

Matthew Powis

From: Jennifer Mellor <j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 22 February 2021 10:22
To: Matthew Powis; Licensing; Sayful Alom; 'mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com'; 'Justin Hodgkin | BBG Consultancy'
Subject: RE: Additional Supporting Evidence for Walsall Wood Football and Social Club
Attachments: Screenshots of Websites for Private Hire pdf.pdf

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Resubmitted with attachment:

Please find attached three websites advertising Walsall Wood Football and Social Club availability for private hire. These websites will be referred to as evidence in the West Midlands Police Review hearing on 2nd March. The hiring out of the function room to private parties is not covered under a Club Premise Certificate. As quoted in the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, 6.6, should a qualifying club decide that it wishes to offer its facilities commercially for use by the general public, a Premise License would be required.

<https://www.uk-functionrooms.co.uk/halls/wm/67450.php> quoted from the website "Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties"

<https://www.needadisco.com/venues/wm/67450.php> quoted from the website "Is Walsall Wood Football Club suitable for a Private Function?"

YES! needadisco.com has recently received enquiries for catering, photography, DJs, dancefloors, giant light-up letters and other entertainment services for clients holding birthday parties, anniversaries, engagements etc. at Walsall Wood Football Club

<https://www.uk-hallhire.co.uk/halls/WS/67450.php> quoted from the website "Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties"

Apologies this information was not contained in the additional documents issued last Thursday.

Regards

Jennifer

Jennifer Mellor
Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer
Walsall Partnership Team
Walsall Police
Civic Centre, Walsall

Tel: 101 ext 8896324
Mobile: 07554 415651
Email: j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Sign-up for neighbourhood policing alerts at www.wmnow.co.uk

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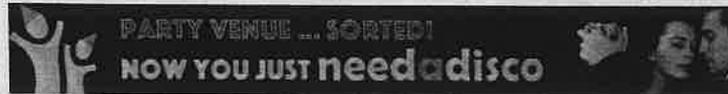
www.facebook.com/westmidlandspolice

www.youtube.com/westmidlandspolice

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Event FAQs for Walsall Wood Football Club

Information provided here is based on enquiries and bookings handled via needadisco.com, so whilst it's a great insight please contact Walsall Wood Football Club directly to validate before making any commitments because things can change.



Is there a bar at Walsall Wood Football Club?

A CASH BAR is available when you hire Walsall Wood Football Club for a party or function, serving a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks for your guests



Is Walsall Wood Football Club suitable for a Private Function?

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Can I hold a Children's Party at Walsall Wood Football Club?

YES! At needadisco.com we frequently see enquiries for children's entertainers, DJs, party food, mascots and other entertainment services for kids' birthday parties, school discos and proms etc. at Walsall Wood Football Club



Does Walsall Wood Football Club accept 18th/21st Birthday Parties?

Walsall Wood Football Club HAS accepted 18th-21st parties in the past, however you will need to check that this remains the case, and there may be special security arrangements that you would need to discuss with the venue directly

[GET FREE QUOTES](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Walsall Wood Football Club

Lichfield Rd
Walsall Wood
Walsall
WS9 9NP
📞 01543 361084

⚠ Details not verified by venue

▶ Report an error or update listing

BACK TO WEST MIDLANDS

3 photos

FIND A DJ / DISCO

HAVING A PARTY?

Walsall Wood Football Club



**QUALITY, SAFETY-CHECKED
DJs FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND**

**FREE
QUOTES**

DESCRIPTION

Caters for private functions

GOOD TO KNOW

✔ Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties

FACILITIES

✔ Bar Available

SUITABILITY

✔ Private Functions & Parties
✔ Children's Parties

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Walsall Wood Football Club

Lichfield Rd
Walsall Wood
Walsall
WS9 9NP
📞 01543 361084

▶ Update Listing

GET FREE DJ QUOTES

PHOTOS

Walsall Wood Football Club, Walsall



DESCRIPTION

Caters for private functions

FACILITIES

✔ Bar Available

SUITABILITY

✔ Private Functions & Parties
✔ Children's Parties

GOOD TO KNOW

✔ Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties

Matthew Powis

From: Jennifer Mellor <j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 18 February 2021 16:31
To: Licensing; Matthew Powis; mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com; 'Justin Hodgkin | BBG Consultancy'
Subject: Walsall Wood Football & Social Club Review
Attachments: Additional Supporting Documents fo 2nd March.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the council. If you have any doubts do not click links or open attachments. You should never be asked to enter your username and password into an external link.

Please find attached additional supporting documents relating to the Review scheduled for 2nd March. As some of the information contains personal details I have added the copies from the clubs signing in books to Box, the secure sharing platform which you have been given access to.

Kind regards

Jennifer

Jennifer Mellor
Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer
Walsall Partnership Team
Walsall Police
Civic Centre, Walsall

Tel: 101 ext 8896324
Mobile: 07554 415651
Email: j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

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Additional Supporting Documentation relating to:
Walsall Wood Football & Social Club Licensing Review.

Contents

Additional Statement from Walsall Police Licensing Officer J Mellor

Email from the chairman relating to Committee Members

Copy of the Chairman's Report (Redacted) from the AGM 10th October 2019

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Crime No. []

URN []

Statement of Jennifer Mellor

Age if under 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Walsall Licensing & Regulatory Service Officer, West midlands Police

This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: (witness)

[Handwritten signature]

Date 18 February 2021

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded [] (supply witness details on rear)

I am Jennifer Mellor 60384, Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer currently stationed at Walsall Police, Civic Centre, Walsall. I have been employed at West Midlands Police since July 2020 but bring a wealth of licensing experience from Staffordshire Police as their Southern Licensing Officer based at Burton Police Station.

This is an additional statement in relation to a premise called "Walsall Wood Football & Social Club" these premises operate under the authority of a Club Premise Certificate, and the actions at the premise that has led to a review application being lodged.

At the request of Mr Mahu from ESN Solicitors representing Walsall Wood Football Club for the Licensing Review Hearing I evidence below two calls received in April 2020,

Call log reference 2969 was created at 19:03 hours on 5th April 2020 from information received from Staffordshire Police, their reference being SP-20200405-0635 as the location was on the West Midlands force. The incident related to a female reporting "I would like to tell you that the football club is still open, the club part, the part where you go and drink socially." She went on to say "I know this as my husband keeps going here and drinking and I am fed up with it. He is not there now, he is sat here giving me daggers. It is open daily I think 15:30 – 20:00. I don't want to give my details"

Officers attended the location and the call log updated at 19:43 hours 5th April 2020 stating "Attended location. No one on site. Will factor this location into future patrols."

