

Blues Trust AGM 2107

Chair's Report

This is my first year as a Board Member and Chair. I have been on a steep learning curve and thank the more experienced Board Members for their patience and support.

Although the financial position of the Trust has improved from last year, we remain an organisation that has low income and low spend relying on the donation of Board Members' time to enable the Trust to function.

Membership numbers have declined this year mainly due to non-renewal of memberships on expiry. Currently our membership fees do not cover the basic running costs and so more members are sought.

I would like to thank Karim Adab and Ray Tomkinson for the work carried out free of charge to support the Trust. We have supplemented income this year with a Raffle, an on line auction and a quiz night.

Also, we have increased our activity this year and developed a mutually beneficial relationship with Blues 4 all. Together we organised a celebration evening for Tom Ross at St. Andrews that brought together many of the different Blues Fans Groups. The event was a great success and sponsorship from Fans for Diversity allowed places to be given free to members of supporters groups. Other activity this year has been to:

- take part in the supporters forum meetings at BCFC
- take part in Supporters Direct Annual Forum
- attend SD and FSF meetings in London
- support Alum rock football Academy
- distribution of Thank you GR posters (seems a long time ago)
- publish articles on the web site
- send out monthly newsletters to members
- carry out 5 TV interviews for central sports (mainly about changing managers)

Our main reason for being is to have the fans voice heard at the highest level within BCFC. We pursue this through building a relationship with staff / owners and working with Supporters Direct (SD) on the Structured Dialogue initiative. In the longer term we would like fan representation at Board level and as a legally constituted body we are able to own assets to enable the Trust to step in should financial disaster befall BCFC.

We have purchased shares in Birmingham City FC in support of our long term goals and to ensure we receive shareholders official notifications. Our thanks go to those fans that have sold or donated their shares to us and we are willing recipients and a safe home for any fans wishing to transfer their shares to the Trust.

Our work with SD regarding Structured Dialogue has resulted in EPL and EFL introducing rules that require clubs' senior executives/owners to discuss strategic issues, including financial matters and ownership, with fans. BCFC have introduced the fans forum where management attend twice per year which goes some way to fulfilling this responsibility. However, we consider there is more that BCFC can do and we continue our attempts to take this discussion forward with management and owners.

We look forward to the coming year and hope for stability at BCFC. We will work hard on our relationship with BCFC and hope to build a closer relationship with the owners around structured dialogue. It is also our intention to work with Blues4all and BCFC on community inclusion activity, renew the community asset status of St Andrews, raise our profile and attract new members.

In conclusion, I thank everyone who has supported the Trust, we are reliant on volunteering for us to function, and offer our undying support for our team and club with the hope of success on the pitch.

KRO

Cliff Horrocks