

# BLUES TRUST

Vision : To be an independent, democratic, representative and influential voice for all supporters of Birmingham City Football Club.

Minutes of the meeting of the Blues Trust Board held at 7.00pm on Thursday 7 August 2025 via Zoom video conference.

In attendance: Neil Cottrell (NC) (Chair), Pete Bull (PB), Luke Davies (LD), Richard Docker (RD), Fred Greaves (FG), Cliff Horrocks (CH) (Vice Chair), Bruce Kyte (BK), Linda Magner (LM) and Richard Stanley (RS) (Board Members). Martyn Henderson (MH), Interim Chief Operating Officer at the Shadow Football Regulator.

## Agenda Items

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

NC welcomed all present to the meeting and in particular Martyn Henderson who had kindly agreed to speak with the Board about the Football Governance Act and its implementation.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Karim Adab (KA).

### 3. Guest Speaker - Martyn Henderson

Martyn gave a short presentation to the Board about progress with the implementation of the Football Governance Act, and then took questions to inform a discussion. Notes of the meeting (attached) were subsequently published for the benefit of Trust members and other Blues supporters. NC thanked MH for his time and availability, and for leading an extremely informative and helpful discussion.

### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 May 2025 were noted and approved. There were no matters arising.

### 5. FSA and Possible Alternative Grouping of Trusts

NC introduced this item with reference to the recent FSA AGM and the concerns raised by a number of Trusts regarding a decision made at the meeting. Specifically, the failure of the FSA to lobby for Trusts to be specifically identified in the Football Governance Act. In discussion, it was noted that a new grouping of Trusts (only) is likely to go ahead with the purpose of promoting common interests and mutual support. RS

agreed to circulate details of the proposal having attended the AGM and liaison with other Trusts. It was agreed that any proposal should compliment Blues Trust's ongoing relationship with the FSA and not undermine it.

## 6. Fan Rescue Ltd

Due to time constraints it was agreed to defer this item until a further meeting.

## 7. Club Updates

- (i) OSC's - in discussion concerns were raised about the lack of transparency concerning the activities and decisions being taken by some OSC's. Uncertainty about matters of accountability were also raised. It was agreed that OSC's are a positive development however, and an opportunity for supporters to engage with fellow supporters in their locality.
- (ii) Open House - it was noted that there was still no progress to report with no date for any future meeting yet identified.
- (iii) Blues Matters - again, no recent developments to report and ongoing uncertainty about future activities and purpose

NC explained that it was expected that the club would shortly be publishing its fan engagement strategy. It was agreed to closely monitor any progress in this regard with a view to making comments as appropriate. In preparation, it was also agreed to revisit the Trust's model of good fan engagement for discussion at the next meeting. Further ideas for inclusion should be sent to RD. NC agreed to discuss good practice with the FSA to further inform the discussion.

## 8. Financial Report

PB introduced this item and updated the meeting on the current financial position of the Trust in terms of operating surplus and general reserves. The overall position is healthy at the moment.

PB confirmed that it was necessary to appoint new accountants given the impending retirement of the existing firm. It was unanimously agreed to do this and PB was tasked with following this through.

It was noted that membership payments via PayPal need manual adjustments at the moment, something that PB will do until a correction is made. It was also agreed to delete all stored emails to help create space on the server.

## 9. Agreed Priorities

The schedule of Agreed Priorities for 2025 was noted and reviewed. It was agreed to explore the possibility of holding another “Evening with...”, this time with [REDACTED]. CH was asked to follow this up. It was also agreed to do more work to develop Trust led podcasts, with LH and LD liaising and taking the lead.

## 10. Any Other Business

(i) Matchday Cafe - CH confirmed that is continuing to operate for the new season but more work is required to publicise it, and indeed other Trust matters. LD indicated a willingness to help out with publicity, but it was agreed that the press and publicity portfolio needs to be reviewed.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is confirmed for Thursday 25 September 2025 at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.