



Affiliated to:

**FSA.** FOOTBALL  
SUPPORTERS'  
ASSOCIATION



**Bantams Supporters' Trust  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Proposed Date / Time:**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**7:00pm**

**Jacobs Well Pub**

**& Jitsi Online Conferencing**

**Draft Agenda**

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 [page 3]
3. Matters arising from the Minutes (not elsewhere on the Agenda)
4. Membership Statement. [page 10]
5. BST Treasurers Report [Will be given at the AGM]

The Trust Board proposes:

**Motion 5.1** That the Treasurers Report and Accounts are accepted together.

6. Auditing Arrangements for 2025/26

The Trust Board proposes:

**Motion 6.1** That no full professional audit for the year ended 31 May 2026 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.

7. Election of Board Members [page 10]
8. Secretary's Report [page 10]
9. Chair's Report [page 10]
10. Accounts to Year Ending 31 May 2025
11. AOB

Manny Dominguez,

BST Chair

November 2025

## **Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of last years' AGM**

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

**Venue: Jacobs Well Pub & Online Skype Call  
Date: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

*Acting Secretary, Adam Baker (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.

Apologies were received from Jaimie Dorward, Simon Hagerty, Alan Carling and Matthew Pickles.

#### **2). Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023**

MD 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**

MD reported we now have 984 contacts that we have on our InTouch database, an increase of 23 on last year, and the email membership figure now stands at 514, an increase of 5.

Last year we adopted the rule from the FSA's Model Rules about our membership cost being a minimum of £1. This represents a share in the Trust and a right to vote – 1 member 1 vote. However, members can pay as much as they feel.

Whilst the majority of members that contribute financially are still patrons, the patron scheme will be gradually phased out over time.

We would like to thank all our members who do support us financially including those that contribute in person on the Trust stall. It really does keep us going.

On Behalf of the Trust we would like to thank both New and existing members for their continuing support.

#### **5). BST Business Report & Accounts**

Adam Baker paid tribute to Treasurer Alan Carling – the longest serving Trust member – who unfortunately would be stepping down due to battling a long illness. Alan's service to the Trust has spanned over 20 years and has remained a constant source of support during this period – we thank Alan for his unrivalled dedication and contribution to the Trust a member, former Chair, Treasurer and friend to us all.

Sadly, the process of electing a new Treasurer for the 2024/25 period will be actioned in accordance with Trust rules.

Adam Baker therefore presented the BST Report and Accounts, including Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet.

Jaimie Dorward (JD) had been confirmed as the independent examiner and had kindly provided the accounts for the financial year.

Adam Baker reported that Alan held the position of Treasurer as at the end date of these report and accounts; and had seen the Trust maintain a healthy operating surplus in relative terms to the size of the organisation which was assisted by the sale of merchandise and donations via the Supporters Trust kiosk at most home matchdays. This will enable us to continue to cover our existing operational costs (predominantly website fees and stock purchases), for effective communication with our member; together with donations to Trust good causes as far as possible.

Adam Baker (AC) informed the members that the Trust had £2,361 in our account at the Trust's year-end, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. An increase from £2,212 in the previous year.

Motion 5.1 That the Business Report and Annual Report and Accounts as presented were accepted. The motion was proposed by Adam Baker and seconded by Justin Brett. This was unanimously carried.

#### **6). Auditing Arrangements for 2024/25.**

AB explained that, for no full professional audit to be required for the Financial Year 2024/25, 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 2025 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.

The motion was proposed by AB and seconded by Justin Brett. This was unanimously carried.

## **7). Election of Board Members**

Secretary Adam Baker reported that both he and Simon Hagerty were re-elected in 2022 and serve 1 more year of 3.

Trust Vice-Chair Justin Brett (re-elected 2023), Jean Paul Portas (elected 2023) and Tony Deacon (TD) all serve 2 more years of 3.

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

Treasurer Alan Carling co-opted previously served 12 years is stepping down due to ill health.

