

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Happy New Year to all members! Here is an update on some of the recent work we have been doing and what's coming up in 2024.

Festive Events Update

At the end of the year, we were involved in a number of Christmas events to support the community of Wigan Athletic.

We kicked off December with a pre-match visit to the **York Christmas Markets** for our FA Cup game in York. Over 100 fans made the early journey to enjoy the hospitality of the city.

The **Whelan's Quiz Night Christmas Party** hosted by Barry Worthington from the PWU Podcast, raised over £300 for the Wigan Athletic Community Trust.

Quizzers enjoyed 4 rounds of themed questions including a "Guess the Christmas Song" music round plus a chance to win a Latics themed Christmas cake! Join us on Friday evenings in Whelan's bar for the weekly quiz in 2024!



We went along to the **Community Trust Christmas Cracker** Appeal's fantastic events for young and older people in the Wigan Borough. The first was with a meal and festive fun evening for young participants and the Extra Time members enjoyed a turkey and tinsel afternoon at the stadium with games and fun. We would like to thank all the staff at the Community Trust for their magnificent work to support the most vulnerable in our town.

The Supporters Club provided a resident DJ, helpers and selection boxes donated by our friends at BAB West Lancs Chauffeur Group for children attending the **Wigan Athletic Junior Christmas Party** on 19th December, plus Barry Worthington from the PWU Podcast was on duty as Santa for the evening! Thanks to Diane Winnard and her team for the great event for Junior Tics! Generous WAFC fans donated over 500 items for **The Brick Christmas appeal** which were delivered to support local families over the festive period.



Finally, we said a festive thank you to our own members with the annual **Free Pie and Peas** in the South Stand Supporters Bar prior to the Carlisle game! Thanks to staff at the DW stadium for their support



Coach Update

So far this season we have taken 48 coaches to a total of 17 away matches meaning over 2200 passengers have travelled with us in the first half of the season!

Our VIP option with Swans Travel has been a welcome addition to our travel offer, with their executive coaches a comfortable, great quality option for those wanting the best value for money. Our aim is to provide safe, affordable travel for all fans of Wigan Athletic to be able to travel to games. Our coaches are **strictly not for profit** but any small profit that is made by the end of the season will be donated to the WAFC Academy.

Upcoming Coaches

Northampton Town – Saturday 13th January

Departure from the DW Stadium 10.30am

Executive with Toilet/DVD/Charging points - £22 per seat

VIP experience £30 per seat

Book now:

<https://www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk/coach-bookings/>



Roberto Martinez – Honorary President of the Official Supporters Club

Before the home game v Carlisle we were delighted to welcome former player and manager Roberto Martinez to the Supporters Club Bar. Roberto enjoyed a special Heritage Display dedicated to his career at Wigan and was presented with his Past Players Association badge and membership by the committee of the WAFC Heritage Project.

The bar was packed with fans wanting to listen to Roberto, who then signed autographs, posed for photos and reminisced with supporters.

Welcome home to Wigan Athletic!



South Stand Fan Zone

All fans can enjoy a fantastic pre-match build up in the South Stand Supporters Bar – home of the Official Supporters Club.

Have a go at our Family Quiz where you could win a signed matchday magazine, enjoy the hot food on offer with different special dishes every game or have a go at the raffle where you could win some great prizes.

There's a Tic and Mix sweet stall for our junior supporters and a player appearance live on stage 30 minutes before kick off.

The Heritage Project team are on hand to show off their collections of memorabilia to fans and there are special guest interviews and music acts on stage.

The South Stand Fan Zone is open 3 hours before kick off. Open to all Latics fans it is the perfect build up to the game.

Official Supporters Club members can enjoy 25% off all food and drink up to 90 minutes before kick off.



The Wigan Athletic Past Players Association

In November we held the relaunch of the Past Players Association in the Phoenix Lounge at the DW Stadium.

All past players were invited to a night of reminiscing and food as Chair of the Heritage Project Jeff Rourke presented each past player with their official badge and membership pack. Shaun Maloney, Gregor Rioch and our Chairman Ben Goodburn spoke to guests about the importance of our history as a club.

We will support at least three social events annually for past players plus arranging tickets for Wigan Athletic matches and provide regular updates for past players.



