

BLUES TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of the Blues Trust Board held at 7.00pm on Thursday 28 September 2023 via Zoom video conference.

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

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Karim Adab (KA).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 July 2023 were noted and approved. There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

CH explained that there was not much to report with regard to the club. Things had been very quiet of late. Nothing more appears to have happened since the meeting that was held at the start of the season, although it seems that the club is now formally engaging with the former player's association as part of its wider engagement strategy. PK explained that he was aware that the club had held further meetings with other supporter groups to begin shaping "the Alliance" which is clearly viewed as a priority. NC confirmed his surprise that there had been no further response from the club to the Trust following the discussions held in August. Following discussion about how best to proceed, it was agreed that CH would make informal contact with Jeremy Dale within the next week.

5. Financial Report

PB drew attention to the Financial Report previously circulated on 25 September 2023. He confirmed that the Trust's finances remained in good order. The latest accounts were noted. PB confirmed that the annual accounts had been signed and were now ready for presentation to the AGM on 2 November. PB explained that the Raileasy project has been implemented and is working satisfactorily although, so far, there

had been no feedback from Raileasy or the receipt of any commission. PB would continue to monitor closely. PB also confirmed that the website is continuing to operate smoothly and that the data base has recently been upgraded for security purposes.

6. Future Trust Strategy And Priorities

RS introduced this item and reminded everyone of work completed previously to shape a way ahead. He emphasised the need to be realistic about what could be achieved given that the only active resource were board members themselves. He argued that recent changes in the club's ownership has resulted in a reordering of priorities for the Trust, and that a reexamination of exactly what the Trust's purpose was to be going forward is required. Resource is the key. CH agreed that the Trust is in a different place now and identified the need to discuss the situation with members at the forthcoming AGM and, in so doing, also try to attract more assistance. NC agreed that the operating environment had changed but that the Trust must still seek active engagement with the club and to be seen as a conduit for supporters. And that raising the Trust's profile should remain a priority. PK also agreed that things had changed and was firm in his view that the Trust needs to be absolutely clear about it's purpose given those changes. He considered that it made no sense for the Trust to be the body that tries to pull everything together for supporters now that the club is adopting that role. In conclusion it was agreed that time be dedicated at the AGM for a discussion with members about the role of the Trust in the new era, and that the Board considers the matter as a priority and in close detail when it next meets after the AGM.

7. Portfolio Updates

LM explained that the Trevor Francis recognition event, jointly organised Blues4All and held recently in Hall Green, had gone well although recognition of the Trust's role had been disappointing. Approximately 20 Trust members attended and had an enjoyable evening.

RS confirmed that the latest BSHL accounts has been published on the HKSE.

PK announced that he had decided to resign from the Board, with effect from the AGM, because he wanted to focus on other things. He confirmed that he would still remain a member of the Trust. Board colleagues expressed their disappointment but thanked Paul for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Trust over the past two years and wished him well going forward.

NC confirmed that he had had a number of useful press conversations in recent weeks, but that the agenda for those discussions was now very different given the ownership transfer.

RD updated everyone on arrangements for the forthcoming AGM on 2 November.

PK&RD raised a previous agreed commitment to contact other supporter representatives that attended, with CH, a meeting with Tom Wagner and the BCFC Board in August. Following discussion, it was agreed that a follow up meeting was no longer required given the measures seemingly being introduced by the club to form the Alliance.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Thursday 30 November 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom video conference call.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.