

**BANTAMS SUPPORTERS TRUST
REGISTERED SOCIETY NUMBER: 29446R**

**Venue: Jacobs Well Pub & Online Zoom Call
Date: Wednesday 22nd November 2023**

Annual General Meeting for the Financial Year Ending 31st May 2023

Minutes

AB advised that as the attendance did not represent a quorum, Trust rules allow the AGM business to be discussed, with the outcomes of the meeting to be ratified at a membership meeting to be arranged – providing 7 days notice.

The attendance at the ratification meeting would represent a quorum.

1). Apologies, welcome and Introduction of guests

Chair, Manny Dominguez (MD) opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance, including Guest Tony Painter from BCB Radio.

Apologies were received from Simon Hagerty and Jean-Paul Portas

2). Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 09th November 2022

Manny Dominguez asked those present who were there last year if the minutes were a true representation of the meeting, and received an agreement.

Proposer: Adam Baker. Seconder: Justin Brett

3). Matters Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda There were none

4). Membership Statement (see Meeting Papers)

Manny Dominguez reported he Current Membership is 961 Contacts of which there are 509 email Members which is increasing year on year. This includes 65 Patrons Members.

Patron Members are members who make a donation every year, who we thank for their support. Without these Patron Members we would not have the revenue for the Administration of the Trust without charging all members for a Membership.

On Behalf of the trust Manny Dominguez thanked both new and existing members for their continuing support.

5). BST Business Report & Accounts

Treasurer, Alan Carling (AC) informed the members that the Trust had £2,212 in our account at the Trust's year-end, 31st May 2023. He also reported that this season we were able to provide sponsorship of £583 including to Bradford City Academy.

Jamie Dorward had been confirmed as the independent examiner and had kindly provided the accounts for the financial year. In Jaimie's absence, members present were presented with a copy of the Accounts, with Alan Carling providing an overview, including Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet. No change to accounting practices from the previous year.

Turnover for the year was £1,270 with expenditures of £945 leaving an operating profit of £325 with a retained surplus of £2,212 for Trust good causes.

Alan Carling thanked Jaimie Dorward for completion of the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st May 2023.

Motion 5.1 That the Business Report and Annual Report and Accounts as presented were accepted.

Proposer: Manny Dominquez. Seconder: Adam Baker

This was unanimously carried.

6). Auditing Arrangements for 2023/24

Alan Carling explained that, for no full professional audit to be required for the Financial Year 2023/24, a proposal for a Report and Accounts document had to be approved at the AGM.

Motion 6.1 That the membership agrees that no full professional audit for the year ended 31 May 2024 should be completed and instead that the Trust Board are instructed to arrange for an accountants' report to be issued on the accounts by a professional Chartered Accountant.

Proposer: Alan Carling. Seconder: Tony Deacon

This was unanimously carried.

7). Rule Changes

Motion 7.1 That the membership agrees to adopt the Football Supporters Association (FSA) Model Rules for a Supporters Community Mutual (Version 2022):

- Point 13 :

*“Members are to pay an annual subscription of such reasonable sum as the Society Board shall decide, the first payment to be made at the time of application for membership. The sum of **£1** from the first payment shall be applied to purchase an ordinary share in the Society.”*

Note that 'the sum of £1' has replaced 'the sum of 1p' in the existing rules of the Trust.

Manny Dominquez explained in updating the existing rules of the Trust “the sum of £1” will replace “the sum of 1p”.

This follows advices received by the Trust from the FSA where £1 represents the value of a single share in the society.

Proposer: Justin Brett Seconder: Tony Deacon

This was unanimously carried.

8). Election of Board Members (see Draft Agenda Papers)

Acting Secretary Adam Baker advised Trust Vice-Chair Justin Brett (re-elected 2020) and Jean Paul Portas (elected 2020) are due for re-election this year.

Adam Baker and Simon Hagerty were re-elected last year so serve 2 more years.

Chair, Manny Dominguez co-opted 2022 as previously served 12 years.

Treasurer Alan Carling co-opted previously served 12 years.

Co-opting remains within the Trust rules whereby 1/3 of the BCST Board are to be elected members.

Valid nominations received for re-election from:

Nomination: Justin Brett (Vice-Chair)

Proposed by: Adam Baker Seconded by: Manny Dominquez

Nomination: Jean Paul Portas

Proposed by: Justin Brett Seconded by: Tony Deacon

Valid nominations received for election from:

Nomination : Tony Deacon

Proposed by: Adam Baker Seconded by: Manny Dominguez

No additional nominations received.

