

## **Minutes of Blues Trust board meeting:**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

venue: Margaret's flat

recorded by MD

meeting started at 6.50 pm

Board members present: Peter Bull (PB), Margaret Decker (MD), Richard Stanley (RS)

Also present: Helen Gilfoyle

Apologies: Emma Hodgson, Mark Sutton, Phil Beardmore

### **1) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 15/3/2016 were approved.

### **2) Matters arising**

The proposals discussed during the informal, non-quorate part of the last meeting were approved and it was agreed:

- a) To aim to recruit 100 more members before the AGM in the autumn
- b) To regularly include on our website and on social media a call to join the trust that gives reasons why people should join. (i.e. the trust communicates with the club, works to safeguard the long term future of the club by registering stadium as ACV and monitoring ownership situation, and works with other trusts to bring about change in football governance in general.)
- c) To present our message more visually, using more photos and infographics and to only use photos that we are legally entitled to use and to build up a stock of these that can be used when needed.

### **3) Finance**

- a) The treasurer's report was accepted.
- b) Income from membership fees is not sufficient to cover expenses but donations from board members and other members have made up the shortfall.
- c) Unity Trust Bank has instituted bank account charges. PB was authorised to investigate the terms of free treasurer's accounts offered by banks and make arrangements to transfer our account. .

### **4) Relationship with club and other supporters' groups**

- a) It was agreed not to submit any extra items for discussion at the next supporters' forum at the club on May 19<sup>th</sup> in order to allow adequate time for discussion on the items already listed on the agenda. Board members welcome the club's stated intention to allow as many different fans as possible to have a voice at forum events and think that discussion of David Boston's plans on how to do this are important. We also feel that the review of concourse catering could take time.
- b) The positive contribution of the Tilton Alliance at the Middlesbrough match was noted. The policy of Blues Trust is to welcome the contribution made by other groups of supporters, recognise that different groups have different functions and to co-operate with them wherever possible.

### **5) Forward planning for next AGM**

It was agreed to try and have the AGM in early October this year and to consider having an evening meeting rather than a match-day morning.

## 7) Building membership and media use

- a) There was a discussion on the use of our website, social media and messages to build membership. It was agreed to send a letter to people who have let their memberships lapse, asking why they have not renewed.
- b) We have experienced problems with our website during high traffic periods. The cost of upgrading would be £14.95 per month compared with our existing Professional 500 package of £5.95 per month. It was agreed that we need to upgrade.
- c) It was agreed that we should try to recruit someone to help with our website. PB has problems with his internet connection at times and we have nobody else capable of all the necessary work in keeping the software up-to-date and dealing with technical problems.

## 8) AOB

- a) It was agreed to accept Emma's resignation, effective on May 31<sup>st</sup> and to thank her for all she has done.
- b) MD will attend the Co-op Networking meeting on May 18.
- c) The Supporters Summit will be on July 16 and SD AGM on July 17, both at Wembley.
- d) We will arrange an open meeting with Daniel Ivery when and if there is news from Hong Kong that is of interest to Blues fans.

## 9) Next meeting

It was agreed to arrange the date of our next board meeting by email.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

## Action list

1. Pete will start making arrangements to transfer bank account to a bank that can offer free banking.
2. Pete will write to Steve about £20 cash-in-hand.
3. Margaret will donate £180 to trust before May 31.
4. Helen will write post for site on how audience reaction affects performers.
5. Richard will draft letter to be sent asking lapsed members why they have not renewed. This will include some possible responses (eg things are going well so trust not needed, trust doesn't do anything) Before letter is sent out we need to make clear arrangements as to who will send replies to members that respond and also have list of answers we can give. (eg situation can change, support Daniel's investigative work, have connection with other fans via SD and input into discussion of EWG, any future legislation on owners relationship with fans will need a fit-and-proper supporters group that is accountable and open to all.)

## Holiday time

It would be helpful if everybody could inform Margaret of times when they will be away on holiday or involved in other activities that limit their ability to do work for the trust or communicate.

Helen is busy now but will have more time after May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Richard is about to go on holiday and will be away for much of time until September 26<sup>th</sup>; he will inform Margaret of details later.