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

Nominations have been received from Nick Asquith and Matthew Pickles.

The election of Nick Asquith was proposed by Tony Deacon and seconded by Justin Brett. This was unanimously carried.

The election of Matthew Pickles was proposed by Adam Baker and seconded by Manny Dominguez. This was unanimously carried.

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.

Nick Asquith and Matthew Pickles are duly elected to the Trust Board for a 3 year term.

## **8). Secretary's Report**

Adam Baker reported this year we have no formal rule changes, but when we need to these are circulated following the meeting with a specified period of time provided for objections. These must then be accepted by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The 2023 Annual Report to the Financial Conduct Authority was accepted accordingly, whilst FCA return for the 2024 period to be concluded by AGM papers/Accounts (7 months post financial year end).

We continue to welcome anyone interested in the Secretary role moving forward.

## **9). Chairs Report On the Pitch**

MD reported, at the time of writing, the Bantams are 5<sup>th</sup> in the League Two table.

During the prior 12 months, frustration with the lack of progress on the pitch came to it's height in the form of a protest led by 'Bradford City Independent Fans Group on the 29<sup>th</sup> March before City's home fixture against Tranmere which we won 2 – 0. City had a run of 6 games unbeaten starting with a 1 – 1 draw against the Mariners away and then 5 wins, and came so close to a play-off off place.

At the time of writing we will soon come to Graham Alexander's 1<sup>st</sup> year as Manager and hopefully a better season. The pressure on the Club to succeed to get out of this league is almost tangible and we are sure the manager and players understand.

### **The Football Governance Bill update**

MD provided an update on the Football Governance Bill, with the introduction of the Independent regulator being the key component of the proposals as a means to intervene and stop clubs being run into the ground, protect the heritage of clubs, give supporters a much bigger voice in the running of the game, and prevent any chance of domestic clubs joining a breakaway European Super League. However the snap general election in the summer prevented the Bill in completing its process of getting through parliament.

In May this year, keen to continue put pressure on politicians after the general election was called, the FSA tabled an open letter signed by 200+ supporters' groups, calling on all parties to get behind a new Football Governance Bill. Bantams Supporters Trust was amongst those signatories.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month, the Labour government launched the Bill in parliament strengthened with additional powers to protect clubs and support fans, chiefly on:

- Consulting fans on ticket pricing, home stadium relocations, and fan representation at clubs.
- Parachute payments included in Regulator's remit so it will have full oversight to tackle financial sustainability across the football pyramid.
- Requirement to consider government foreign policy dropped to cement regulator's full independence.

It's considered that the independent regulator will be seen as a 'back stop' power if EFL and PL clubs cannot come to agreement around issues around wealth redistribution. Naturally the EFL are happier of the two because the parachute payments are within the remit of the independent regulator

### **FA Cup Replays**

In April we reported that the FA had authorized the banning of FA Cup replays from the first round proper from next year. It was something the Premier League had always wanted, predominantly to ease their fixture calendar which has been made more congested by the expansion of European club competitions, and initially it formed part of it's proposal to the EFL and National League on financial redistribution.

It has angered many football supporters and clubs especially of clubs further down the pyramid.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 27 clubs, 11 from the EFL and 16 non league clubs joined forces to back a football reform body called Fair Play who are requesting an amendment to the Football Governance Bill to re-instate FA Cup replays.

### **The EFL TV Deal**

In May 2023 EFL clubs have unanimously voted to accept a £935m 5-year deal with Sky Sports, which starts this season and will run until the end of the 2028-29 season. It is said the deal will keep the Saturday blackout in place.

It is also said that under the deal 1,059 league EFL Cup and EFL Trophy matches will be shown live either on a Sky main channel or via a Sky streaming platform, replacing the iFollow service. You can still get iFollow if you live internationally.

When the dates were confirmed in the summer, Sky and EFL had maneuvered to stagger all scheduled live matches around the black-out for the period up to the FA Cup third round in early January.