Heritage Project

Over the festive period, the Heritage Team have been hard at work sorting through the memorabilia that has been collected through the project. Based over in the East Stand, hundreds of programmes, tickets, posters and other artefacts are being catalogued and prepared for future Heritage displays. At the most recent meeting, the committee itemised and logged every item in the WAFC trophy cabinet. The ultimate aim of this is to set up a small Heritage Museum room that fans can visit to be immersed the history of our club.

The group have also offered Heritage Stadium Tours in January, with all proceeds going back into the Heritage Project development. These funds have been used to purchase a professional book and document scanner so that items can be preserved electronically as well as physically. More tour dates will be announced soon!

If you can support the Heritage Project with donations or by volunteering, please get in touch:
info@wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk



International Supporters Clubs

We now have 19 branches of the Official Wigan Athletic Supporters Club across the world! Ireland, the USA, China, Argentina, Norway, Spain and Greece are just some of the linked countries. Each branch has a lead representative who can be contacted through our website:

www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk/international-wigan-athletic-supporters-clubs/

Fan of the Month

The winner of FOTM for December was LEO GORE

Leo is a big Latics fan who goes to every home game with his Grandad. For his birthday he's asked for everything Wigan!

Leo had a bad accident last year when he dislocated and fractured his elbow. This left him heart broken because he couldn't play the game he loves for both his Saturday and Sunday teams where he is the goalkeeper. His hero and inspiration is Super Sam Tickle in goal. He always says "I want to be just like Sam Tickle and play in goal for Wigan when I grow up". He has rebuilt his confidence over the last 12 months and Leo is now back playing for his teams after having amazing resilience.



Do you know a Latics fan who deserves recognition? Travels to every game? Overcoming challenges? Celebrating a special occasion?

Nominate now! Open to any fan of WAFC!

www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk/fan-of-the-month/

Coming up in 2024!

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club – Trust Meeting

We will be holding our first meeting of the Supporters Trust on Wednesday 31st January at 7pm via Zoom. The aim of the meeting is to update members on what being a Trust means for them and to take feedback from members on any ideas that you have to improve the Supporters Club and its work.

To register for the Zoom please use the link below:

<https://WASCTrustMeetingJan24.eventbrite.co.uk>

WAFC Ear Defenders Loan Scheme

For our junior fans who need sensory support when attending matches, we've teamed up with @IndieLatics to provide a loan service of ear defenders at home games

Available from the Manchester United game, collect them at the ticket office with a refundable deposit & return to reception after the game.

Green Football Weekend – 2nd-5th February 2024

The FSA is the national, democratic, representative body for football supporters in England and Wales.

As a member of the FSA, we will be working with the Football Club to take part in "Green Football Weekend next month. The FSA are sponsoring this initiative to raise awareness of the need for Football Clubs to work more sustainably in order to help tackle climate change. Some of the ideas

for this year's event include making the switch to LED lighting on the concourses and providing vegan options in the training ground canteen.

Springfield Park – A Night to Remember – Friday 15th March 2024

Our Annual Supporters Dinner this season will be held on Friday 15th March 2024 at the DW Stadium. In conjunction with the Wigan Athletic Heritage Project and the Past Players Association we will be honouring the memory of our former home of 25 years ago at Springfield Park. We will welcome faces from the past to share their stories of our time at Springfield, plus the evening will be packed with footage and memorabilia from those years for all supporters to enjoy. To book your place visit our website www.wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk

Promoting Positive Wellbeing and Mental Health

We have been working with the Latics Community Trust and lifelong Latics fan Colin Garner to develop a support group for Latics fans to promote positive wellbeing and mental health. After struggling with his own mental health some years ago, Colin is keen to share his story with others and get people together to promote positive wellbeing. Look out for more details in the coming weeks!

Lincoln Weekender - Friday 12th - Sunday 14th April 2024

- Leaving the DW Stadium Friday 12th April 2024
- Luxury Coach Travel
- Pub Lunch/Brunch stop off on the way down
- Two nights bed and breakfast at the City Centre Holiday Inn Lincoln
- Transfers to and from the football ground
- Return Sunday 14th April 2024

Price £160 per person, based on 2 people sharing

Single occupancy £210 per person

Deposit of £50 per person secures your place

Please let us know what room type you require on checkout for your deposit.

Plus, more of the usual Supporters Club activities!

Wigan Athletic Supporters Club is a Supporters Trust run by volunteers. Our aim is to promote and support the activities of the Football Club and work for the club, fans and community.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our activities and we would love to hear your ideas and feedback.

Get in touch with us:

info@wiganathleticssupportersclub.co.uk