

 **Shrewsbury Town FC Official Supporters Club**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Meeting held on 10th September 2024**

**At the Croud Meadow**

**Present:**

Robert Lewis (Acting OSC Chairman); Rachael Dilloway (Acting OSC Secretary); Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment); Ray Allen; Nigel Oakley; Mike Davis (Joint Chair of the Supporters Parliament & Support Liaison Officer); Richard Thomas; Liam Dooley (Shrewsbury Town CEO); Pauline Newton (Shrewsbury Town Fan Engagement)

1. **Chairman’s Report**

The 2023/24 season was certainly interesting on and off the field with the departure of Brian Caldwell as STFC CEO, Jamie Edwards STFC Foundation, Paul Delves STFC Vice-Chairman and Matt Taylor STFC Manager to the return of Paul Hurst.

The experience on the field of play last season had not been the best for fans, both at Croud Meadow and on the road, and this has reflected in some poor numbers on our coaches.

This affected fundraising opportunities for the OSC compared to recent years coach travel, such as the trips to Wembley Stadium and Anfield pre-pandemic, which provided much-needed funds for the organisation so finding alternate fundraising opportunities is something we will investigate and would welcome anyone’s help.

Last season, the OSC supported Shrewsbury Town Football Club with player sponsorships of two away kits Morgan Feeney and Carl Winchester.
Last season the OSC also supported our fellow supporter groups by donating funds to South Stand Flags projects and to former STFC Goalkeeper Harry Bourgogne’s campaign to replace the Her Game Too+ and Proud Salopian banners that were stolen from the Croud Meadow.

In addition we have tried to raise funds as best we can to provide these donations and sponsorships as well as to help run the away match coaches during the season.
Some of these coaches were not financially viable with some only having 2 or 3 people on them, so as part of an agreement with John and Rosie from the Away Travel Club we ensured that any supporters affected by our cancellation of coaches got to the games and safely home. We also ran a coach as the only provider to a game this season as well on a Tuesday evening as part of this arrangement.

Overall, we have lost a small amount of money last season from coach travel which is not what we want. However, the performance on the pitch along with the cost-of-living crisis has not helped at all but I must take this opportunity to thank Mike Owen from Owen’s Travelmaster and his amazing team of drivers and office staff for the assistance they have provided not just for this season but every season we have worked with them.
Regarding away coaches, on 4th June 2024 Robert and Rachael were invited to a meeting at the Croud Meadow with Liam Dooley STFC CEO and Pauline Newton Fan Engagement Officer who explained that Shrewsbury Town Football Club planned to launch its own Away Travel service using the Football Club's sponsor Longmynd Travel, purchasing an away travel while booking a ticket via the Shrewsbury Town FC Ticket Office website. The reason for launching a service from Liam’s point of view is to maximise revenue into Football Club and see away coach travel as a viable option going forward.

As a result, Rob felt the OSC could not compete with a possible service and would have to investigate other forms of fund raising. Rob contacted the OSC’s coach provider Owen’s Travelmaster and spoke to the owner explaining the situation.

A short while later, Rob received a call from the Football Club explaining that following a review of the proposed away travel service they had concluded that they would not run a service and would leave the Away Travel Club and the OSC to return to operating a coach service for supporters. Robert contacted Owen’s Travelmaster the next day and they said that they were happy to help restore a service and Robert added that to date the OSC has made a profit on all three coaches so far during the 2024/25 season which he believes is encouraging and I thank everyone for travelling with the OSC.

1. **Secretary's Report**

For the 2023/24 season, Rob and Rachael reintroduced an OSC membership with the aim of raising money for Shrewsbury Town Football Club and our fellow supporter groups to improve the match day experience. As we look ahead to the 2024/25 season, we have decided to continue the Membership scheme.

Last season, the OSC welcomed over 50 people to join as members and they received a pin badge, membership card and entry into multiple raffle draws for our Morgan Feeney and Carl Winchester away shirts who we sponsored as an organisation as prizes.

This season, our new online shop has experienced a significant increase in sales, and we are already close to matching last year's entire sales by mid-September.

I hope to continue as the OSC’s Secretary & Membership Committee Member if our members vote for me.

Thank you to all who have signed up for membership this season so far and I hope you can encourage other supporters to join us and travel on our coaches to raise funds for all future projects.

1. **Financial Report**

At the time of the meeting, we do not have access to the OSC’s main accounts to present to the meeting, however, the last known figure is around £15,000.00. We have been in discussions with the previous signatures to transfer the names on the accounts to Rachael Dilloway (Acting OSC Secretary) and Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment) who volunteered to be signatories on the accounts.

The OSC brought back a limited membership to provide extra funds to help with the running costs of the OSC.

Robert Lewis (Acting OSC Chairman) has opened a Chase Bank online account to transfer membership funds raised last season and this season to be stored while waiting for the Lloyds Bank account name transfer and has allowed the acceptance of contactless payments using a SquareUp card reader and new online store.
Some of the funds raised from Membership from 2023/24 to the present day have allowed the OSC to sponsor Shrewsbury Town Football Club players to make donations to supporter causes such as South Stand Flags and the replacement of the Her Game Too+ and Proud Salopian banners at the Croud Meadow.

The remaining funds in the Chase Bank account after all donations and costs to date are £300.37 after interest payments.

1. **Election of Committee**
* **President.**

After a discussion with the members present, it was decided that this roll would not be used going forward or would just be a ceremonial roll.

* **Chairman.**

Robert Lewis (Acting OSC Chairman) was nominated by Nigel Oakley & seconded by Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment).

All present voted in favour of the nomination & elected Robert as OSC Chairman.

* **Secretary.**

Rachael Dilloway (Acting OSC Secretary) was nominated by Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) & seconded by Nigel Oakley.

All present voted in favour of the nomination & elected Rachael as OSC Secretary.

* **Treasurer.**

Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment) was nominated by Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) & seconded by Richard Thomas.

All present voted in favour of the nomination & elected Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment) as OSC Treasurer.

* **Committee Members (Any New Proposals)**

Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) explained that the OSC like all voluntary groups is always looking for help in the form of any supporter willing to join the committee as well as help with the day-to-day operations of the OSC such as running coaches and helping our fellow supporters.

Nigel Oakley did not wish to join the OSC committee but offered to continue to help running the OSC’s coaches on away matchdays and Robert accepted Nigel’s offer and thanked him for his continued help.

1. **OSC Fundraising of the Memorial Garden & FanZone upgrades and other STFC projects.**

The Memorial Garden at the Croud Meadow is close to the hearts of the OSC with the amazing work carried out by the previous committee members with a special mention of Simon Moore who sourced and planted the original plants and tree at its centre.
Pauline Newton (Shrewsbury Town Fan Engagement) had a meeting with Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) and Rachael Dilloway on 4th June 2024 and walked around the Memorial Garden and expressed some concerns with the upkeep of the gardens.
Robert explained that the OSC will continue to fund any materials, plants, etc. as required when requested, at that time of the meeting no request had been made other than repairing and upgrading the fence of garden.
At a previous meeting Pauline Newton (Shrewsbury Town Fan Engagement) explained to Robert and Rachael that the gardens require a replacement for the wooden fence around the perimeter of the garden perhaps with a more robust brick wall.

1. **A.O.B.**

Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) opened the meeting for any questions from the supporters present.

Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment & OSC Treasurer) asked if the Memorial Bricks around the Croud Meadow are still available to purchase as he had not seen them advertised for sale? Pauline Newton (Shrewsbury Town Fan Engagement), Mike Davis (Joint Chair of the Supporters Parliament & Support Liaison Officer) & Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) explained that the Memorial Bricks are a SuperBlues project not an OSC one. Pauline added that the cost of production of these bricks is now quite high, but said they are still available to purchase and available via the SuperBlues.

Nigel Oakley asked if there will be an updated OSC constitution for the committee to put to members for scrutiny and a vote on whether to endorse the update?
Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) accepted the proposal and would work with the newly elected committee to make it happen.

Nigel Oakley wanted to add a recognition of thanks to both Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) & Rachael Dilloway (OSC Secretary) for the work they have done since the last OSC AGM through the pandemic to the present day. Chris Allen (FanZone Entertainment & OSC Treasurer) added it is great that Robert has helped to continue to run the OSC which has been running for 50, 60, 70+ years and it would be a real shame if it did disappear.

Robert Lewis (OSC Chairman) thanked everyone in attendance and closed the meeting.