A further call was made to police from a different mobile number to that of the 5th April. The call details were transferred from Staffordshire Police on 10th April 2020, the call log was created at 19:03 log number 3394 of the same day. The details of the information received are as follows:

When did this incident happen? Give as much information as possible, such as a date/time.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

Crime No.

URN

Statement of Jennifer Mellor

“It is open daily after 4pm”

What happened? Give as much information as possible.

“Seen a number of males going into the club, Best time would be after 5pm. They are obviously flouting the restrictions with the bar open.”

At 21:33 log updated: “Officer's are in attendance and noticed a light was on inside the club house and voices can be heard inside - children laughing.... liased with Chairman via mobile mr Justin Hodgin XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX who stated no body should be inside... mr Hodgin was unable to attend due to being under the influence howevr, after numerous calls a Mr Andy Birch shoupd be attending who has keys.. also liased with Elizabeth from Walsall Council who has taken information regarding this potential licenced premises allowing a gathering to take place under current covid-19 circumstances... please keep log openSubmitted from Mobile Device at 10/04/2020 21:33:31”

At 22:42 log updated: “ Officers were unabel to gain entry to the premises due to Mr Hodgin not being forthcoming with assistance with regards to a key holder. Officers did attend Mr Hoggin home address - XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX so officers could express our concerns his premises is being potentially used for large gathering / selling alcohol. PC 20739 Whittaker has arranged to attend the premises tomorrow monmring at 10:30 hours in company with a prepresenative from Walsall Council to check their CCTV / till receipt. Please defer log for PC Whittaker to update tomorrow.

At 12:00 11/4/2020 log updated: attended location in company with the local authority. owner/chairman, justin has allowed for officers and council access to the cctv footage from yesterday and allowed officers to view till receipts from yesterday which didnt show anything. their was a fresh smell of beer inside which suggested that alcohol had been served yesterday. cctv will be collected next week and enquiries continued to be made with the local authority. please close

In relation to the call to police on the 5th December which has been evidenced in the Review document and in supporting documentation by way of police body worn video I can confirm that the caller reporting the incident stated: “m very annoyed that for the 4th night in a row the football club has been open and serving customers”

In an email to the Chairman of Walsall Football and Social Club dated 2 February 2021 sent by myself requesting a list of the committee members, the Chairman replied saying there are 5 committee members. These emails are attached in the additional supporting documents issued to the Council, Mr Hodgin and his Solicitor on 18th February. This is conray to the club rules where is states under 4. Management 4.1:

Signature Signature witnessed by

03/2016

Crime No.

URN

Statement of Jennifer Mellor

“The management of Walsall Wood Football and Social Club shall be carried out by a Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Football Sub Committee, Assistant Treasurer (who will also be Treasurer of the Football Sub Committee), Assistant Secretary and a minimum of three other members.

Under the same club rules item 8 Visitors and Guests it states: Any member shall be entitled to introduce 2 guests to the Club, excluding his/her spouse, provided that no person whose application for membership has been declined or who has been expelled from the club shall be introduced as a guest. The member and guest shall sign their names and addresses in a book kept for that purpose at the Clubhouse. I have today uploaded onto the 'Box' the online sharing platform (Exhibit J/WMP) copies of pages of the signing in book from the club which I received from the Chairman of the Club on 18th February. I will refer to these at the review hearing on 2nd March. I have added them to this system as personal details are included.

I have also previously evidenced on 11th February 2020 a twitter post dated 30 October 2018 advertising a Bingo night every Wednesday at the club starting from 7th November 2018. It confirms “everyone welcome, members must bring membership cards, non members will need to sign in at a small fee of £1.”

I received an email from the chairman on 2nd February containing a Powerpoint presentation from the clubs AGM on 10th October 2019 (Exhibit JM/WMP). In the Chairman's report he states: The year has been the club grow off the field with the opening of the new "Prims Bar", which will assist the club in becoming a 2 roomed venue to hopefully now become a true private function location.

These later points is further evidence, in relation to the Licensing Act 2003, the club are not a qualifying club and should not be the holder of a Club Premises Certificate.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

03/2016

Jennifer Mellor

From: Justin Hodgin | BBG Consultancy [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 February 2021 08:56
To: Jennifer Mellor
Cc: Matthew Powis; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [External]: RE: Walsall Wood Football & Social Club Review

Jennifer,

Committee members are -

Justin Hodgin
Ian Sylvester
Andy Roper
George Evangelou
Brian Green

We have numerous sub committees like the boys section/girl section/fund raising committee/ maintenance committees, however these committees have no operational responsibilities of the club.

With regards to the 2020 AGM this has not happened yet there was a date set but because of the pandemic this has not happened. All main committee members speak weekly about the clubs affairs whilst we are closed.

The signing in book has a page for everyday and is going to be near impossible to copy every page and scan, is there a select time period you would like to see?

Kind regards,

Justin

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Feb 2021, at 08:27, Jennifer Mellor [REDACTED] wrote:

Justin, good morning

Many thanks for your email last night with attachments. I would be most grateful for last year's AGM minutes as you seem to have attached 2019. I am also awaiting a list of your committee members as the second attachment only shows the Directors.

As regards the signing in book, I am happy for this to be scanned/photocopied and emailed to me.

Regards

Jennifer

Jennifer Mellor
Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer
Walsall Partnership Team



AGM

ANNUAL and FINANCIAL REPORT

Accounting Period 1st July 2018 – 30th June 2019

Held – 7.30pm 10th October 2019

Reported by Justin Hodgkin Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2018-19

OFF-FIELD

The year has seen the club grow off the field further with the opening of the new "Prims Bar", which will assist the club in becoming a 2 roomed venue to hopefully now become a true private function location.

This room would not have been possible to open with out help from people like [REDACTED] for his hours spent at the club and [REDACTED] assisting with the electrics. There have been numerous volunteers assisting with the work which is truly appreciated by the club.

Nevertheless, the room has still has cost the club over [REDACTED] to finish in this year and a total cost of [REDACTED].

Matthew Powis

From: Justin Hodgkin | BBG Consultancy <Justin.Hodgin@BBGConsultancy.com>
Sent: 18 February 2021 17:33
To: j.mellor; Licensing; Matthew Powis; mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com
Subject: RE: Walsall Wood Football & Social Club Review

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Dear Jennifer,

Can we please have sight of the club rules that you refer to in your statement, as I am unsure to the document you are referring to?