Viewing times will stagger over long weekends from Friday to Mondays. The FSA will keep a watching brief over future confirmed televised fixtures. Yo

### **The year's work**

Manny Dominguez reported three continued aims to:

- Keep members informed and in the loop about Trust activities and the national picture with our email articles, which we post on social media.
- Physically engage with members and supporters through our stalls on match days in the stadium.
- Engage with the Club through our 'Structured Dialogue', and of course keep members and supporters informed with what we have discussed and what comes out of the meetings.

### **Commercial relationships**

We are now in our second full season with UK based, ethically sourced company called Teemill. We have samples of our designed clothing on our stall and have an advert, now with a QR code to take members and supporters directly to the online store: <https://bantams-supporters-trust.teemill.com/> where supporters can buy our products. There is no investment costs with this, but if it does prove popular the income we get with each sale of merch sold could finance any upgrade to have more choice in terms of stylization, so for example merch such as T-shirts and hoodies could have back printing.

Our scarves are the key seller on our stall. MD reported he and Trust Board member Ryan Bell had contributed to arrange 50 claret and amber retro design scarves with Leeds-based company Global scarves for the start of the 2022/23 season. We still had plenty of the white with claret and amber trim type scarves left over, and this is what we have been selling up to date. The Global Scarves ones are a jacquard knit design, harking back to how football scarves were originally mass produced in the



UK, but as everything is so much more expensive post Brexit we had to sell them at £15 each to get a return, but we have not taken out our investment back from what we have sold and we have very nearly sold them all in over 2 seasons.

### **Our publicity and website**

Regular updates to members and supporters updates on national issues that can have a direct or sometimes indirect impact on our Club, and articles about what we accomplish.

The emails that get sent to over 500 members is a basic free service and on average 40% click on the emails. However there are less people that click on the links to see the articles in full.

On Social media City supporters can just see a strapline and link to our articles, and we regularly share on multiple groups with the help of the Meta Business Suite and we continue to use X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram .

Our Facebook Group has 881 members, up by 54 and our 'Likes' Page has 1,500 plus people liking it, and 1,572 people follow it, up by 45. Our Twitter account, <https://twitter.com/bantamstrust> has 394 Following, up 12, and 287 Followers, up by 67.

MD reported, growth of social media presence and improvements to website. You are now able to share features on our website onto social media via your mobile phone as most people use their phones to look at social media and share within their social groups.

We have added a structured dialogue area in the 'About us' section on the website and an 'ACV' or Asset of Community Value' section in the 'campaigns' section of our website. We will explain the ACV further on.

### **Concourse stalls in the Main Stand**

The Trust is now in our fourth season running a stall on matchdays selling merchandise and talk with supporters/Trust members to understand feedback and concerns, alongside the sale of our merchandise. We are in the main stand, usually setting up between 1.30pm and 2pm on a Saturday. We think it important to have this live link to the Trust. It is a shame we only have the resources to do it in that one spot, and not in other parts of the stadium.

### **Fan Engagement / Structured Dialogue**

During the last Financial Year we have held three meetings with CEO Ryan Sparks: in November 23:

<https://bantamstrust.co.uk/news#ReportOfMeetingWithBCAFCNov23> and then February 24: <https://bantamstrust.co.uk/news#ReportOfMeetingWithBCAFCMarch24> and August 24: <https://bantamstrust.co.uk/report-of-meeting-with-bcafc-aug24> attended by Marco Townson as the club's Supporter Liaison Officer (SLO). It was just Marco that represented the Club at the last one. We are due to have another meeting this November.

MD advised, developments within the Club are always at pace but the key themes running through these meetings are:

- Matchday experience, including Fanzone, atmosphere section, stewarding home and away, food and drink choices and prices.
- Railed seating
- Season tickets and loyalty points as well as matchday ticket pricing and special offers for struggling people.
- Environmental sustainability
- Restorative Justice – discussing how the Club deal with and support troublesome supporters seeing the error of their ways.
- Community building and Diversity projects – finding ways to work with the Club supporting community projects.

