

BLUES SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LTD
TRADING AS BLUES TRUST.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.00pm on
Wednesday 4 November 2021 via Zoom conference call.

In Attendance

Cliff Horrocks (Chair), Peter Bull (Treasurer&Resources), Richard Docker (Secretary), Neil Cottrell, Margaret Decker, Bruce Kyte, Linda Magner, Richard Stanley (Board Members), David Andrews, Keith Bright, Tom Gavin, Carole Glover, Fred Greaves, John Griffin, Dan Hobbs, Paul Kelsall, Stan Moye, Jason Perry, Bob Pickett, Phil Powell, Rob Simpson, David Squires, Michael Squires, Richard Windsor, Nick Wood (Members) and Kirk McAtear (Election Management Group - observing) (26 attendees).

Item 1. - Welcome and Introductions

Cliff Horrocks, Chair of Blues Trust, welcomed everyone present to the meeting. He then set out the operating protocols to be followed by all attendees to ensure that the meeting ran smoothly, before introducing those Trust Board members in attendance.

Item 2. - Apologies for Absence

Richard Docker, Trust Secretary, confirmed that apologies had been received from Karim Adab, Liam Hindley, Mark Holland and Christine Street.

Item 3. - Minutes of the 2020 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM held on 11 November 2020 were read and APPROVED. There were no matters arising.

Item 4. - Annual Report of the Chair

The Chair presented his annual report (which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting). He explained that it was heartening to start this annual report with better news than the last few years with fans back in stadiums, the departure of Mr Ren, the appointment of Lee Bowyer and the strong end to last season that continued at the start of this season all bringing some hope for the future. This hope is augmented by the start of more open communication from the club in the form of statements, together with a recent breakthrough in that the senior management at BCFC have agreed to renew engagement and communication with the Trust. This was to be welcomed.

He explained that the Trust remains a low income, low spend organisation with all activities by Board members and Associates carried out on a voluntary basis. The Blues Trust Board has been further strengthened this year with the addition of new active members and Associates and he recorded his appreciation for their work. He also expressed his gratitude for contributions from members in the form of articles for publication and ideas put forward over the course of the year, with special mention to Mitchell Bray for his regular 'in off the post 'articles.

He summarised the work streams and activities undertaken by the Trust during the past year, with particular mention of the extensive work undertaken to contribute to the Government's Fan Led Review of football carried out by Tracy Crouch MP. The Trust had researched members views and then presented and discussed ideas at zoom meetings with Tracy Crouch, both individually and as part of the Football Supporters Association (FSA) group sessions. He confirmed that the Trust had also submitted a comprehensive written report in response to the review.

The Chair explained that continuing to grow membership is key for the Trust going forward, and that the mass levels of participation currently enjoyed by some other supporter trusts were necessary if the Trust is to give itself the very best chance of influencing the club in the interests of supporters. He appealed directly to all members to help with that task by encouraging fellow Blues supporters to consider membership.

Looking forward, he considered that there is cause for optimism given that the current management of the football club appears to be working hard to resolve the endemic issues at BCFC that have built up over many years, both on and off the pitch. He also expressed hope that Blues Trust will be able to establish a collaborative working relationship with senior management at BCFC.

Also, for the year ahead, he expects Blues Trust to lead in taking forward and supporting changes in football governance that emerge from the Fan Led Review. And, in particular, he challenged Blues Trust to push forward with any opportunities for fan ownership and/or part ownership that arise from the review.

He concluded his report with a special mention for Margaret Decker, Board member, who is stepping down this year after many years of service to Blues Trust. The Trust was established in 2012 and Margaret has been involved as a Board member since 2013, holding various positions including chair and secretary. Margaret's contribution and work for the Trust has been above and beyond and has helped to ensure the Trust remained in existence through

some difficult times. The Chair thanked Margaret on behalf of everyone associated with the Trust.

The meeting NOTED the report.

Item 5. - Financial Report and Approval of Audited Accounts

The Chair drew attention to the Audited Accounts 2020/21 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 2021/22.

Item 7. - Appointment of Board Members

The Chair explained that Margaret Decker had been appointed by the Board to oversee the appointment of Board members and he invited Margaret, in her capacity as Chair of the Election Management Group, to explain the outcome.

Margaret reminded all present of the process, and the timeline for both the distribution of notifications calling for nominations and for their receipt. She confirmed that an Election Management Group had been appointed to oversee the process, and she 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.

She confirmed that six 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 eight on this occasion, no ballot had been required. However, she 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 Karim Adab, Neil Cottrell, Richard Docker and Richard Stanley and the appointment of Bruce Kyte and Linda Magner (both having served the current year as co-opted members) for terms of two years commencing year 2021/22.

Item 8. - Any Other Business

The Chair asked if there were any other items of business. In response, Fred Greaves asked about the ownership of St Andrew's and, in particular, how the current owners had been able to sell the ground given the protection afforded by the Asset of Community Value (ACV) status that had previously been secured by the Trust? In response Richard Stanley, Board Member, summarised the current position and outlined the limitations associated with an ACV. He also explained that the Trust has been seeking explanations and assurances from the City Council about the effectiveness of the ACV but that, to date, these had not been obtained. He confirmed that the matter is of ongoing concern to the Trust and that representations will continue to be made.

Jason Perry then asked about the establishment of a supporter's fund to assist the potential acquisition of the football club in appropriate circumstances. The Chair, responding, explained that the Trust was very supportive of the idea and that preliminary work had already been undertaken by the Trust to establish the feasibility and mechanics of creating such a fund. A general discussion followed and it was agreed that Jason, and other members, would be further consulted about specific proposals when they emerged.

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

The meeting ended at 7.43pm.