Kind regards,

Justin

From: Jennifer Mellor [mailto:j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk]
Sent: 18 February 2021 16:31
To: 'Licensing' <Licensing@walsall.gov.uk>; 'Matthew Powis' <Matthew.Powis@walsall.gov.uk>; mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com; Justin Hodgkin | BBG Consultancy <Justin.Hodgin@BBGConsultancy.com>
Subject: Walsall Wood Football & Social Club Review

Please find attached additional supporting documents relating to the Review scheduled for 2nd March. As some of the information contains personal details I have added the copies from the clubs signing in books to Box, the secure sharing platform which you have been given access to.

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Jennifer

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Matthew Powis

From: Jennifer Mellor <j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 18 February 2021 18:19
To: Justin Hodgkin | BBG Consultancy; Licensing; Matthew Powis; mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com
Subject: RE: [External]: RE: Walsall Wood Football & Social Club Review
Attachments: Appendix 2 - Club Rules.pdf

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Good evening Justin

I have taken them from the information off the Walsall Council website relating to the Review hearing on the 2nd March which are lodged with them.

<https://cmispublic.walsall.gov.uk/cmis/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/3265/Committee/410/Default.aspx>

I have also attached the document to this email for reference.

Kind regards

Jennifer

Jennifer Mellor
Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer
Walsall Partnership Team
Walsall Police
Civic Centre, Walsall

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Walsall Wood Football and Social Club

Rules

1. Name

The name of the Club is Walsall Wood Football and Social Club.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1. To provide facilities for recreation, social intercourse and refreshments for the benefit of its members.
- 2.2. The provision of maintenance of the Clubhouse at Oak Park, Walsall Wood.
- 2.3. To assist the development of all sports bodies associated with Walsall Wood Football and Social Club.

A copy of the rules and the names of all Officers and Committee members shall be displayed at the Clubhouse.

3. Membership

- 3.1. Every candidate for membership, associate, family or youth members, shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Club. Their full name and address must, for not less than 7 days before the election, be prominently displayed on the Club noticeboard. Until election, no person shall be entitled to any of the privileges of the Club.
- 3.2. The Committee at its sole discretion shall elect candidates for full membership.
- 3.3. Every member shall pay an annual membership fee to be decided at the discretion of the Committee and to be displayed on the Club notice board. The membership will be for one year and will be renewable on the 1st August of each year.
- 3.4. Any membership that is not renewed within 28 days of the start of the club year will be considered to have lapsed.
- 3.5. At all General meetings of the Club each full member shall be allowed one vote. Only full members attending these meetings are entitled to vote. Postal and Proxy votes shall be deemed void.
- 3.6. The Committee shall have power to expel any member who shall offend against the rules of the Club or whose conduct shall in the opinion of the Committee render him/her unfit for membership of the Club. Before any member is expelled the Secretary shall give him/her 7 days written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee and shall inform him/her of the complaints made against him/her. No member shall be expelled without first having an opportunity of appearing before the Committee and answering complaints made against him/her or unless at least two thirds of the Committee then present vote in favour of his/her expulsion.

4. Management

- 4.1. The management of Walsall Wood Football and Social Club shall be carried out by a Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Football Sub Committee, Assistant Treasurer (who will also be Treasurer of the Football Sub Committee), Assistant Secretary and a minimum of three other members. The Committee shall meet at such times as the Committee shall determine. At all meetings of the Committee, five shall form a quorum, two of whom shall be Officers of the Club.
- 4.2. The Management Committee shall be elected at the Annual General meeting, and to ensure continuity of the Management Committee the election of Members will be on the following basis.
 - 4.2.1. To be elected in even years at an Annual General Meeting, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Football Committee Chairman plus a minimum of one other.

4.2.2. To be elected in odd years at an Annual General meeting, Chairman, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary plus a minimum of one other.

4.3. No Officer or Committee Member will be able to serve for a period exceeding 2 years unless re-elected at an Annual General Meeting.

4.4. The Committee shall have the power at any time and from time to time to fill any casual vacancy among the Officers and Committee. It may also co-opt onto the Committee any Member who they believe, by serving on the Committee, would benefit the running of the Club. This person shall hold office only until the next Annual general Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.

4.5. In the event of any member for any reason ceasing to be a member of the Management Committee, he shall automatically cease to be a member any Sub Committee and another member of the Management Committee appointed in his place.

5. Financial Controls

5.1. No person shall at any time be entitled to receive at the expense of the Club or of any member thereof any commission percentage or similar payment on or with reference to purchase of intoxicating liquor by the Club, nor shall any person directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club to members or guests apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole and apart also from any benefit which a person derives indirectly by reason of the supply giving rise to or contributing to a general gain from the carrying on of the Club.

5.2. The purchase for the Club and the supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor shall be in the absolute discretion of a Sub Committee of not less than 3 members being of the Management Committee and appointed by that Committee for that purpose.

5.3. No money or property of the Club or any gain arising from the carrying on of the Club shall be applied otherwise than for the benefit of the Club as a whole or for some charitable benevolent or political purpose or purposes chosen by resolution of a general meeting.

5.4. Full accounts of the financial affairs of the Club duly audited by the auditors will be available for perusal by the Club members 28 days prior to the convening of the Annual General meeting.

5.5. If at any time the Club in general meeting shall pass a resolution authorising the Committee to borrow money the Committee shall thereupon be empowered to borrow for the purpose of the Club such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and at such a rate of interest and in such form and manner and upon such security as shall be specified in such resolution and thereupon the Trustees shall at the direction of the Committee make all such dispositions of the Club property or any part thereof and enter into such agreements in relation thereto as the Committee may deem proper for giving security for such loans and interest. All members of the Club whether voting on such resolutions or not and all persons becoming members of the Club after the passing of such resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such resolution.

6. Trustees

6.1. There shall be not more than 4 Trustees of the Club. The first Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee and the property of the Club (other than cash which shall be under the control of the Treasurer) shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolutions (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a resolution of the Committee who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at many

meetings remove any Trustee or Trustees from the office of Trustees. Whereby reason of any such death resignation or removal it shall appear to be necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed or if the Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or Trustees the Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the President is hereby nominated as the person to appoint the new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such deed of appointment shall in favour of a person dealing with bona fide and for value with the Club or Committee be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

7. Meetings

7.1. The Chairman of the Club shall preside at all meetings of the Club but if he is unable to be present, the Vice-Chairman shall deputise. If the Vice-Chairman is also unable to be present, the members present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting.

7.2. No alterations or additions or amendment to these rules shall be made except by a resolution carried by the majority of at least two thirds of the members present at a general meeting the notice of which shall have contained particulars of the proposed alteration or addition.

7.3. General Meetings

7.3.1. The Secretary shall at least 14 days before any general meeting inform every member as recorded in the Club's books notice of the meeting stating the time when and the place where it will be held and the business to be conducted.