As Trust rules allow up to 20 Board Members, voting by show of hands only necessary if there are sufficient valid nominations so that the resultant number of elected members would exceed 20.

The Members unanimously accepted this proposed Trust Board.

9). Secretary's Report

Adam Baker advised that full details of the rules changes (per agenda motions) will be circulated following the meeting with a specified period of time provided for objections. These must then be accepted by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The 2022 Annual Report to the Financial Conduct Authority was accepted accordingly, whilst FCA return for the 2023 period to be concluded by AGM papers/Accounts (7 months post financial year end).

10). Chairs Report

On the Pitch

MD provided an overview of the managerial changes since the Trust financial year end 2022, and decline in league position since the play-off loss in May 2023. Manny referred to his Chairs' report last year we said that the team will be placed under intense scrutiny, and indeed in our article 'What do we think of City's prospects for this Season?' outlining being static – a lack of progress can cost money and fans know that only too well.

The Trust offers our best wishes to the newly appointed interim management team, Kevin McDonald and Mark Trueman in their efforts while a search for a more permanent manager at the time of writing, goes on.

We can only hope the prospective manager will be given all the resources they will need to bring about more long term success than we have seen in recent years.

iFollow Streaming and TV rights

Earlier in March of this year the Football Supporters Association (FSA) put out a survey to see how supporters see the state of the game and almost 10,000 fans participated.

In the FSA survey, the majority of fans (59.1%) support the retention of the 3pm blackout to protect lower league clubs.

And also, with regarding to the EFL's record TV deal with Sky from next season, worth £935m over a five-year period, there was strong support for an away price cap as there is in the Premier League to help keep football affordable – almost nine in ten (88.2%) were in favour of such a measure. Around two thirds (63%) of fans favoured a direct-to-consumer Netflix-style app for watching Premier League games over subscribing to multiple broadcasters.

It will be interesting as to how Sky will televise for EFL matches and if EFL continue with iFollow.

Fan-led Review

The FSA survey can reveal that Fans overwhelmingly back the introduction of an independent football regulator to ensure their clubs are run sustainably. Nine in ten fans (88.2%) agreed on the need for an independent regulator to ensure clubs are run sustainably.

The Government recently reaffirmed its commitment to the Fan-led Review's core ideas and we expect to see it included in November's King Speech with legislation passing through Parliament in 2024.

The FSA have campaigned for stronger regulation of the game for many years and made sure supporters' groups across all leagues were able to give their evidence – resulting in proposals which will include an independent regulator with powers to act before clubs are losing the plot financially.

That's something we back 100% and it has to go alongside a much stronger Owners' and Directors' Test (aka the "fit and proper person test") to make sure our clubs get the owners they deserve.

The years' work

MD reported It has been a very demanding year of keeping on top of and improving on what we do best: keeping members informed via our emails and social media, about the news of the Trust, the wider issues of the game and campaigns lead by the FSA and other Trusts.

We also update members continually on developments in our discussions with the Club and on their own programme of fan engagement through consultation exercises.

During the season's fixtures we physically engage with supporters, on stalls encouraging them to join and raising money with what we sell.

Last but not least, we engage in a Structured Dialogue with the club. This is an absolute staple of what we do, informing the Club about what you, the fans, think, raising questions about the Club's plans and finances, about the owner and the ground, and work around community outreach, policing, stewarding and so on.

Commercial relationships

MD reported decision has been taken to change provider of Trust merchandise/clothing from Chablais Sport (due to plans for new products and service not coming to fruition) to Teemill

Teemill are a UK based, ethically sourced company with a percentage of the money raised from sales coming to us. The link with Teemill provides us with our own store, and we have launched the website where supporters can buy our products.

Our publicity and website

We continue to update our website, adding and making clear information about payment to the Trust and linking the join area to the membership payment area.

We have also added more information about getting involved as well and how to contact us. If you don't know already, we are contactable at the email, hello@bantamstrust.co.uk.

There is also a conscious effort to project an image of the Trust to the wider City supporter base and again, our signature poster images with the claret and amber frame, most supporters are aware they belong to us when they are seen on social media.

Our email news is received by members as a basic facility of free membership. It sent out to over 500 members and we know that at least 30% of recipients open these messages.

We no longer use 'Hootsuite' to share news on our social media platforms on Facebook and Twitter, and instead use the Facebook Meta Business Suite which allows us to post to our Likes Page, Instagram and as well as our Facebook Group. This allows us to post on two other Bradford City fans groups, giving us an even bigger reach to City supporters than we've enjoyed before. And we still post, of course, to our feed on 'X'.

