

**Blues Supporters Society Ltd**  
**trading as Blues Trust**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

1. The chair of the meeting, Philip Hunt (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath), welcomed trust members to the meeting and introduced Craig Sloman, vice-chair of Charlton Athletic Supporters' Trust and chair of the Election Management Group.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Neil Cottrell, Ian Francis, Helen Gilfoyle, John Griffin, Emma Hodgson, Greg Holms, Jacob Hunt Stewart, Daniel Ivery, Marc Jeffrey, David McCaffrey, Steve McCarthy, Andy Munro, Tony Rabiotti, Gabriel Sutton, and Ray Tomkinson.
3. Minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising.
4. Margaret Decker, chair of Blues Trust presented her report. She thanked former board members Chris Walker, Steve McCarthy and Lee Bradshaw for the contribution they had made and explained that they had had to leave the board due to health reasons and work commitments. She also thanked David Farrell, who had decided not to stand for re-election to the board, for all that he had done and for his support.
5. The Financial report was presented by Peter Bull, treasurer of Blues Trust. David Farrell asked if the trust could make membership free for the next year but invite donations in order to increase the membership. In the ensuing discussion it was mentioned that the rules required members to pay at least £1 for their share; free e-membership is already available and not many people had taken advantage of that. It was agreed that the board would consider the suggestion in the wider context of increasing the membership.
6. Financial resolution  
A proposal was passed to accept the accounts of the Trust as presented and to authorize the Board to re-engage the Independent Examiner for the 2015-16 financial year.
7. Election of Board Members  
Craig Sloman, vice-chair of Charlton Athletic Supporters' Trust and chair of Blues Trust's Election Management Group presented the three candidates: Margaret Decker, Richard Stanley and Mark Sutton. They were unanimously approved.
8. Discussion on member engagement led by Margaret Decker  
Margaret explained that Rule 26 gives members the power to give directions to the board and Rule 32 allows them to call a general meeting. However, it is usually much easier to just communicate with board members, who welcome suggestions from other members of the trust.  
It was agreed that the board should arrange open meetings. Different opinions were expressed on the best time to hold them; some would find evening meetings more convenient; others would prefer from about Saturday 12.30 to 2 pm before games. However, finding a free venue near St Andrew's before games might be difficult. The trust should ask if we can hold meetings at St Andrew's.
9. Any Other Business  
There was a discussion on Birmingham City Council's proposal to introduce a residents parking permit scheme in the streets around St Andrew's and all who spoke opposed the idea. There was also a discussion on the importance and use of social media, which was continued in the Question and Answer session.

### Summary of topics and comments made in Question and Answer session

Craig Sloman said that Charlton Athletic Supporters' Trust had faced similar issues to those facing Blues Trust and outlined some of the things they had done to increase their effectiveness. He said that the quantity of members was not as important as the quality; there needs to be enough active members. Social media is very important and they try to update daily. They also have a match day presence and conduct surveys. It is important to get out and talk to people. CAS Trust now has 1100 paying members.

#### Blues Trust:

- needs to increase its membership and particularly needs more active members who can help with the work.
- should engage with its members and other Birmingham City supporters in open meetings and by conducting surveys outside St Andrew's.
- needs to make more effective use of social media.
- should concentrate on its core message, which is about the governance of football and the need for supporters to have a voice.
- should join with other Birmingham City supporters groups on other issues.
- is part of a wider movement of football supporters who are concerned about the state of football today. It is a member of Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation.