

Minutes of Blues Trust Board meeting

Held at 3.30 pm on 1st August 2017 at Anthony Collins Solicitors

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

Apology: Phil Beardmore

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the 4/7/2017 meeting were approved and it was noted that RS had looked at the Companies Act 2006. This states that a private company that is not traded does not have to hold an AGM. BCFC Ltd comes under the definition of a private company.

Following on from the proposal, mentioned at the last meeting, that Supporters Direct and Football Supporters Federation consider a merger, RS presented a review of the objectives and policies of the FSF. It was agreed that there was a place for an independent supporters organisation to monitor the governance of football clubs and as such the Board supports the continuation of SD as a separate organisation.

2. Reports

a. Chair's report

CH reported that he expected to be less busy from September and should be able to spend time working on the business plan during the next couple of months.

b. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report for the two months ending on 31/7/2017 was accepted.

c. Secretary's report

MD said that she had agreed that the trust would help publicise the filmed version of the Rep's production of *Stadium* when it is put on BBC iPlayer.

She will ask for PB, CH and RS to be given access to the members hub on the Supporters Direct website.

MD reported on the message from Deborah Dilworth about her point of contact with Blues Trust. Discussion on this was linked with discussion on MD's contact who might be able to advise us on whom to contact at a local college, about getting a student to help with social media. It was agreed that we do need help with media but need to be clear about what we ask people to do, to avoid confusion about who is doing what.

3. AGM planning

RS reported on venue booking and some difficulties with getting confirmation on pricing. It was agreed that he would pass the information on to MD so that she could follow up in person if necessary.

It was agreed that CH would be on the Election Management Group (EMG) and that he and PB will work on finding an independent chair and a Blues Trust member who is not on the board to be the two other members of the EMG. MD will send out letters giving notice of the AGM but cannot help with election arrangements as she will be standing as a candidate. Nomination papers should be sent to CH. MD will also write to a prospective AGM chair.

4. Supporters engagement with BCFC

It was noted that we requested that the club have a fans page on the new website giving information on the Supporters Forum meetings with links to minutes of previous meetings. The club has suggested that it do a web story after each meeting to publish what was discussed in a less formal manner and in a way that reaches everyone.

It was agreed that RS should inform the club that we agree to adhere to their code of conduct for

supporters' groups but that we have some questions about the first paragraph. RS will also inform Rachele that he and CH will be attending the Forum on August 15. One question for the Forum, about Blues Wall, had been suggested by readers of the Blues Trust website but had already been answered by the Club. Board members agreed to continue to consider questions to ask at the Forum. CH presented his draft of a letter to the club and it was agreed that he should send it.

5. Media

It was agreed to have a suggested limit of 350 words in a newsletter.

It was noted that CH still has a lot copies of our printed card.

6. Any other business

PB said that he'd had no further contact from the trust who had been interested in getting advice on CiviCRM. There are a few problems on the Blues Trust website caused by the conflict between CiviCRM and some WordPress plugins.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be at 3.30 pm on Monday 4th September.

The meeting finished at 5.30 pm.