7.3.2. The business at a general meeting shall be limited to that provided by the rules and those further matters set out in the notice convening the meeting. The quorum at any general meeting shall be one quarter of the Membership.

7.4. Annual General Meetings

7.4.1. An Annual General meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of August in each year and fifteen months shall not elapse without a general meeting. At the Annual General Meeting, the following business shall be conducted.

7.4.1.1. The presentation and (if accepted) the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year ended on the 31st day of December prior to the meeting which accounts shall first have been audited by the Club's auditors.

7.4.1.2. The election of Officers and Committee

7.4.1.3. The election of one auditor

7.4.1.4. Such other business as shall have been communicated to the Secretary and included in the notice of the meeting sent by him to the members.

7.5. Extraordinary General Meetings

7.5.1. An extraordinary general meeting may be convened at any time and shall be convened with 21 days notice on the requisition of one fifth of the members of the Club for the time being or 30 members whichever is the less. Such requisition must state the purpose for which such meeting is required.

8. Visitors and Guests

8.1. Any member shall be entitled to introduce 2 guests to the Club, excluding his/her spouse, provided that no person whose application for membership has been declined or who has been expelled from the Club shall be introduced as a guest. The member and guest shall sign their names and addresses in a book kept for that purpose at the Clubhouse.

8.2. No guest shall be permitted to purchase intoxicating liquor in the Club.

8.3. Members of the Committee are empowered to introduce as honorary members, visiting teams, for the day on which a match or other social activity or function takes place. These honorary members will not be allowed to sign in guests.

9. Opening Times

9.1. The Club shall be open between such hours as the Committee shall resolve, and the Secretary shall post on the Club noticeboard a notice setting out these hours.

9.2. The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor shall be determined by the Committee from time to time and the Secretary shall keep posted at the Club notice of such hours. In addition the Secretary will notify the Clerk to the Licensing Justices and the Chief Officer of Police for the area of those hours and no change in the permitted hours shall come into effect until at least 28 days have expired from the date on which the notice is given as aforesaid.

9.3. The Secretary shall as soon as possible and in any event within 28 days of the making of any such alteration or addition or amendment give written notice to the Chief Officer of Police and to the Clerk of the Local Authority for the district in which the Club is situate.

9.4. The provisions of the Licensing Act 1964 and in particular the seventh schedule thereto, shall be and the same are hereby incorporated into these rules and in so far as these rules are inconsistent with any provision of the said Act then the provisions of the said Act shall prevail.

9.5. No sale or supply of intoxicating liquor will be made to any persons under 18 years of age.

9.6. "Sales of intoxicating liquor shall be allowed under Section 49 of the Licensing Act 1964, subject to the conditions as set out on the Registration Certificate."

10. Winding up of the Club

10.1. If, at any meeting, a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of, at least, three quarters of the members present and that at a meeting (general) held not less than 6 weeks thereafter (of which not less than 4 weeks written notice shall have been given to each member, at which not less than 25% of the membership are present) then that resolution shall be confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of a least three quarters of the members voting thereon, the existing committee shall thereupon or on such future date as shall be specified in such resolution or as soon as possible thereafter proceed to realise the property of the Club and after discharging all liabilities, the remaining assets shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Club.

Matthew Powis

From: Jennifer Mellor <j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 21 February 2021 15:36
To: Matthew Powis; Licensing; Sayful Alom; mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com; Justin Hodgkin | BBG Consultancy
Subject: Additional Supporting Evidence for Walsall Wood Football and Social Club

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the council. If you have any doubts do not click links or open attachments. You should never be asked to enter your username and password into an external link.

Please find attached three websites advertising Walsall Wood Football and Social Club availability for private hire. These websites will be referred to as evidence in the West Midlands Police Review hearing on 2nd March. The hiring out of the function book to private parties is not covered under a Club Premise Certificate. As quoted in the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, 6.6, should a qualifying club decide that it wishes to offer its facilities commercially for use by the general public, a Premise License would be required.

<https://www.uk-functionrooms.co.uk/halls/wm/67450.php> quoted from the website "Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties"

<https://www.needadisco.com/venues/wm/67450.php> quoted from the website "Is Walsall Wood Football Club suitable for a Private Function?"

YES! needadisco.com has recently received enquiries for catering, photography, DJs, dancefloors, giant light-up letters and other entertainment services for clients holding birthday parties, anniversaries, engagements etc. at Walsall Wood Football Club

<https://www.uk-hallhire.co.uk/halls/WS/67450.php> quoted from the website "Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties"

Apologies this information was not contained in the additional documents issued last Thursday.

Regards

Jennifer

Jennifer Mellor
Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer
Walsall Partnership Team
Walsall Police
Civic Centre, Walsall

Tel: 101 ext 8896324
Mobile: 07554 415651
Email: j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Sign-up for neighbourhood policing alerts at www.wmnow.co.uk

Follow us on social media

www.twitter.com/wmpolice

www.facebook.com/westmidlandspolice

www.youtube.com/westmidlandspolice

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IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

WITNESS STATEMENT OF IAN SYLVESTER

I make this statement on behalf of Walsall Wood FC regarding financial impact on the club.

Walsall Wood FC accounts run from 1st July to 30th June each year.

Walsall Wood FC employ 2 members of staff on PAYE payroll system, there are some bar staff that are casual, a self-employed cleaner and a groundsman and then around 200 volunteers.

The financial impact on the club and business has been critical and we estimate that we have lost £97k in bar sales and around £20k in sponsorship and advertising revenue in the 6 months of closure due to the pandemic.

Please see the figures below to understand where the calculations have come from:

Bar Turnover		Turnover	Forecast	Budget	Loss
2016-17	Full Year	96,464			
2017-18	Full Year	125,479			
2018-19	Full Year	148,993			
2019-20	3 months closed	110,514	168,000	180,000	- 57,486
2020-21	3 months closed (7 months Trading)	51,000	91,000	91,000	- 40,000
				TOTAL	- 97,486

We have received help from the government with furlough and £16k of grants from the council.

The overheads for the club run at £2.3k per month even when closed.

The club runs at a loss every year and the monies are made up by the Chairman to make sure there is no external debt to hinder the club.

The investment in facilities of the past 6 years have amounted to over £100k after paid for by the Chairman, these figures include a new stand £13k, new clubhouse £65k, pitch repairs £15k, equipment for pitch £10k.

If the facility of the bar was removed the club would have no alternation but to close due to the lack of public funding, public donations and private sponsorship.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed *I Sylvester*

Ian Sylvester

Date *23/2/2021*

IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

WITNESS STATEMENT OF JANE HODGIN

I am the wife of the Chairman of the Walsall Football and Social Club.

I don't have any involvement with the Walsall Football and Social Club. My husband Justin is the Chairman. Although I respect his decision to be involved in the Football and Social Club, I perhaps don't share his enthusiasm as it takes up a lot of his time.

We own a BMW X4 registration number XX67 MXW. Justin and I are both insured to drive the vehicle.

I understand that some CCTV stills have been provided of a white BMW. If that is my vehicle it was being driven by myself.

On the evening of 5th December 2020, I drove my vehicle into the Oak Park entrance of KFC and drove out on my own 4 minutes later.

At no point whilst on that car park was my husband Justin Hodgin in the car.

Also, on that evening whilst the Police visited my home (46 Church Road, WS3 4QW), I didn't tell the Police my husband had access to the club, as I am unsure of the process as I am not really involved in the club anymore.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Jane Hodgin

Date 24/2/21

IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

WITNESS STATEMENT OF BRIAN GREEN

I Brian Green, have held the position of Chairman of Walsall Wood Saints Junior Football Club running out of Walsall Wood FC for the past 3 years and have had an average of 23 teams in this period ranging from under 7's to under 18's both boys and girls.

Walsall Wood Saint Junior FC, hold all their presentations, Christmas parties and fund raisers for the teams at club at no expense to the teams. We also, offer the function room to parents for birthday parties, engagement parties and even weddings for no cost to help the local community.

In the 3 years that I have been involved, there has not been a single issue regarding the safety to any of these children and there must have been over 100 functions.

If the licence is lost then unfortunately, these functions cannot take place as the costs to cover the functions are derived from the bar sales.

In the evidence there is a picture I posted on twitter on the 6th October 2020 at 8.24am wishing a friend happy birthday. The police believe that this is evidence of vertical drinking, when it should have been table service.

I can prove that this picture was taken on the 12th December 2019 at 21.13, when there were no restrictions on vertical drinking, therefore I do not understand how Walsall Wood FC can be reprimanded and this picture used in evidence, I produce as Ex BG1 a copy of the download of the screenshot of the photograph dated 12th December 2019 timed at 21:13.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed BGreen

Brian Green

Date 24/2/21

IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

WITNESS STATEMENT OF JUSTIN HODGIN

I am the Chairman of the Walsall Football and Social Club.

Background to Walsall Wood Community Football Club

Walsall Wood FC have been a part of the local community for over 100 years.

The club have had a liquor licence for over 60 years.

Our constitution changed on the 27th April 2009, to a Company under limited Guarantee and is run as a Members Club under a member's licence.

Walsall Wood Community FC Ltd. are a registered charity (Charity Number 1137978).

The company is run fully by volunteers (including Directors), however it does employ 2 members of staff to run the bar and functions under a PAYE system.

The club has over 2000 members and 30 teams ranging from boys and girls from 4 years old to 17 years old and also, 3 senior teams including Ladies.

We offer the club facilities to the local area and local groups, which include groups like The Woodlanders, who are a pensioner's group, who meet every Thursday to play bingo and we have also held youth courses with Police in recent years.

The club function room is used free of charge to all members for parties, engagements, weddings, football presentations, Xmas parties and we hold an annual bonfire night for the local community.

My background and involvement in the club

I was asked by some members in the club to attend a committee meeting in April 2011, as they had concerns on the financial position of the club.

Following this meeting, I committed to review the clubs financial position and report back to members.

My report showed that there was significant external debt at the club and unless someone took control of the club, it would not exist and the doors would have to close.

I was appointed a director and treasurer of the charity on 15th September 2011 to secure, negotiate with all external creditors and ensure that the charity had a future after 100 years.

My role developed to Chairman in 2012, and following this date until today I have personally invested over £160,000 into the club and worked as a volunteer devoting at least 20 hours per week.

Investments include a successful football team to create an interest in the club, a new bar, new machinery, a new stand and clearing off over £25k of debt when I arrived.

I am very proud at where this club is now from where it came from and is now a centre focus for the local community.

The recent history on the clubhouse

We run the clubhouse as a Members bar and charge Members £10 per year from July-June.

The clubhouse has been “run” under my guidance by John Lees and Paula Arblaster for the past 7 years, once we made the decision to open the clubhouse to Members on a daily basis from 4pm-11pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 12noon-11pm and Sunday 12noon- 10pm.

In the past 7 years before the lockdown on the 23rd March 2020, there has been 1 incident at the club on the 18th February 2016. Since that date there has been no concern raised as to the conduct of the committee and/or the Members of the club.

It is therefore submitted that we believe what we provide is a safe environment for all our Members irrespective of their age. Since the incident of the 18th February 2016, now some 5 years ago the Club has operated in good faith and other than the incident on the 5th December 2020 non-members had not been admitted to the Club.

We invested in a new bar in 2018 so we could hold private parties for our Members in the main clubhouse and split Member social drinkers from Members of the party. This has been a great success and this has assisted main local Members in holding free of charge events at the club.

The benefit to the club has been from the sale of alcohol and soft drinks.

Events since Lockdown on the 23rd March 2020

I as Chairman am truly sorry about the events that took place on the 5th December 2020, the actions of a few were irresponsible and reckless, I do ask that the actions of a few people on 1 occasion do not hinder the other numerous members of our club that use and appreciate the facilities.

Although reference has been made to alleged breaches on other days, I again will state that there is no proof of any other instances of a breach apart from the 5th December and we have taken action that will ensure this does not happen again.

On the 5th December the club was not open and was not trading. It is the actions of one person who held a private party/gathering.

The committee including myself took on a system of key management and trust of Members in 2011. We have had no reason to change or challenge the system we had until now. We have taken

appropriate action and have clear lines of key responsibility now so an event on the 5th December 2020 cannot happen again.

Much comment is made as to my conduct when the police attended at my home address. I accept that I was upset and agitated at the police visiting my personal home in April and then again in December. I live in a nice neighbourhood where the police never have to attend. I have not had any reason for police visits to my home, which I share with my wife, step-daughter and daughter. Between us we have no criminal history.

On the occasions the police officers attended I was embarrassed as to what the neighbours may think as to the presence of the police officers. I appreciate that they were only doing their job.

What I don't however appreciate is the comments made by the officers as to suggestions that my conduct was what it was as I was trying to hide something or alert others at the club as to the police interest. I refute any suggestion of this nature.

The people responsible for the actions on the 5th December 2020 will be dealt with by the board of directors in due course, but again I can only address 1 person as the police will not release the names of the other 18 people in attendance.

It is stated on the 5th December 2020 my car entered the car park at Lichfield Road at 7.02pm and left at 7.06pm, please see the statement from my wife Jane Hodgkin, as I was not in the car at this time, she was attending KFC but due to the queue left.

