

BLUES TRUST

Supporter Groups Forum

Thursday 19 January 2023

1. Present

Groups: Blues Trust, Blues Collective, Central Blues, Blues Focus, Redditch Blues, Tilton Talk Show, Tilton Two, BCFC Women's supporters' group

- Barry Ross - BCFC Women's supporters' group
- Chris Browne - Tilton Talk Show
- Cliff Horrocks - Blues Trust Chair
- Craig Courtney - Tilton Talk Show
- Daniel Ivery
- David Taylor
- Faisal Khan Tilton Two
- Kevin Burgess - Central Blues
- Linda Magner- Blues Trust
- Lynda Courts - Redditch Blues
- Mark Garratt
- Michael Prince - Blues Collective
- Mark Marshall - Redditch Blues
- Neil Cottrell - Blues Trust
- Paul Kelsall - Blues Trust
- Peter Bull - Blues Trust
- Richard Docker - Blues Trust
- Richard Stanley - Blues Trust
- Tabriz Khan - Tilton Two
- Tommy Kelsall - Blues Focus
- Tony Routley - Central Blues

Purpose:

To engage with other supporters groups to discuss how to improve the situation at BCFC.

Aims of the session:

- To acknowledge and understand each of the group's current position and priorities.
- Look for areas and opportunities for collaboration and collective responses.
- Provide actions and outline next steps.

2. Agenda

- Introductions
- A brief update from each group
- Fan Led Review update – Blues Trust
- BCFC Fans forum update
- Current club issues discussion. Ownership - Protests?
- Potential joint initiatives
- AOB

3. Meeting notes

Blues Trust opened the meeting outlining their current and previous work.

- Look to engage with club at highest level.
- The Trust outlined their work in two key areas: the Fan Led Review, the Governments review in to the football governance, the importance they place on ensuring it is implemented and legislation is finalised. There are significant benefits for the club and the game more widely. Secondly, securing St Andrews as an Asset of Community Value. Both initiatives have long term implications for the club and will continue to be pursued and remain a focus area
- Highlighted how the Trust would provide support should the club fall into Administration, the Administrators would need to speak to and include Blues Trust
- The Trust is the backstop organisation in this eventuality.
- However, understands that as things progress, we need now to be more proactive after getting limited results with Senior management.
- Some groups were aware of Blues Trust but unaware of what they do.

4. Discussion topics and comments

Administration?

- The club won't go into Admin.
- Need to influence MP's to get FLR legalised.

Previous campaigns

- Dong – successful – similar
- Need to act first for press to become interested.
- EFL has new leadership possible to target and increase pressure on them.
- All groups need to be drawn together, some younger fans in Dong Campaign wanted to be over militant.
- Blues Trust should be the Catalyst to bring people together and be completely united.

New Campaign to highlight club issues and the need for new and improved leadership and management?

- The meeting unanimously agreed that our key issues were with the owners.
- Major event/s would promote unity.
- Need to be in touch with all groups with large followings.
- Needs the support of press, media and influential stakeholders.
- Need to liaise with other clubs over their ownership issues.
- Need to stop infighting between our own fans and groups.
- Any campaign Group would need to establish clear aims and objectives.
- Must be integrated into all coordinated approach.
- Blues Trust as coordinators and assign responsibilities.
- Needs to be a combination of actions.
- Starving the club – possible a total boycott? some thought too big to organise not everyone would do it.
- Protest tactics and suggestions were discussed.
- Younger supporter engagement needed to try and energise younger demographic groups.

BCFC Women's team

- Been severely damaged by not enough input from owners.
- No money being spent on it caused a relegation.

- Need to support the women's game and not boycott them.
- Need answers from EFL.
- Owners too remote to be affected by direct action.

EFL

- Are investigating owners on 2 counts involvement of Maxco and question of 'Wang Yahoui' being an undeclared beneficial owner.
- investigation EFL we are still waiting for answers to Questions re Ownership. If club don't answer, there is a possible points deducted if club are found against- at the end of the season?
- Liaisons with EFL need to be face-to-face.
- Blues Trust to follow up with EFL in a month.

Going Forward

- Senior Management may be on our side but unable to say it.
- All in agreement that something needs to be done.
- Blues Trust to be the campaign coordinators.
- More members needed for a louder voice.
- Actions locally to be done quickly.
- We are all in this together everyone work in unity and togetherness.
- Contact Action for Albion as they will help (Possibly a starting point to the campaign when we play them 10/02/23)
- Initially protest could be the turning back on directors protest from both set of fans.
- Deciding on aims and objectives for campaign group.

Media and promotion for any campaign.

- Tilton Talk Show, Blues Focus and Tilton Two Podcasts and others plus media outlets for further support.

ACTIONS

1. Retain and develop the Supporter Groups forum – to be held on an ongoing and regular basis - covering all issues relating to the club.
2. A commitment to joint working relationship between groups and members
3. The establishment of a new campaign group headed by members from across the supporter groups, which will focus purely on the issue of ownership.