

Blues Supporters Society Ltd
trading as Blues Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
7pm, November 9th, 2016

1. The chair of the meeting, Ray Tomkinson, introduced the members of Blues Trust board: Peter Bull, Margaret Decker and Richard Stanley.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Phil Beardmore, John Griffin, Philip Hunt, Jonathan Sharp and Stephen Whalley.
3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising.
4. Margaret Decker, chair of Blues Trust, presented her report. She said that it had been another difficult year for the board and they had lost two board members during the year. Emma Hodgson had been unable to continue due to work and family commitments. Mark Sutton passed away in August after being ill for several months. The three remaining board members had been unable to do all that they had said needed doing at last year's AGM.
5. The Financial report was presented by Peter Bull, treasurer of Blues Trust.
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 2016-17 financial year.
7. Election of Board Members
There were three candidates: Phil Beardmore, Peter Bull and Cliff Horrocks. The meeting approved of their election to Blues Trust board.
8. Any Other Business
The following questions were asked and comments made.
 - a. Question: Would the trust like to have younger members? Answer: Yes, we would like to have members who are representative of the whole range of fans.
 - b. Question: Does the trust have any plans to raise money through events? Answer: We do not have plans at present but are open to suggestions.
 - c. Comment: David Boston, the Supporter Liaison Officer, could help to increase the membership of supporters' groups. He could do this by getting the club to publicize the groups to its captive audience. The supporters' groups can help to boost attendance at matches so this can benefit both the club and its supporters.
 - d. Comment: Supporters trusts that are members of Supporters Direct have a broader purpose than just supporting one club. They try to counteract the trend to regard football clubs as just businesses. The connection that fans feel with their clubs is important. Blues Trust needs to have a match day presence as a lot of Blues fans haven't heard of it. The membership of the trust should be at least 10% of the attendance at home games; 10% of 16,000 is 1,600.

The meeting ended at 8 pm and was followed by a Question and Answer session with Tom Ross, who talked about his book *The Game's Gone*.