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 28 May 2026 via Zoom video conference.

In attendance: Neil Cottrell (NC), Pete Bull (PB), Richard Docker (RD), Fred Greaves (FG), Cliff Horrocks (CH), Bruce Kyte (BK), Linda Magner (LM) and Richard Stanley (RS) (Board Members).

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

NC welcomed all present to the meeting.

He then explained that [redacted]

2. Apologies for Absence

Luke Davies, Karim Adab.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 March 2026 were noted and approved, subject to the amendment of a couple of minor typographical errors.

4. Fan Advisory Board Update

CH introduced the item and made reference to the club's response which had been circulated ahead of the meeting. He considered that the response was extremely disappointing and, indeed, patronising. This view was shared by all. In discussion it was agreed that the Trust should not let the matter rest with the response, but instead should take a number of further steps. It was agreed that contact should now be made with the FSA, namely Jane Hughes, to test the accuracy of what the club was saying, and also the IFR to seek its advice on any follow up action. It was also agreed that the situation should be fully explained to all Trust

members, with an email to be sent following the meeting, with the matter being kept under constant review.

5. FSA & 6. IFR

Items 5&6 were taken together, and with reference to Item 4 regarding the club's response to the FAB question. NC drew attention to a recent consultation document from the IFR which the FSA had encouraged the Trust to participate in. The consultation was concerned with the establishment of broad based FAB's across the football pyramid. The Trust has submitted a response. It was noted that the IFR is being represented at the upcoming FSA AGM which will provide a further opportunity to raise issues of concern with the club's current approach. RS will be attending the AGM as the Trust's representative. BK will also be attending.

In discussion, CH proposed that the Trust seeks to identify the club's IFR appointed representative with a view to relationship building. This was agreed. It was also agreed that an invitation be extended to the IFR Chief Operating Officer to attend a further meeting of the Board.

7. Northampton Town Trust Summit

RS introduced this item and reminded everyone that the background was a failed motion at last year's FSA AGM regarding the status of supporter Trusts within the football governance legislation that was being developed at that time. Northampton Town Trust considered that the FSA was failing in its support of Trust's. The summit had been organised to discuss whether Trust's should consider forming a separate affiliation given that it appears that governance issues are not a priority for the FSA.

In discussion it was agreed that the Trust would attend the summit and should do so in a "positive listening mode", being receptive to the idea of some form of affiliation. However, this should be within the framework of the FSA if at all possible because, as far as Blues Trust is concerned, the work of the FSA continues to be important and the Trust values its membership of the organisation. BK is attending the summit as the Trust's representative.

8. Trust/OSC's Relationship

RS introduced this item and asked if the Trust should develop a strategy for engagement with OSC's given their promotion by the club itself? It was noted that most board members were also members of their local OSC's. In discussion it was agreed that each OSC was different in its

approach and that this lack of consistency was a concern. It was also a concern that governance, financial and accountability issues were less than satisfactory in most cases, and that there was evidence of unwelcome cliques having formed within some individual OSC's. But the principle of regional fan groups across the UK and further afield was acknowledged as a useful opportunity for Blues supporters to share information and experiences in support of the club.

It was agreed not to develop a strategy at the moment, but to keep things under review going forward and to discuss the matter again if it became necessary.

9. Club Updates

(i) Blues Matters - LM explained that the History Group is still functioning and appears to be working well. She explained that in a personal capacity she had been selected to act as a back-up with internal discussions about developments at the Powerhouse. No information or awareness was available about any of the other appointed groups;

(ii) Open House. It was agreed that the on-line session for supporters regarding progress with the Powerhouse Stadium has very good. This was held on Tuesday 6 May.

The continuing general lack of fan engagement activity was again noted, and it was agreed this should inform any discussions with the club if so arranged. All to note.

10. Financial Report

PB introduced this item with reference to the financial paper previously circulated. He explained that the financial year end was only three days away. He expected some adjustments to be made. The current operating surplus was £650 with reserves standing at £4870. He explained that there had been very little income during March and April because membership renewals remain poor. The current trend was concerning.

With regard to the website, all technical changes have been made. The adoption of Divi 5 has been challenging.

11. Member Engagement

BK introduced this item and asked if the Trust is at risk of becoming too distant from its members? He noted that the AGM is an exception in terms of member engagement, with invitations being sent to all. But is

there more that the Trust could, and should, be doing to interact with members, even though the general mood around the club remains positive at the moment so fewer issues of concern are being raised? In discussion it was agreed that more events along the lines of “An evening with….” should be considered. In the meantime, RS agreed to analyse the geographic spread of members in case that might offer opportunities for local engagement.

11. Any Other Business

(i) Bordesley Station Consultation. It was agreed that the consultation exercise organised by the Trust had gone very well, with an excellent number of responses received and some very good comments made;

(ii) BBC. The corporation is seeking input from Blues fans about car stripping in the locality of St. Andrew’s on match days. It was agreed to promote the request on all media channels;

(iii) Player of the Year Awards. RS explained that there are two trophies left and asked if they are to continue to be shown on the balance sheet? This was agreed.

(iv) RS confirmed that the programme to digitalise club information as previously agreed is beginning to happen. CH confirmed that the draft agreement with [redacted] will be finalised shortly and will be circulated to all for approval.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 30 July 2026 at 7.00pm via Zoom video conference.

The meeting finished at 9.02pm.