**Other core agenda items:**

- Aspects of the Fan-Led Review / the proposed Football Governance Bill.
- Improving our Structured Dialogue – improving the Clubs' fan engagement.
- Ownership – The importance of seeing Stefan Rup as improving the Clubs' fan engagement.

**Important achievements for the Trust**

- We had helped to improve the Clubs' Sanctions Policy:  
<https://bantamstrust.co.uk/news#ReportOfMeetingWithBCAFCNov23>
- We discussed through the findings of our extensive survey, see February's meeting with the Club report:  
<https://bantamstrust.co.uk/news#ReportOfMeetingWithBCAFCMarch24>
- In November 23 we told the Club of our intention to nominate Valley Parade as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and in March this year we submitted our nomination of VP to be an ACV:  
<https://bantamstrust.co.uk/news#TrustAppliesForACVForValleyParade>, and it was confirmed it had been successful in June:  
<https://bantamstrust.co.uk/trust-success-in-listing-valley-parade-as-an-asset-of-community-value>. Included as an item of news on BBC's Look North in July which drove interest amongst City fans: <https://bantamstrust.co.uk/the-trust-listing-of-valley-parade-as-an-asset-of-community-value-gets-the-ear-of-the-bbc>
- In April we played an important part in getting as many as 30 members able to do the bucket collection, raising £4,176.71 before the last match of the season against Newport County: <https://bantamstrust.co.uk/total-amount-raised-from-bucket-collection>.

**Membership**

MD reported although our membership is respectable, we still need to increase the membership in order to represent a wider and more diverse support base the Club has.

We have made it easier to join than ever before, from when people can enter the website on their phones to the links on social media to our articles, there is always an option to join, and supporters can still pay their membership or renew via paypal and bank transfer by going to 'Membership Cost' from the 'JOIN US' drop-down menu. The direct link is here: <https://bantamstrust.co.uk/membership>

### **The Trust Board**

We continue to meet regularly, however MD reiterated that due to limited Trust Board resources this makes it more pressing that we need more people interested in joining the Trust and getting involved and playing a role on the board. With more board members we can reach out more and be a bigger influence.

MD advised that we do need to develop a new generation of Trust activists replenishing the existing board and thanked existing members one for helping the Trust continue and extended thanks to Simon Hagerty in managing our website and getting our articles and documents out there, making them accessible to all.

The Trust is a democratic and independent organisation, and the only body of City fans that is part of a wider Supporters Trust movement on a national scale. We can act as a critical friend of the Club and as a collective campaigning force that can be organised into action. To realise this potential, we need more fans to join and get involved.

### **10). Accounts to Year Ending 31 May 2024**

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

### **11). Any Other Business**

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

Chair Manny Dominguez closed the meeting at this point.

## **Agenda Item 4 - Membership Statement**

To date, we now have 995 contacts that we have on our InTouch database, an increase of 11 on last year, and the email membership figure now stands at 507, a decrease of 7 on last year.

Over the course of the year our membership has remained stable above 500.

A key aspect of our membership-based organisation is that it is funded by ordinary members and supporters, whether it is through membership subs and donations or whether it is through buying our merch. And of course those members that contribute financially own a share of the Trust and can vote at the AGM.

We would like to thank all our members who do support us financially including those that contribute in person on the Trust stall. It really does keep us going.

On Behalf of the Trust we would like to thank both New and existing members for their continuing support.

## **Agenda Item 5 – Treasurers Report - Will be provided at the AGM**

## **Agenda Item 6 - Auditing Arrangements for 2025/26**

Please see motions 6.1 on Agenda paper.

## **Agenda Item 7 - Election of Board Members**

Adam Baker and Simon Hagerty's 3 year terms expire this year and are eligible for re-election this year.

