



**Tuesday 15 February**  
**BRISTOL CITY**

1.30pm from Stadium | £28



**Saturday 25 February**  
**PRESTON NORTH END**

12.15pm from Stadium | £5 bus, £10  
executive coach



**Saturday 11 March**  
**BURNLEY**

12.00pm from Stadium | £5 bus, £10  
executive coach

Book your place online at [www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk](http://www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk)

# Upcoming Events

## Sheffield United WASC Weekender

Only 5 rooms left!

Friday 7th April to Sunday 9th April 2023. £160

- Leaving the DW Stadium Friday 7th April 2023
- Luxury Coach Travel with Tyrers Coaches
- Pub Brunch stop off on the way down
- Two nights bed and breakfast at the Sheffield Royal Victoria Crowne Plaza
- Transfers to and from the football ground on Friday evening
- Return Sunday 9th April
- Does not include match ticket

## Quiz Night

Thursday 13th April 2023 – Whelan's Sports Bar

## FA Cup 10 Year Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 13th May 2023 - DW Stadium

Details coming soon!

\*All dates are subject to change due to possible fixture changes



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**2022/23 Supporters Club**  
**Memberships Now Available**



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or in person in the South Stand Bar before every home game