

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 29 January 2026 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), Bruce Kyte (BK), Linda Magner (LM) and Richard Stanley (RS) (Board Members), Gavin Colley (GC) (invited guest/Co-opted Member).

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

NC welcomed all present to the meeting and, in particular, Gavin Colley.

2. Apologies for Absence

None.

3. Appointment of Officers 2026

NC introduced this item and explained that he wished to propose some adjustments to the way in which the Board functioned for the year ahead. He suggested that a more collective leadership should be considered, and one which reduced the overall burden on the post of Chair, with leadership tasks spread across the Board. He identified four key areas of responsibility, namely (i) engagement, (ii) policy development, (iii) finance and resources and (iv) secretarial, and summarised what each area would cover. He further explained that his proposal would see more autonomy in each of the areas, and some trustees acting as lead directors with support from other identified members of the Board. One director would also act as Chair, albeit with reduced responsibilities, a role which NC was prepared to undertake if agreement of the changes was obtained.

In discussion, the proposal was welcomed by all. LM considered it to be a good idea, as did RS although he cautioned against inadvertently creating silos and identified the important need for there to be interaction between all Board colleagues. This was agreed by all. It was also agreed that some specific tasks, namely growing membership and monitoring BCFC developments, were important corporate matters that all Board members should have involvement with.

Given the outcome of the discussion, NC explained that he would now write to all Board members identifying in more detail what each area would address and seeking indications of preference for involvement. Board members were asked to respond as quickly as possible so that NC could allocate roles.

4. Appointment of Co-opted Board Members

RD introduced this item and explained that three expressions of interest in becoming co-opted to the Board had been received. Each was from an existing Trust member, and governance rules permitted the appointment of all three if the Board agreed.

The three members concerned were: (i) Karim Adab, (ii) Gavin Colley and (iii) Mark Garratt. Information concerning Gavin and Mark had been shared with the Board prior to the meeting, and Karim was known as a result of his previous involvement as a Board member.

Following consideration, the Board unanimously agreed to appoint all three as co-opted Board members with immediate effect. Each appointment will run until the 2026 AGM (expected for November). Agreed RD to follow up with Karim, Gavin and Mark and to make all necessary administrative arrangements for their immediate involvement.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2025 were noted and approved. There were no matters arising.

6. Objectives and Priorities for 2026

NC introduced this item and sought views on objectives and priorities for 2026. In discussion there was broad agreement that the existing priorities (identified for 2025) still had relevance and should be rolled forward into 2026, albeit with revisions to reflect changed circumstances. It was agreed that regular updates on the work of the Independent Football Regulator should be published, firstly for the benefit of members and then other Blues supporters. It was also agreed that the Trust needs to become more proactive in pushing football authorities to act for the benefit of football supporters. The example of away match ticket prices was specifically identified by RS, as was the need to start pushing the FSA to do more for the EFL.

RD reminded the meeting that at the meeting in November 2025, Board had agreed to consult members on their ideas for priorities and

objectives going forward. RD explained that he and FG had since done some work on a possible questionnaire, and that the approach being developed was now wider than first envisaged. It was agreed that the draft questionnaire would be shared with all Board members for consideration and comment before implementation.

7. Club Updates

NC introduced this item and explained that in a recent discussion with Mark Garratt it was identified that there would be merit in seeking to agree a more collaborative approach with other independent Blues supporter groups, including some OSC's that had expressed concerns about the management of the OSC network. In discussion, the Board unanimously agreed that collaboration was a very good idea and was consistent with discussions that been held at previous Board meetings. It was agreed that the Engagement Group be asked to pursue this as a matter of priority.

In discussing the OSC's a number of concerns were again raised about matters of governance, consistency and accountability. RS wondered how truly engaged the club was with the existing OSC model, and asked whether an alternative model might in fact be welcomed?

With regard to Blues Matters, LM explained that the group she was a member of (and which was concerned with matters of history and heritage) would be visiting the Tottenham Hotspur FC museum in February to research ideas for possible use at BCFC, and particularly for the possible use at the new stadium. Of the other Blues Matters groups, very little information was available and it appears that they may not be actually functioning anymore. It was also noted that there are currently no arrangements in place for another Open House.

In discussion, the Board expressed its concerns that the engagement process put in place by the club during Garry Cook's tenure as Chief Executive appears to be failing. Again, the Engagement Group was asked to consider this issue.

8. Financial Report

The Financial Report circulated prior to the meeting by PB was noted. PB confirmed that the current operating surplus stood at £466, with reserves totalling £4686. He explained that the Zoom account had recently been renewed at a cost of £156.

PB confirmed that 14 members had been lost since the last Board meeting in November, but 7 new members have joined. Current membership is 325. Despite falling membership, funds are still good.

PB explained that the data base and website are running well at the moment, although a number of the website pages need updating. All Board members were requested to spend some time looking at the website and advising PB of any changes identified.

In discussion, CH identified the need for an updated report on the Matchday cafe finances, and confirmed that he would send a report to PB concerning income and expenditure.

9. Any Other Business

- (i) "An evening with...." - NC explained that he was keen to arrange some more zoom evenings with invited guests for members. In discussion, [REDACTED] were identified as potential guest speakers. It was agreed that [REDACTED] be invited first. NC and LM agreed to follow this up;
- (ii) Social Gathering - NC suggested that the Board take the opportunity to meet up in person in the spring or early summer for a social gathering. This was agreed. Birmingham was identified as a suitable location and Saturday lunchtime the preferred time. It was agreed that a date should be secured for diaries at the earliest opportunity, and RD was asked to identify a suitable date in consultation with all Board members;
- (iii) Blues Fan Rescue - RS explained that he had heard nothing more so far following the dissolution of the company, but would continue to monitor the situation;
- (iv) [REDACTED] - RD explained that [REDACTED], a Trust member, had recently been in touch again to explain that she had still not heard anything from BCFC following her complaint about the organisation of the memorabilia event held last summer. LM commented that [REDACTED] had informed her that he had indeed responded, so clearly something was not right. LM agreed to speak to [REDACTED] again and follow things up with [REDACTED];
- (v) Board Meeting Dates - RD raised the question of Board meeting dates and sought views on the arrangement of them going forward. It was agreed that a structured approach was preferred by most, with

dates being identified well in advance and for the year as a whole. Board meetings to be held approximately every 8 weeks, with the WhatsApp group being used to facilitate urgent communication between meetings. RD agreed to identify and share a schedule of possible dates for consultation.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting (as subsequently agreed) is 26 March 2026 at 7.00pm via zoom.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.