Trust Vice-Chair Justin Brett (re-elected 2023), Jean Paul Portas (elected 2023) and Tony Deacon (TD) all serve 1 more years of 3.

Nick Asquith and Matthew Pickles, (elected 2024) have both served their first year as board members this year of 3.

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

Former Treasurer, Alan Carling, unfortunately passed away on the 6th December of 24. Many Trust colleagues past and present attended his Funeral on the 17th January this year.

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

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.

## **Agenda item 8 - Secretary's Report**

This year we have no formal rule changes, but when we need to these are circulated following the meeting with a specified period of time provided for objections. These must then be accepted by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The 2024 Annual Report to the Financial Conduct Authority was accepted accordingly, whilst FCA return for the 2025 period to be concluded by AGM papers/Accounts (7 months post financial year end).

We continue to welcome anyone interested in the Secretary role moving forward.

## **Agenda item 9 – Chair's Report**

**This is the Chairs' Report, written in October 25, ahead of our November AGM 2025, commenting on the promotion season and great start to this season on the pitch, as well as the national picture as a backdrop. It also covers of course our engagement with the Club, and all the work we've done amongst the Club fan-base, encouraging supporters to join and play leading role in ensuring we have a football club for generations to come.**

### **On the Pitch**

At the time of writing, the Bradford City team, are riding a crest of a wave. 2nd in the table after drawing level from being 2-0 down to get a point from the recent game against Rotherham United in a top verses bottom match, proved one of the most exciting games this season. City are 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table with a game in hand as their home game against Lincoln City has been postponed due to Imps players receiving international call ups. Already we have beaten our West Yorkshire rivals Huddersfield Town at home 3-1, Cardiff City 3-1 and Championship sides Blackburn Rovers and Stoke City, 2-1, and 3-0 respectively in the League Cup. We valiantly lost to Premier League Newcastle in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, but Andy Cook scored our consolation goal against the team he supported as a kid.

It is an amazing season so far, and many fans have returned to watch, with lots of new, younger supporters witnessing a new look, determined and confident Bantams side. The attendance against Huddersfield broke a new record with 24,075 at Valley Parade (in the modern stadium).

In May the Bantams finally got promoted on the last match of the season in front of 24,033 – a record at the time, in the dying throes of injury time against Fleetwood Town. Valley Parade became alive with celebration after seeing Antoni Sarcevic redirect a George Lapslie shot into the bottom corner of the net, which led to scenes of unbridled joy, a pitch invasion, and much celebration on North Parade amongst fans and players.

During last season, we started spritely, but we were inconsistent. We really started to pick up in December of last year. And we were unbeaten in 10 home league games. It was a huge improvement on the previous season but few could've predicted automatic promotion. It was Graham Alexander's first full season in charge.

This season, with a lot more investment in the squad than in previous years, our team is certainly capable of much more success at our new League One level. At last supporters feel a sense of pride that players are putting the effort in, playing as a team and getting the wins as a result. It is coming up to Alexander's 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Bradford City. Lets up that we can maintain the momentum well into his second year and keep it going until the end of the season, and hopefully the efforts on the pitch will reap the reward of another promotion.

### **The Football Governance Bill update**

The Football Governance Bill finally became an act of Parliament over the summer, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July this year, and with it, the royal assent brought the introduction of the Independent Regulator.

The first version of the Football Governance Bill was tabled in 2024, following the [Fan-led Review](#) of Football Governance which was launched in the immediate aftermath of elite clubs across the continent trying to form a European Super League.

The Football Supporters Association (FSA) has long argued that football can no longer regulate itself as so many clubs were going to the wall, and that a review of football's finances was long overdue.

As far back as 2012/13 the national fans' organisation had submitted evidence to a Culture, Media and Sport Committee investigation endorsing far stronger rules on club licensing, ownership and protection of assets [outlining](#) why "the regulated should not control the regulator".

