

**Blues Supporters Society Ltd**  
**trading as Blues Trust**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

1. The chair of the meeting, Robert Hughes CBE, welcomed trust members to the meeting and introduced board members and Roger Ellis, Secretary of Sky Blue Trust and chair of the Election Management Group.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Kevin Baker, Robert Davies and Helen Gilfoyle.
3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising.
4. Steve McCarthy, chair of Blues Trust, presented his report. He thanked Phil Brown for his work as treasurer and expressed his regret that, because of other commitments, Phil had decided not to stand for re-election. Steve also thanked Paul Smith for his help as a co-opted board member and David Turner who had done the graphic designs for the Delay No More campaign.
5. The Financial Report was presented by Phil Brown.
6. Financial resolution  
A proposal to accept the accounts of the Trust as presented and to authorize the Board to re-engage the Independent Examiner for the 2014-15 financial year was passed unanimously.
7. Election of Board Members  
Roger Ellis, Secretary of Sky Blue Trust and chair of our Election Management Group presented the four candidates: Peter Bull, Emma-Louise Hodgson, Steve McCarthy and Chris Walker. They were unanimously approved.
8. Any Other Business  
There was no other business.

### **Questions and Answers**

Various questions were raised during the meeting and in the question and answer session that followed the meeting. Roger Ellis, the secretary of Sky Blue Trust, was able to share some insights from the situation at Coventry. The following issues were discussed and comments made.

The Delay-No-More flag had done what it was intended to do and delivered its message to the directors of Birmingham International Holdings Ltd. The focus was now changing from putting pressure on BIHL to targets that are closer to home such as the Football League. It would be good to organise other non-violent ways for fans to make their feelings known. Even if it has little effect on BIHL or the FL, it could help to unite supporters.

The Premier League and Football League are controlled by the clubs and owners are unlikely to take action to curb their own freedom to act as they wish.

Members of Parliament are more likely to be responsive to pressure because of the General Election next May. Several politicians are already interested and a private members bill on football governance failed to get a second reading on Friday because fewer than 40 MPs had taken part in the Division. A government bill is more likely to succeed.

The Labour Party has plans to shake up football governance. Supporters of each club would have to form a single accredited trust in return for the right to appoint some of their club's directors and to purchase up to 10% of the shares when a club changes ownership. Roger Ellis said that having a supporter on the board would only work where there was a good relationship between the supporter director and other board members; it wouldn't work at Coventry.

Trond Fuhre asked how the trust planned to get more members. Roger Ellis said that Sky Blue Trust had increased membership from 50 to 3,000 by reducing membership fee to £1 and making it easy to join: pay £1 and supply an email address.