

## **Minutes of Blues Trust Board meeting**

held on Thursday, 5 January 2017, at Anthony Collins Solicitors.

Present: Cliff Horrocks (CH), Margaret Decker (MD), Peter Bull (PB), Phil Beardmore (PhB), Richard Stanley (RS)

The meeting started at 4.15 pm.

1. Minutes of 19/11/2016 meeting were approved.

2. Reports

a. Chair's report

CH said that he was familiarising himself with the trust's situation and had begun writing a business plan. We need to ask ourselves how big we want to be.

b. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report included a summary of the progress made on purchasing shares in the club. Registration of the shares had been delayed by the Christmas holiday break. It was agreed to give two years' free membership to the seller of the shares.

It was also agreed that CH and PhB should be added as signatories on the bank account

c. Report on distribution of thank-you-Gary posters before Brighton game

MD said that although it was a rush job, we had learned some things from doing it. The decision to go ahead was made on the day before the game, when 'Yes' responses to the poll asking if people would hold them up were above 70%. (Final poll result was Yes 78% [261 votes] and No 22% [72 votes].) The 2,000 posters were distributed in pubs and handed out to supporters arriving for the game. When they were handed out, there was a positive response from most supporters, which seemed to be about the same as the level of support indicated by our poll. The small number of posters scattered around the ground didn't make much of an impact but this kind of action could be effective given more time to plan, more posters to hold up and more people to distribute them.

d. Report on Supporters Forum and Supporters Liaison Officer (SLO)

RS attended the supports forum meeting on November 22 and a copy of the minutes was published on our website. It was the first supporters' forum at which senior management were present, in compliance with the EFL's new rules that senior management should meet with supporters at least twice a year. RS reported that no financial plans had been presented, no one from the club was prepared to talk about their strategic plans and the owners were unwilling to consider fan representation at board level.

Since that meeting, there has been a change of manager and a change of SLO; David Boston has left the club and Rachele Johnson has replaced him. It was agreed that CH would write to her, to welcome her to her new role at the club and introduce himself. The next Supporters Forum Meeting will be on January 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be preceded by a meeting with the West Midlands Police Football Unit, who have requested a meeting with supporters to discuss arrangements for the Villa game in April.

3. Business plan

The board discussed a draft of a business plan. It was agreed that our short-term priorities should be to develop our relationship with the club while remaining independent of it and to try to increase the number of active members of the trust.

4. Co-operation with Blues 4 All

The board discussed our part in the event that is being planned by Blues 4 All. CH agreed to coordinate the details of this.

5. Registered office

The board discussed trying to find a different registered office address now that Legal Clarity has increased their fees for this service. CH will make enquires.

6. Any other business

a. It was agreed that people who have helped the trust in the past be invited to continue to comment on our plans and attend board meetings and that others who have expressed interest also be invited to do this.

b. Board members agreed that the information provided on the Information Commissioner's Office ([ico.org.uk](http://ico.org.uk)) indicated that we do not need to register under the Data Protection Act. We will put a statement on our site indicating that we do not pass data to any third parties.

7. Next meeting

CH will circulate a list of possible dates for a meeting in February.

The meeting finished at 6.20 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_