Our Supporters Trust was one of those Trusts involved in submitting evidence around that time to the [government's Expert Working Group \(EWG\)](#) on football governance. We made a presentation about the Supporters Board. This amongst all the evidence gathered, was published in 2016, and it encouraged the EWG to recommend something called 'structured dialogue' between clubs and their fans.

These recommendations were subsequently adopted by the Premier League and the EFL as a requirement for all clubs.

Following Bury FC's collapse in 2019 the FSA put forward a [wide range of proposals](#) to the FA to protect our professional clubs – and this included the concept of a regulator for football.

Fast forward a couple of years and more clubs at lower levels of the game teetered on the brink while billionaire owners tried to stitch up the game for their own benefit – and the Government was eventually left with no choice but to pick up the reins.

The FSA's list of proposed solutions called for a licensing system which removes the conflict of interest arising from club owners regulating themselves.

The licensing system will now be put in place by the regulator along with a whole raft of recommendations that are very heavily based on the FSA's proposals to the FA, representing a remarkable victory for supporters in shaping the direction of the game.

In those proposals the FSA argued for better tests of "fitness" for club owners and directors, protection for "heritage" items, rules to prevent clubs being relocated without supporter approval and bans on "leveraged" buyouts which burden clubs with debt.

The FSA also argued in favour of the concept of "stewardship", with owners being custodians on behalf of fans who will be there long after a current ownership regime has gone – an idea which is now widely understood and accepted.

For more info on what the Football Governance Act is about please see [here](#).

### **The year's work**

Like previous years, there is always something to keep on top of. It is very demanding. Our three key things that we do best are:

Keeping members informed and in the loop about we are doing and keeping you up to date as much as we can to what is going on nationally with our email articles, which we post on social media.

Physically engage with members and supporters through our stalls on match days in the stadium.

Engage with the Club through our 'Structured Dialogue', and of course keep members and supporters informed with what we have discussed and what comes out of the meetings.

### **Commercial relationships**

#### **Teemill**

We continue to work with Teemill, a UK based, ethically sourced company. We have samples of our designed clothing on our stall and we regularly promote it with an advert on social media and on a join leaflet which we produce every season. We now include a QR code on our advert that takes members and supporters directly to the online store:

<https://bantams-supporters-trust.teemill.com/> where supporters can buy our products.

There is no investment costs with this, but if it does prove popular the income we get with each sale of merch sold could finance any upgrade to have more choice in terms of stylization, so for example merch such as T-shirts and hoodies could have back printing.

#### **Scarves**

Last year, in September 24 began to work with Arena Scarves Ltd. who produced 50 'away' white retro scarves and 50 'home' claret and amber retro style scarves both in the jacquard knit design. Arena Scarves are Leicester based. The claret and amber ones have been so popular that we are having to re-order more, and before long we will be soon out of the white ones to, so we are in the process of ordering some more of them too.

### **Our publicity and website**

We continue to try and bring members and supporters a good mix of mix of news about what we are doing and national news that can have a direct Impact or indirect impact on supporters as the season takes it's course. Over the last year we have brought you regular updates about the Football Governance and improvements in terms of how Clubs are meant

to engage with supporters, and we've brought you informed detail about the Sky TV deal rights and fixture rearrangements. Some of this detail can be necessary info added from discussions with the Club through our engagement with the Club, such as our structured Dialogue meetings with Ryan Sparks.

And at the end of August the Trust met with Paula Watson, the Director of Operations, Jonathan Heaton, the Club's Safety Officer and Aaron Dennis the Dedicated Football Officer from West Yorkshire Police to discuss changes to the Sanctions and Bannings Policy and poor behavior at two key matches. This was due to new ways the EFL have been working in these areas, and these are linked to the proposed ways of working advised by the FSA at a senior structured dialogue level between EFL and our national fans' organization.