Evidence from Police and Licencing

April 2020 – Whilst I agree the police attended my house, there is no evidence to confirm if there was anyone in the club following what I believe was malicious calls to the police. There were numerous people like the grounds man going in and out of the grounds during this lockdown, so that's all I can confirm about movement at the club. Calls stating that someone called saying times the club were operating I can only say are malicious and unfounded, as the police found no evidence of wrong doing.

To demonstrate the malicious nature of individuals, following a call from the public that the club was open, the police attended on the 5th April 2020 to find the club secure and locked up

When I attended the Club to show the police the CCTV, I dispute what is being said that I tampered with the CCTV.

It is also said that on this day there was the fresh smell of beer. How can you distinguish fresh smell of beer being consumed recently to that of beer having beer consumed some 3 weeks earlier prior to the national lockdown.

I accept that I did pour 2 pints of beer. My intention wasn't too readily consume the beer as a social act, it was more to see what the beer tasted like, whether it was still fresh or not as the pipes had not been cleaned for the last 3 weeks.

Oct 2020 – Lack of social distancing at games and vertical drinking at the club.

Due to an issue with local children attending the matches we contacted and invited the police to attend our game on the 10th October, whereby 2 officers did attend and were present during the game. During the game both myself and other members of the committee spoke to the officers, to

address the children behaviour and at no time did the officers comment or complain about social distancing.

There is body cam footage of the youths outside the ground which is out of the clubs control.

We also, on this day employed 4 security guards to assist with this issue of youths and social distancing. Having taken the right steps in having not only security guards but also police officers present at the game, it was properly expected that they would have dealt with the social distancing issue. From the footage now served it would appear that no steps were taken by those in an official capacity to ensure there was social distancing.

It is unjust for the club to be now criticised for not ensuring social distancing when all the steps that could have been put in place were done so.

I have a statement from a member about the procedures all visitors had to go through to ensure we followed all Covid guidelines.

Following this event, I have personally spoken to the 2 officers on duty about attending the local schools to try and educate the children instead of banning the youths. Due to Covid this has yet to happen and I am waiting on the police to come back to me.

In the evidence given there is a picture posted on twitter on the 22th October, citing proof of vertical drinking. This picture was taken on the 12th December 2019 at 21.13, when there were no restrictions. A statement has been obtained from the person in the photograph namely Brian Green.

It has been stated that the police had tried to contact myself to assist and advise but I can confirm, that I had no contact with the police from the April event to the 5th December. PC Geiss in his statement stated he had the wrong number for me, therefore no assistance or reports ever happened.

In the evidence it states that I purchased alcohol in the lockdown, I deny that this is the case. On the 31st October 2020 the Government announced there would be a further national lockdown from the 5th November 2020. On the 1st November 2020 alcohol was purchased for consumption by members over the next few days. It was expected that we would be busy. I then purchased a 22g of carling (150 pints) on the 4th November as this was the last night before lockdown started. Again we expected a busy evening and this was delivered at 4pm on the 4th November. We do not hold vast stock due to cash flow and storage, therefore we did not want to miss out on a busy evening and with the lockdown only envisaged for 4 weeks, this barrel would have kept until we reopened.

I produce copies of the club's bank statements to show that no payments were taken during the lockdown periods, in particular for the dates 10th April and 5th December.

Evidence from Walsall Licencing

We were presented with a document with our club rules from the council on the 18th February 2021, this is the first time any committee member has seen this document. The constitution of the committees and board were changed on the 27th April 2009, which is recorded at Companies House and these are the committee and board guidelines we follow.

Impact of lockdown for the club

Whilst we cannot put an exact figure on the financial impact of lockdown to our charity, we can estimate the losses (statement from Ian Sylvester).

The impact is greater than just turnover at the bar. We rely on local sponsorship from companies like Claridges on the Lichfield Road that has had to close its doors due to the pandemic. This is one example but there are numerous other.

The safety of any person has not been compromised at any time. On the 5th December it is clear that the club was occupied and there were some 19 individuals in the club. None of these are said to be minors. Those inside the club had entered through the door and closed the shutters and the door behind them.

In the same way they had closed the shutters and door behind them, they had access and the ability to open the doors and shutters from the inside. At no time was the health of those inside at any risk of harm.

Websites

I have no knowledge of these websites and the adverts posted to these sites. The first time I became aware of these was when they have been referred to by Jennifer Mellor.

The telephone number of 01543, relates to Cannock not a Walsall dialling code. Having made enquiries with BT they have confirmed that the number was disconnected in 2007. The address that is given is correct, however the map location is incorrect.

These websites have not been put together by the committee, nor has the committee asked for them to be created. To my knowledge no bookings have been taken from non-members. It would be unfair and unjust to come to the conclusion that the club was being hired out to private parties.

Tracey Hunt wanted to do organise a Bingo night with everyone welcome to attend. This didn't happen as no one came. We were not expecting a lot of customers as attendees would have been females in their 60s. This was done to attempt to get that age group out of the house and engage in social activity.

Impact on losing license

If Walsall Wood Community FC losses its licence we would have to close the doors.

The bar income generates 70% of our turnover in the previous 3 years and because of the local economy would estimate this to equate to 90% in the next few years.

We would lose all functions and social members as this bar function is essential to the club and its attraction to the local community.

Following the conversation and meeting between the Directors of the Club and Tracey Hunt, a unanimous decision was made that Tracey Hunt be suspended from all duties until further notice. I produce a copy of the letter confirming this position dated 20/12/20.

All permission to access and/or have in her possession the keys was also removed. As a result of Tracey Hunt's actions the key system has been reviewed. The keys are now kept and retained by individuals rather than in the Key Safe.

The application to review relates to the following licensing objectives

The prevention of crime and disorder – the breaches that have been identified were the actions of a limited number of individuals. On the whole the responsibility of one person namely Tracey Hunt. Sanctions have been imposed which will prevent the possibility of such acts being carried out again.

Public safety – At no time have any members of the public had their safety compromised. In the same way that those who entered the club on the 5th December, they had the ability to leave in the same way. Due to the actions of a limited number the doors and shutters were not opened, however they were always capable of being opened.

The prevention of public nuisance – When it became obvious that crowds/fans in attendance at the football game were not going to socially distance, the club took proper steps to employ security guards and ask for police presence. All the proper steps were taken. It was then the responsibility of these individuals to prevent the public nuisance.

The protection of children from harm – At no time has any child been at risk of harm nor has it been suggested that any child was harmed or came close to being harmed. There were no children present on the 5th December 2020. Although officers have said they heard the sounds of children in the club in April, there is no evidence that any body was there. Even if it was presumed that children were present there is no evidence that they were at risk of harm. Children have always been looked after and there have never been any incidents where children have come to any harm or put at any risk of harm.

