

Minutes of Blues Trust board meeting  
held on Monday, December 18 2017 at Anthony Collins Solicitors

Present: Peter Bull (PB), Margaret Decker (MD), Cliff Horrocks (CH), Richard Stanley (RS)  
Consulted via email: Karim Adab (KA)  
Apologies: Phil Beadmore

The meeting started at 3 pm.

1. Minutes

The minute of the 6/11/2017 meeting were approved.

2. It was noted that the following items had been agreed by an email vote:

- a. Agreed that we need to comply with the new Data Protection Bill when it is passed and note that the [overview factsheet](#) says that it will “Preserve existing tailored exemptions that have worked well in the Data Protection Act, carrying them over to the new law to ensure that UK businesses and organisations can continue to support world leading research, financial services, journalism and legal services.” When more information is published we will check to see if we are still exempt from the requirement to register.
- b. Agreed that MD can purchase a table, with her own money, for the Geoff Horsfield cabaret evening with sit-down meal at the Botanical Gardens on 23 March, 7 pm to 2 am and can promote it on the trust website
- c. Approved the FCA return prepared by PB, which he has now submitted to the FCA.

3. Reports

a. Chair’s report

CH said he would report on his activities under the relevant items later in the agenda.

b. Treasurer’s report

The trust is still running at a small deficit for the year. We have not received the invoice for hire of the AGM venue yet; PB will accrue an estimated amount for this.

c. Website report

PB updates the site as new versions of programs becomes available. It is now possible to offer gift memberships and he will consider doing this. PB has started work on setting up a page to sell a collection of Football Programmes donated by one of our members so that we can generate some funds. A lot more work needs to be done on cataloguing them before we could do this.

d. Secretary’s report

We arranged to pay our membership fees to SD by direct debit and, as a reward for doing this, we received 10 more copies of *Engage! How clubs can win with supporters*

Amanda Jacks reported on her meeting with the Metropolitan Police about the policing at the Millwall v Birmingham game. Due to confidentiality, she couldn’t disclose what was discussed but said she was shown CCTV which showed why horses were deployed and their use was needed.

We received from SD a Christmas card and confirmation that Blues Trust is a full member of SD; from the Football Foundation annual reviews of the Football Foundation and the Football Stadia Improvement Fund.

e. Report on BCFC supporters forum held on Monday November 27.

CH and RS attended the meeting. The question submitted about unrest in the dressing room was not dealt with and Roger Lloyd was unsure of the answer to the question about buying shares in Birmingham Sports Holdings but said he would put the question to Hong Kong.

- f. Meeting with WM police on December 7  
MD reported that the meeting with Sgt Mike Wilkinson and PC Colin Barlow had been worthwhile and she had published a [report](#) of it on the website on December 8.

#### 4. AGM and priorities for this season

At the AGM we decided that our priorities this season are

- a. to attempt to set up a relationship with the club  
We gave two copies of SD's *Engage! How Clubs can win with Football Supporters* to Rachele Johnson, one for herself and the other for Dong Ren. She said that she had given it to his PA, Suzanne Smith. No response had been received.
- b. to increase membership  
This continues to be a challenge.
- c. to consider feasibility of buying Birmingham Sports Holdings shares  
RS said that it was difficult to get information about buying shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange without setting up an account with a brokerage firm. He will continue to make enquiries and try to get in touch with a possible contact in Hong Kong.  
We agreed that it was not a priority to buy BCFC shares but that PB should respond to all offers to donate or sell these shares to us and could offer a small amount for them.
- d. promote a charity  
All comments from members on adopting the Geoff Horsfield Foundation (GHF) as our charity have been in favour of the idea so we will go ahead with this. Cliff and Margaret attended a GHF charity reggae night on December 1. GHF is planning a cabaret evening with sit-down meal at the Botanical Gardens on 23 March. Margaret will get a Blues Trust table for this event then sell some tickets and give others as prizes; she is willing to fund this.

#### 5. Media and recruitment of volunteer help

One person volunteered to help following Cliff and Richard's appearance on the Tilton Talk show but Cliff hasn't been able to arrange a meeting with him yet. Margaret has given up on trying to post on Birmingham University website, asking for volunteer help, because she had problems logging in and didn't have the time to get it sorted out.

#### 6. Seven-year plan

There was a discussion on KA's proposal that we think about a long-term plan, perhaps using the 150th Anniversary as a nominal goal and asking, "What do we want Blues to look like in 7 years' time?" The aim would be to start a conversation - asking what people would be willing to accept and what they really want from their club. It was agreed that if we decided to do this we would need to plan the campaign carefully.

#### 7. Any other business

RS has found out the name of the Birmingham City Council person who is now responsible for dealing with Asset of Community Value applications and has enquired about renewing the ACV for St Andrew's. CH mentioned an idea for the future to emulate a club that has a café for fans at their training ground.

#### 8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be at 3 pm on Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> at Anthony Collins.

The meeting finished at 4.35 pm.

**Action list** (\*from previous action list)

- All Continue to think about seven-year plan idea, draft posts for website, communicate with other board members about it.
- CH Book room for next meeting
- CH \*January 2018 newsletter
- MD Arrange time and place to meet Daniel Ivery on Boxing Day and inform other board members
- MD Purchase tickets for GH cabaret on 23 March when they are available and advertise on website
- PB Assess how much time it would take to catalogue donated football programmes in order to sell them and decide if this can be done
- RS Continue to investigate how to buy BSH shares
- RS \*Continue to follow up enquiries about ACV