

Blues Supporters Society Ltd
trading as Blues Trust

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
11 am, November 18th, 2017

1. The chair of the meeting, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, opened the meeting and said that the values of Blues Trust were needed more than ever.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Karim Adab, Phil Beardmore, Nicholas Cox, Helen Gilfoyle, Robert Hughes, Alex Hurly, Brian Salisbury, Bik Singh and Ray Tomkinson.
3. The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising.
4. The report by Cliff Horrocks, Chair of Blues Trust, was accepted. Lord Hunt asked how useful the supporters forum meetings were. Board members who had attended the meetings said that most of the supporters who attended were more interested in the matchday experience than strategic issues so the forums were not suitable for discussions on the club's finances or governance.
5. The financial report was presented by Peter Bull, Treasurer of Blues Trust. He reported that donations from Board members were helping to supplement income as membership fees were not covering the basic cost of running the organisation. It was agreed that it would be better to increase the number of members than to increase the membership fee.
6. Financial resolution
The accounts of the Trust were accepted as presented and the Board was authorised to re-engage the Independent Examiner for the 2017-18 financial year.
7. Election of board members
Since there were fewer candidates than places available on the board, there was no ballot. Margaret Decker and Richard Stanley, who were standing for re-election, explained their reasons for standing. Karim Adab who was standing for election was unable to be at the meeting and Margaret read his statement to the meeting. The meeting approved the election of the three candidates.
8. There was no other business but, following the formal part of the meeting, there was a discussion on the priorities for Blues Trust.

Notes on the discussion

Cliff said that the Trust needs to continue as it is the only supporters' organisation with the legal structure to own shares and other assets and this might be needed if the club is ever in danger of going out of existence. But we should aim to do more than just continue to exist; we should try to increase our membership. Our objective is to have the fans' voice heard and, in the coming months, our priority will be to try to discuss strategic issues with the club. We will seek to renew the registration of St Andrew's as an Asset of Community Value next year. We are discussing holding a community day with the club and Blues 4 All next May.

We discussed

- the need to attract younger members and make better use of social networking.
- the desirability and difficulty of getting more communication and cooperation between the different BCFC supporters groups.
- the possibility of promoting a charity and agreed that the Geoff Horsfield Foundation would be a good one to support.
- buying BSH shares and trying to find out more about that business.

Our priorities are to

- work on setting up a relationship with the club so that we can discuss strategic issues
- increase membership
- explore what would be involved in buying BSH shares and possibly buy some
- promote a charity

The big issue is communication with the club. Blues supporters sense that something is wrong at the club but we don't know what the situation is.