No acts have been carried out from which it can be inferred that there has been a disregard to the licensing objectives for the sake of profit and/or financial gain. Tracey Hunt not only breached the Covid rules, she also breached our rules. Even though the beer would have been thrown away, she had no right to allow the consumption of it. There was no gain or profit to the club from this breach.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Justin Hodgkin

Date 24/2/21



Walsall Wood Community Football Club
Oak Park
Lichfield Road
Walsall Wood
WS9 9NP

Date: 20th December 2020

Mrs. Tracey Hunt
79 Catshill Road
Brownhills
Walsall
WS8 6BN

Dear Tracey,

Further to conversations over the past week regarding your actions on the night of the 5th December 2020 at the above premises.

The directors have made the decision to suspend you from your duties until further notice.

At present we have little information regarding the event and actions and are waiting on information from the police, once this has been received the board will reassess and look at taking appropriate action.

This has damaged the clubs standing in the local community and local press and we will take this situation very seriously.

If you require any further information in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Hodgkin'.

Justin Hodgkin
Director
Walsall Wood FC

Company No.: 06888747
Charity No.: 1137978

IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

WITNESS STATEMENT OF TRACEY HUNT

I have been involved in Walsall Wood Football and Social club for xx years. As of the 5th December 2020 I held the position of 1st team match-day secretary.

As the 1st team match-day secretary I was provided a set of keys to access the grounds and the Social Club. During the first Lockdown which commenced in March 2020 all the ground and Social Club keys were gathered together and retained by xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxx.

Following Lockdown being lifted and the Football Club and Social Club being allowed to open the keys were distributed to those who may require them for access.

I was provided with a set of keys to the grounds and the Social Club.

On the 5th December 2020 there was a football match scheduled, however this had to be cancelled. I had invited some friends from around the country to attend. I should have cancelled them attending but didn't. I wasn't aware until they arrived that my some of my friends had invited some of their own friends.

Instead I stupidly opened Walsall Wood FC bar and entertained these friends, whilst the bar should have been closed. These actions were solely mine and mine alone. I was aware of the restrictions in place and what the consequences would be.

To my knowledge the Social Club had not been used during any of the Lockdown periods and I stupidly thought I could get away with it. Being away from the main road and out the view of the public I thought I could get away with entertaining some friends who I hadn't seen for a while.

I make no excuses for my decisions and actions, I knew what I was doing was wrong and now regret the decision I made. I overlooked completely the consequences to others as a result of my selfish actions.

I am aware that I have brought the Football Club and Social club into disrepute and regret this sincerely and wish I could make up for this.

These actions were stupid as I was fully aware of the situation and the issues regarding the pandemic.

I am truly sorry for my actions and understand that the club will be reviewing my position at the club in the near future.

When this came to light following the police attending I was extremely embarrassed and wanted to just hide away. I was reluctant to confess to the Chairman or anyone else that I was involved and solely responsible for the breach, such was my despair and embarrassment.

I only informed the Chairman Justin Hodgin of my actions on the Friday following the xx December 2020, in which he then informed me that there would be consequences to my actions.

I have also informed the Chairman that there were no cash taken on the night and I was going to ask my friends in the club for a donation as the beer was going to be thrown away with the next week because of the expiry dates on the barrels. At the time I thought my actions were to bring some much needed income for the club as it had been forced to close.

I could have opened 1 of the 3 doors from the inside at any time on the 5th December 2020 but felt intimidated by my friends inside not to open them, as they said "we have been caught anyway".

In hindsight I of course wish I hadn't opened the Social Club to my friends. Furthermore, I am annoyed with myself for listening to my friends and not opening the doors. This I know would have prevented an increase in the number of police officers who attended and also the damage that was caused as a result of my failure to cooperate. The Social Club having to pay for the damage to be repaired.

I am disgusted with my own behaviour and lack of concern I showed for the consequences to the Football and Social Club. I am also embarrassed by the conduct of my friends towards myself and the police by not opening the doors and the abuse towards the police.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Tracey Hunt

Date 23/2/21

Matthew Powis

From: Jennifer Mellor <j.mellor@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2021 17:16
To: Matthew Powis; Sayful Alom; Licensing; mahan.manu@esnsolicitors.com; Justin Hodgin | BBG Consultancy
Subject: Walsall Wood Football and Social Club Review
Attachments: PC Greenfield MG11 Statement 24 Feb 2021.pdf; PC Ellingworth MG11 statement 24 Feb 2021.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the council. If you have any doubts do not click links or open attachments. You should never be asked to enter your username and password into an external link.

In response to the evidence produced by Mr Manu today I requested further statements (attached) from officers refuting some of the facts referred to in their evidence.

Contained in the statements is evidence Jane Hodgin spoke with officers at her home on 12th December and explained the reason her car was seen passing KFC on the 5th December. As I believe this information would be classed as sensitive took the decision not release this especially as I have overwhelming evidence contained in the review document and supporting information. However, since Jane and Justin have produced statements contradicting this information I now will refer to this at the review next Tuesday.

Once at the station tomorrow I will share via Box, the body worn video of Jane's conversation with officers as referred to above. Please note this is a snapshot of the conversation as there is information contain in the footage which has no relevance to this review. I am also releasing footage of Tracey Hunt being issued with her Fixed Penalty Notice. This latter footage evidences Tracey does NOT hold keys to the club and arrived after most people were already inside after being out with family for the day. This conversation occurred whilst Tracey was under caution. The footage will be available to view from lunchtime tomorrow.

Kind regards

Jennifer

Jennifer Mellor
Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer
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Walsall Police
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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Crime No. []

URN []

Statement of James Ellingworth

Age if under 18 O 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Constable 20090

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: [] (witness)

Date 24/02/21

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am PC 20090 Ellingworth currently stationed at Aldridge Police Station in the county of West Midlands.

I make this further statement in relation to the incident that occurred at Walsall Wood Football Club on the evening of 5th December 2020.

On the 12th December 2020 I attended the home address of Justin and Jane HODGIN for a pre arranged appointment with Justin. I was in company with PC 20325 Greenfield and we were both in full uniform.

Upon arrival Justin was not there and Jane opened the front door in a distressed state - she was crying.

During a conversation with Jane I informed her that we had CCTV footage of their car attending the football club. Jane told us that Justin had requested to be picked up but did not answer his phone once she had arrived. She waited, noting that the club was in darkness and that she could not gain access. After approx 4 minutes she left to return home. She stated she came across Justin on the Lichfield Road walking and took him home.

