

BLUES SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LTD TRADING AS BLUES TRUST.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11 November 2020 via Zoom Webinar.

In Attendance:

Cliff Horrocks (Chair), Peter Bull (Treasurer&Resources), Richard Docker (Secretary), Neil Cottrell, Margaret Decker, Bob Pickett, Richard Stanley (Board Members), Nigel Brindley, Steven Connelly, Douglas Deans, Stuart Ellis, Roger Fairclough, Ian Francis, Tom Gavin, Eileen Goode, John Hancox, Dan Hobbs, Bruce Kyte, Linda Magner, Andrew Parkes, Clive Rathbone (Members) and Kirk McAtear (Election Management Group) (22 attendees)

Item 1. - Welcome and Introductions

Cliff Horrocks, Chair of Blues Trust, welcomed everyone present to the meeting. He explained that the meeting was being held via Zoom Webinar because of the current coronavirus pandemic, and he set out the protocols to be followed by all attendees to ensure that the meeting ran smoothly. He then introduced those Trust Board members in attendance.

Item 2. - Apologies for Absence

The Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from Karim Adab (Board Member), David Andrews, Joseph Docker, Tom Docker, Adrian Giles, Clive Harris, Andy Munro, Dennis Musto and David Roots (Board Member).

Item 3. - Minutes of the 2019 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM held on 26 October 2019 were read and APPROVED. There were no matters arising.

Item 4. - Annual Report of the Chair

The Chair presented his report (which had been circulated previously to all members). He began by explaining that the recent appointment of Aitor Karanka, and the public statement by the owners that they were stepping back from close involvement in team affairs, gave cause for hope that lessons had been learned and prospects for on-field improvements could be raised. He confirmed that the Trust remained concerned by underlying financial difficulties at BCFC and the Hong Kong parent company, although it is not expected that the current owners will be withdrawing from the club in the short term. He further explained that contact between the club and the Trust continued to be limited, but that improved dialogue remained a very high priority for the Trust going forward and the Trust would continue to explore all avenues to achieve it. He summarised a number of key outcomes achieved by the Trust during the past year and identified two key objectives for the year ahead, namely to better engage with BCFC and to determine ways in which all

Blues Supporters Groups might work together for the strengthening of the fans voice within the club. Finally, he thanked everyone for their continued support of the Trust. He asked members to remember all those Bluenoses, and many others, that had lost their lives or loved ones to the coronavirus pandemic and to join him in offering heartfelt thanks to all those that continue to serve and protect us in this crisis.

The Chair then invited questions from the meeting. Roger Fairclough asked if the Trust had been made aware of the clubs position with regard to season tickets once the attendance of fans into St Andrew's resumed. The Chair explained that the Trust had not been given any explanation as yet, but that he remained hopeful that clarity would be forthcoming soon and particularly once ongoing discussions between clubs and the government produced a clear way forward for supporters to return to matches.

The meeting NOTED the Annual Report.

Item 5. - Financial Report and Approval of Audited Accounts

The Chair drew attention to the Audited Accounts 2019/20 which had been circulated previously to all members, and asked the Treasurer and Resources Officer, Peter Bull, to summarise the Trust's financial position. The meeting NOTED the financial report as presented and APPROVED the audited accounts.

Item 6. - Authorisation of Financial Examiner

The meeting AUTHORISED the Board to appoint an independent Financial Examiner for the financial year 2020/21.

Item 7. - Appointment of Board Members

The Chair explained that because he was submitting himself for re-appointment to the Board at today's meeting he had played no part in the appointment process, which had been led by the Secretary, Richard Docker. He therefore asked the Secretary to take this item. The Secretary reminded all present of the process, and the timeline for both the distribution of notifications calling for nominations and for their receipt. He confirmed that an Election Management Group had been appointed to oversee the process, and he thanked Clive Harris, Trust Member, and Kirk McAtear, Senior Pastor at Connect Church (in an independent capacity) for their assistance and support as members of the group.

The Secretary confirmed that four valid nominations had been received by the due deadline, with supporting information from each nominee having been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Given that there had been fewer nominations than the number of vacant seats on the Board, namely five on this occasion, no ballot had been required. However, the Secretary further explained that all nominees required the approval of the meeting to confirm their appointments as Board members.

The meeting APPROVED the re-appointment of Cliff Horrocks and Peter Bull, and the appointment of Margaret Decker and Bob Pickett (both having served the current year as co-opted members) as Board members for terms of two years commencing year 2020/2021.

Item 8. - Any Other Business

The Chair asked if there were any other items of business. In response, Linda Magner asked if the Trust had undertaken any further consideration of the issue of community shares. In response, Richard Stanley, Board Member, explained the difficulties associated with this objective given the complex ownership arrangements of BCFC. John Hancock asked if the Trust shared his concern at the general state of St Andrew's and its gradual deterioration. The Chair confirmed that the Trust was concerned, and that representations would continue to be made to the football club about the condition of the ground and poor aspects of service provision on match days.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and formally closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm.