

## Blues Trust AGM 2019 Chair's Report



What a strange year it's been at BCFC, ending last season on a high with fans, players and management together with expectations for an even better season to come. Then the low of Garry Monk's sacking, followed by allegations as to why he was sacked. From a fan's point of view, it is difficult to know what to believe. At the Trust we took the view that it was a fall out between Ren and Monk with Ren putting his 'keeping face' interest above the best interests of the club. We called for Ren to resign. However, we move on and results this season have been better than performances, although if we continue to play like the last game against Middlesbrough I may be eating my words about expectations for the season being dashed.

The Trust believes there are still underlying financial difficulties and Board level shortcomings at our club. This reminds us of the importance of having a supporters trust, as an organisation that the administrators are required to consult with should the worst happen at BCFC.

Over the last year the Trust Board has again wrestled with the difficulty of engaging with and supporting our club whilst at the same time the club refuses to engage meaningfully with us.

The success of renewing St. Andrew's as an Asset of Community Value should be celebrated. This means that there is a duty to give notice of a proposed sale, with the Trust being able to require that the sale be put on hold for six months to allow the Trust to make an alternative offer.

The Trust's financial position is sustainable but is less favourable than last year, mainly due to some of the previous year's new members not renewing and also paying for legal advice regarding the sale of St. Andrew's and producing a model for fan ownership. Governance of the Trust has seen an upturn in interest in becoming a Board member, with a new Board member co-opted during the year and two new names being put forward for election at this AGM.

We remain a low income, low spend organisation that relies on Board Members giving their time and effort to enable the Trust to function. My thanks to those Board members and for the contributions of other members in supporting the Trust including contributing to debates and producing articles for the website.

## Blues Trust AGM 2019

### Chair's Report

The last year has seen the following activity:

- Re-registering St Andrew's as an Asset of community Value (ACV). Producing a legally sound model for high worth fan/supporter ownership (this would be the Trust's proposal and basis for work if/when consulted under the ACV regulations)
- Efforts to engage BCFC in Structured Dialogue. (a recurring item that is being ignored by the BCFC Board)
- Attending BCFC Fans Forum meetings (although it seems the club has stopped holding these)
- Attending and taking part in national football governance debates at Football Supporters Association (formerly Supporters Direct and Football Supporters Federation)
- Endeavouring to grow the Trust - promotion of volunteer positions and creating the ambassador programme
- Investigation and establishing contacts regarding Monk's departure/sale of St. Andrew's/possible owners to put forward in case of a financial crisis
- Establishing members views through survey following Monk's departure
- Monthly and ad hoc newsletters to members
- Maintained currency of web site with updates, statements and articles, cleansed databases in line with data protection responsibilities
- Presence in social media, TV/radio interviews
- Reaffirmed Geoff Horsfield Foundation as the Trust's chosen charity
- Submitted relevant compliance documentation to our regulator the FCA
- Updating Trust's policies and Rules
- Updating of organisational arrangements at Blues Trust Board level, including the setting up of a research group to monitor and investigate financial and ownership issues at BCFC

Thinking about the coming year. Our mission remains the same to **'Have the Fans Voice Heard at the highest level within BCFC'**, whilst we will continue to try to establish structured dialogue with the BCFC board, it is clear the BCFC Board are unwilling to engage meaningfully. Therefore we plan to communicate with BSH board in Hong Kong, bring pressure through national organisations and campaign for independent regulation of football.

Finally, 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 and off the pitch.

KRO

Cliff Horrocks  
Chair, Blues Trust