Our Facebook Group has 827 members, up by 111 and our 'Likes' Page has 1,553 people

liking it, up by 118, and 1,572 people follow it, up by 118. Our Twitter account, has 382 Following, down 8, and 220 Followers, up by 81.

We are also on Instagram and we have 75 'followers'.

Concourse stalls in the Main Stand

The Trust is now in our third season running a stall on matchdays. We are in the main stand, usually setting up around 1.45/2pm on a Saturday, but it is difficult because we are not there every week due to work commitments, but even so, fans and our members in particular, engage with us on the stall and we continue raise some necessarily modest funds.

This season we encourage supporters that buy merchandise to sign up to join the Trust. This will cover the new £1 membership fee.

Membership survey

At the last AGM we discussed putting out a survey covering the match day experience at Valley Parade including comfort and facilities in the ground, and covering loyalty points, the Bantams Membership and more.

Fan Engagement / Structured Dialogue

During the last Financial Year we have held three meetings with CEO Ryan Sparks: in June and October 22, and then March 23, attended by Marco Townson as the club's Supporter Liaison Officer (SLO). We have also had one since then, in August.

The key themes running through these meetings are the matchday atmosphere, fanzone issues, railed seats, ticket offers and concessions, policing and stewarding.

We've discussed the SLO role, the Club's fan engagement and fans responses to surveys, also the national picture about EFL funding from the Premier League, and EFL / FSA national campaigns, such as on Love Football, Protect the Game, proposed legislation to have an independent regulator, diversity campaigns and community links.

We also ask the key questions that supporters' want answered about the ownership and the ground.

We do feel these meeting are a very important part of our work, which like, so many other things, is work in progress, and we strive to forge a stronger link, and to do this we often need the advice from our colleagues at the FSA who are in regular dialogue the EFL and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters. And we do feel there is improvement needed before we can get to achieve a Memorandum of Understanding, which is a formal agreement of cooperation between the Club and ourselves.

Supporters Board (SB)

In November of last year the SB changed its constitution to be individually represented rather than group lead, this means that the SB is made up of individuals not representing any groups.

The prevailing view of the Trust Board is that this is a retrogressive step as the individuals on the SB would be at an advantage from the Trust's involvement as it has a national insight to the wider developments of changes within the game.

However, the counter argument is that the individually based SB maybe more successful in this way. What is clear is that the Club favour it in this new format and the SB has been promoted by the Club since.

The Trust still has a relationship with the SB and occasionally consults in the course of the year. And we still have our independent channel of communication with the club.

Membership Payment

£1 represents the value of a single share in the society.

We came up with a fundraising target of £5,000 whereby if we reach it, it could enable us to offer benefits and reductions in drinks and food prices in local bars and restaurant. That would allow us to set up a Membership fee of £5 where members would receive merchandise such as pens, water bottles, flask mugs, badges and so on, and Patrons would automatically get these.

The strategy was to choose one of the Paypal payment categories to make a one off donation, explaining that the more we raise the more we can donate to good causes and introduce these benefits. We still have this article advertised on our email messages to members.

We were advised to start the charging as soon as we could when we had an FSA officer attend one of our board meetings in January 23 (in the second half of our financial year).

She advised we could still have a 'free' membership, but we needed to adopt a basic £1 membership to honour the constitutional policy as a minimum. The advice was that all other Trusts have a membership payment system, so we will adopt this policy after the financial year (May 31st 23) and set it up in June 23 and seek the mandate for this from our members at this year's AGM, as you will see from Agenda Item 7 above.
posts.

The Trust Board

MD reiterated we definitely do need more members to take an active involvement. We now have a what's involved / playing a role guide up on our website to encourage this, and we ideally would like people from a diverse

range of backgrounds and work/ community involvement experiences. You don't have to live in Bradford to attend meetings (you can attend meetings on Skype or WhatsApp) or play a role but being a regular frequenter to Valley Parade would help as we need more hands to help out on matchdays.

Looking to the future, our physical presence in the stadium on matchdays is paramount if we are to see a new generation of Trust activists replenishing the existing board, and MD thanked all involved. #

MD expressed thanks to Board member Simon Hagerty, who has played a tremendous role in managing our website and getting our articles and documents out there, making them accessible to all.

11). Accounts to Year Ending 31 May 2022

This item was taken together with Item 5: BST Business Report and Accounts.

12). Any Other Business

Details of the ratification meeting would be circulated in due course.

Chair Manny Dominguez closed the meeting at this point.