

Minutes of Blues Trust board meeting held at 11.30 am on Saturday, April 27 2019, at Bordesley Labour Club

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

Others present: Daniel Ivery (DI)

Apologies: Karim Adab (KA)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 2/2/2019 meeting were approved.

2. Reports

a. Chair

CH reported that he is in touch with Kirk McAtear, the pastor of Connect Church and plans to ask about using the church as a place to meet before games.

CH had a meeting with David Brown, the BCFC Supporter Services Officer, and discussed Blues Trust's concerns about the financial position of the club. He had informed David that we had noted the report of the possibility that BCFC could sell St Andrew's to a third-party and did not consider this a good thing for the long-term future of BCFC.

CH told David that we would like to be supportive and positive about BCFC without compromising our independence. For example, if the club could supply us with or confirm a statement of accounts showing progress towards financial stability, we would be happy to publish it.

David also provided some information on stewarding. He said that the club employs 150 stewards and drafts in approximately 300 K2 staff for big matches. They do recruit and train a lot of stewards but as soon as they are qualified they move on to other jobs.

David advised that the next supporters forum would be on Thursday, May 2, but would try to arrange another time for the delivery of Blues Trust's thank you gifts to players if they were not ready to be delivered that evening.

b. Secretary

MD reported that the application to the FCA for a complete rule change had been accepted and was registered on April 26.

She reported that the thank you cards were being printed and the club had given permission to Neil Grant, of Crescent Silver, to use the club logo to make badges to give to the players and he was working on them.

c. Treasurer

PB presented a report of the Income and Expenditure for 1st June 2018 to 24th April 2019, the Balance Sheet on 24th April and membership numbers from May 2018 to the present. He reported that the trust had lost some members but he expected to be in surplus at the end of the financial year on May 31st. He had opened a savings account that would provide some interest on our money.

d. Website

The website was still getting many hostile login attempts. PB had deleted about 200 names from the database, of people that had no recent activity.

e. Application to renew Asset of Community Value status of stadium

RS reported we had received a reply from the Council acknowledging receipt of our ACV application and saying the application was being processed. A letter of notification of the

nomination had been sent to Birmingham City FC inviting any responses they might care to make and we would be updated on the progress of our application.

3. Supporters forum

It was decided that CH and MD would attend the forum on May 2nd as RS was unable to attend on that date.

There was a discussion on what questions we should ask at the forum and it was decided that our main question should be to ask if there are any plans to sell St Andrew's Trillion Trophy stadium in the next 12 months and, if there are, would they be open to a bid from supporters. Some of the other questions and issues suggested by our members could be listed together as suggestions.

4. Engagement with Blues Trust members

It was agreed that we needed to get more of our members engaged and involved and that an exploration of the feasibility of raising money to buy the stadium might be a way to do this.

5. Handover of secretary responsibilities

It was agreed that the board approve the appointment of Richard Docker as secretary and instructs Margaret Decker to hand over the responsibility for this job a time convenient for both of them.

6. Rule change and junior membership

The rules as laid out in the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 do not allow for a class of Junior membership. It was agreed that the term 'e-member' be replaced by 'Blues Trust Follower' and existing Junior members will become Blues Trust Followers and informed of this change. RD suggested that we send email birthday greetings to those whose birthdates we know.

7. Any other business

It was agreed that this was not a suitable time to publish an article that had recently been submitted and that an explanation would be sent to the author.

There was some discussion on whether meetings should be more frequent than four times a year. CH said that extra meetings could be arranged if there was something that needed to be discussed by the whole board and that board members could arrange meetings with people involved in the area for which they were responsible.

8. Next meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be in September, but an extra meeting may be arranged to discuss raising funds to buy the stadium.

The meeting finished at 12.55 pm.