The conversation was captured on body camera and I now exhibit this as JE/11 (Court Exhibit Ref

No. []

Signature []

Signature witnessed by

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Crime No.

URN

Statement of P.A. GREENFIELD

Age if under 18 O/18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Constable 20325

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: *P.A. Greenfield 20325*

(witness)

Date 24/02/2021

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am PC 20325 GREENFIELD of the West Midlands Police currently stationed at Aldridge Police Station. Walsall. West midlands.

I am making this statement confirming that on the night of the Walsall Wood F.C. incident on 5th December 2020 where their shutter doors were removed forcibly to gain entry for uniformed officers. The customers were then filtered out to officers to be dealt with. Whilst I was conducting the Police Computer Checks on the customers who had been guided to my location one of the males stated in a Liverpool accent that he worked on the roads with others in the group and that they were having their Christmas party. He stated that a number of them were staying at the Barons Court Hotel, Walsall Road, Walsall Wood and that the gathering had been arranged a couple of weeks ago.

A few days later myself and PC 20090 ELLINGWORTH attended the home address of Justin HODGIN his wife Jane answered the front door and it was clear she had been crying and appeared quite emotional. During an open conversation she stated she had driven to the Walsall Wood Football Club on the night in question of the lock in. Jane told us that her husband had requested her to attend the location and pick him up, however upon her attendance at the Football Club Justin was nowhere to be seen and could not be contacted via her mobile phone. At this point Jane left and came across her husband walking on the Lichfield Road a short distance from the Football Club.

Signature

P.A. Greenfield 20325

Signature witnessed by

IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

FURTHER WITNESS STATEMENT OF JUSTIN HODGIN

Following the email regarding Walsall Wood Community FC advertising on the websites stated below by Jennifer Mellor, I can confirm that after investigations internally, no one at the club is aware of these websites and no authorised anyone to advertise on the clubs behalf.

<https://www.uk-functionrooms.co.uk/halls/wm/67450.php> quoted from the website "Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties"

<https://www.needadisco.com/venues/wm/67450.php> quoted from the website "Is Walsall Wood Football Club suitable for a Private Function?"

YES! needadisco.com has recently received enquiries for catering, photography, DJs, dancefloors, giant light-up letters and other entertainment services for clients holding birthday parties, anniversaries, engagements etc. at Walsall Wood Football Club

<https://www.uk-hallhire.co.uk/halls/WS/67450.php> quoted from the website "Venue has confirmed they accept bookings for young adults - e.g. 18th/21st birthday parties"

All of these websites have an 01543 number that is disconnected and again a number that we are unaware of and since my involvement starting 2011, we have NEVER had a landline.

On all these websites it states that the details have not been verified with the venue, which again shows that we have no knowledge of these.

I have emailed the company to contact me as there is no telephone number to call, to ask to remove our details and to give us some understanding on who controls this on our behalf, as all 3 websites have updated details on Walsall Wood FC within the past 2 weeks.

On the www.needadisco.com site on the 1 review on 29/02/16. It states one of the downsides are that the club have no windows.

When I joined the club in 2011 there were no windows however windows were installed in 2012, therefore the review in 2016, cannot be correct.

It also states there is no dance floor and again the dance floor was installed in 2012.

Another fact is it says there is limited parking, in 2016 there would have been parking for 50 cars inside the ground before we erected the new stand 2020.

The company is run by VECTIS VIBE EVENTS. When you go onto their website, there is no contact number and links to Victis Vibe.com and says we are not taking any bookings.

When searching victisvibe.com, their twitter account has no contact details and the last twitter post for victisvibe is on the 2nd August 2010.

The websites that the Walsall Football and Social Club appear have not been requested by the club and no bookings have been taken.

Although the website has been updated in the last couple of days, there is still no valid contact number or the ability to communicate with anyone to remove the posting.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed
Justin Hodgkin

Date

IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE OR
CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENCING ACT 2003

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WALSALL FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

WITNESS STATEMENT OF JOHN LEES

I, John Lees have worked at Walsall Wood Community FC for 7 years as Head Barman and the main contact between bar staff and the committee, with my main communication is normally with the chairman Justin Hodgkin.

We have been open to members from 4pm-11pm on Monday to Friday and 12noon-11pm/10am since 2014, following the demand from members to have a more consistent opening structure and to create a local members community.

Since, this time the club only had one team and because of these positive changes attracted a girls football team structure in 2015 and a boys football team structure in 2016 moving the memberships from around 100 to around 2000.

In 2018, the club started the investment of to replace an old clubhouse, so we had 2 rooms that would keep a private members function room and a members social room. This investment has assisted the club greatly as we now do not have social members in the same room, as a members child's 10th birthday party, creating a safer environment.

Whilst, our membership policy and process is simple it has been effective and apart from 1 event in 2016, we have had no other problems with the police in the times of us being open before the pandemic enforced our close on 23th March 2020.

I can confirm that I held keys for the club until Chairman Justin Hodgkin requested them back on or around 17th April 2020, where there was a report of club usage. These keys were returned to me and other members (who were requested the same) on the 3rd July 2020, one day before reopening on the 4th July 2020.

The keys were again taken from me on the 7th December 2020 following the events of the 5th December 2020.

I have had communication with the chairman about the restructuring of the key management once we hopefully reopen, to enforce more security at the club. The key management structure was the same in place from when I started employment at Walsall Wood FC and have never had any problems prior to the pandemic events.

The clubs process for membership is as follows –

Social member – a person walks into the club, if unknown to the bar staff, we request them to fill in a membership form and pay the membership before they are served, we then give them a membership card and the membership form and money is passed to the chairman.

This is a small part of the membership and most people are known to me and the staff as we have lived in Walsall Wood for over 40 years.

Childrens teams membership – forms are given to the committee of the 2 childrens structures, where upon the signing on of the child for a team, they have to fill in a membership form, which included parents/guardians and other siblings. The junior committee pass the forms back and pay the membership fee (which for a family is the same as a social member, as an discount to the children and families).

Event booking – When a member comes in to book an event, we look in the diary to see if date is free, if it is, we then put a provisional booking in the diary and give them a function booking form to complete and pay a deposit.

All children’s functions we take a £50 deposit on booking and return after the event.

Signing in book process – This is held behind the bar and when a member enters the premises we enter them in the book for our records. This I believe has been passed to the police.

I personally believe we had had a secure safe environment for our members and with only 1 instance in 7 years should surely evidence this.

If the licence is removed I would lose my job that I have loved for the past 7 years and following a very difficult year with the pandemic would be a severe blow, but not just to me but to the local community that have loved and enjoyed the club and its development.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

John Lees

Date