

# BLUES TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of the Blues Trust Board held at 7.00pm on Thursday 26 January 2023 via Zoom video conference.

In attendance: Cliff Horrocks (CH) (Chair), Pete Bull (PB), Richard Docker (RD), Paul Kelsall (PK), Bruce Kyte (BK), Linda Magner (LM) and Richard Stanley (RSt).

## Agenda Items

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Karim Adab (KA), Neil Cottrell (NC).

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 December 2022 were noted and approved. There were no matters arising. The Action List from the meeting was discussed.

### 4. Chair's Report

CH explained that he had met [REDACTED] recently, on an informal basis, to discuss a number of things. These included the FLR, the ongoing EFL investigations and the role of the club. It was agreed that a formal meeting was required soon to commence detailed discussions about the FLR and, in particular, the creation of a Fan Advisory Board. [REDACTED] also agreed to ensure that the Save The Club campaign statement would get to the Chairman at the earliest opportunity once it was submitted. CH confirmed that he and PK had been active on the supporter group campaign in recent days and that actions would commence very soon with the submission of an open letter. CH also explained that he had been in touch with Jane Hughes at the FSA to discuss (i) an organised gathering of supporters dissatisfied with ownership issues at their clubs and (ii) her support in obtaining information from the EFL regarding the investigation timeline at the club. Jane has agreed to write to the EFL. Finally, CH reminded everyone that the White Paper following the FLR was expected in two weeks time.

### 5. Financial Report

PB introduced his report with reference to the accounts circulated prior to the meeting. The accounts continue to show a positive operating surplus and healthy reserves. With regard to membership, PB confirmed that it is again

increasing, albeit slightly, but that the February/March period would be important because a significant number of memberships (60) are up for renewal. PB also explained that the recently introduced payment method, Stripe, appears to be working well. He confirmed that the FCA return was submitted successfully after approval of the annual accounts at the AGM in November. He also explained that Raileasy want to put their potential rail ticket member benefit on hold for a while, although how long this might be was uncertain. With regard to the website, PB confirmed that everything is running smoothly at the moment and that the front page had been updated recently. In discussion it was agreed that a meeting to discuss the data base would be helpful with PB, LM and RD in attendance.

#### 6. Priority Tasks List

The list was considered and progress to date was noted. It was agreed to continue actioning the tasks identified, in particular the matchday activities being led by LM and PK.

#### 7. Protests & Supporter Groups Campaign

PK introduced this item and updated the meeting on recent progress. The meeting of supporter group representatives had certainly put wheels into motion and a number of activities were close to fruition. PK explained that some seed funding was required to get things started with the production of campaign leaflets. In discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Trust would meet the initial costs but that other groups would also be asked to provide support funding for future activities. Given the planned protest march on 10 February it was agreed to publish again a previous Trust article, written by Mark Holland, concerning conduct at such events. Finally, it was agreed that a review of the Trust's GDPR policy was required to determine whether a data cleansing exercise was necessary given the information being held linked to the campaign.

#### 8. Corporate Membership

LM introduced this item following a recent discussion with Tony Routley concerning the possibility of corporate membership for his organisation and the supporters that use his matchday coach transport service. Although not urgent, it was recognised that this might lead to increased membership of the Trust if a suitable mechanism could be found. It was agreed that the matter be explored and RD was tasked with doing so.

#### 9. Female Supporters

This matter was deferred until a future meeting.

#### 10. Portfolio Updates

No comments were offered by Portfolio holders although it was agreed that membership data analysis be added to RSt's portfolio.

## 11. Any Other Business

(i). RD raised the matter of the club's recent notification about the forthcoming march and ground protest, and asked whether it should be published it on the Trust website. In discussion it was agreed not to do so;

(ii). CH identified the need for a catch up on Trust admin matters and it was agreed that the matter be included as an item on the agenda for the next meeting;

(iii). RSt confirmed that he would be shortly be travelling overseas and not returning until 12 March. He explained that he would still monitor and cover the expected release of the BSHL accounts.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

- The date of the next meetings was confirmed for Thursday 30 March 2023 at 7.00pm via Zoom video conference call.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.