Some of our news may promote community work such as the Foodbank event organized by Accrington Stanley Trust colleagues last April, or community events and exhibitions such as the Community event at VP that had an immersive igloo, explore with a digital copy of the University of Bradford Stadium, or the Football fanzine exhibition at Leeds Central Library which had our very own City Gent fanzine displayed and the editor, Mike Harrison was among other editors and writers speaking at that exhibition event last June.

And of course we informed you that the Council approved our application for the Stadium to be an Asset of Community Value in June 24 and in July BBC's Look North did a story on this piece of news and featured prominent City supporters.

And we cannot forget to mention we always publicise our annual organising to get a turn-out for volunteers for the Burns Unit collection, and this year we were guests of the Council at the annual memorial in Centenary Square on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May this year.

Our members get our emails, and there is always a trace of our work so that members can look up or go back to articles. The emails get sent to over 500 members and it is a free service.

All our articles and meetings with the club are on our website. It is very easy to get around. You can find out what we are about, how we were formed and our policies. Trust Board meeting minutes and our AGM's are also on there.

On Social media City supporters can just see a strapline and link to our articles, and we regularly share on multiple groups with the help of the Meta Business Suite and we continue to use twitter of 'X' as it is now called. And we continue to reach Instagram too.

Our profile on these social media channels has grown and we are much larger than life because of the frequency of posting. If it is not for posting links to articles, often with an image / design in our Trust box, it is our regular well wishing prior to matches regularly asking poignant questions relating to form and record of results and immediate challenges. These get the most 'likes'. These have the retro scoreboard C'mon City clap graphics.

Our Facebook Group has 924 members, up by 43 from this time last year and our 'Followers' Page has 1,689 people following us, up by 117 on last year. Our Twitter /X account, <https://twitter.com/bantamstrust>, has 401 Following, up 7, and 291 Followers, up by 4.



We do have an Instagram site with 76 following on that.

Our presence on social media has definitely grown and we have shown to be consistent in our approach to what we do.

### **Concourse stalls in the Main Stand**

Now in our fifth season, the Trust stall on matchdays is still going! Situated in the main stand, we set up from between 1.30pm and 2pm on a Saturday. It is difficult because we are not there every week due to work commitments, but even so, we definitely have established a firm base of friendly faces that stop and chat and discuss their concerns and put a few quid in the donations tin. Due to the success of the team this season, the crowds on the concourse are much bigger so we are seeing a newer layer of supporters seeing the stall for the first time and at the same time seeing what we have on the stall for sale. It does get very busy and there are times when there are a lot of people around the table waiting to be seen.

One thing we have been able to do this season, with a little bit of help, is to venture out in other areas of the ground just to give our leaflets out. We have just started to do this and hopefully it will pay off with people joining online.

### **Fan Engagement / Structured Dialogue**

During the last Financial Year we have held three meetings with CEO Ryan Sparks: in [November 24](#), and then [February 25](#), and [August 25](#).

It is always work in progress and developments within the Club are always at pace, so we are often playing catch-up in what is always a movable feast.

Themes covered through these meetings were:

- Matchday experience, including Fanzone, atmosphere section, stewarding home and away.
- Railed seating
- Season tickets prices and sales, loyalty points and limited capacity at away grounds as well as matchday ticket pricing and special offers for struggling people.
- Environmental sustainability including improving public transport
- Restorative Justice – discussing how the Club deal with and support troublesome supporters seeing the error of their ways.
- Community building and Diversity projects – finding ways to work with the Club supporting community projects.

### **Other core agenda items that we discuss with the Club:**

#### **Aspects of the Football Governance Bill/Act.**

**Improving our Structured Dialogue** – improving the Clubs' fan engagement.

**Finances** – what we need to spend on the stadium and pitch (maintenance costs) and investment from promotion and the Sky Deal extra income.

**Ownership** – The importance of seeing Stefan Rup as improving the Clubs' fan engagement.

### **Important achievements for the Trust**

- [Yearly meetings with the Club and Police](#) regarding practices around stewarding and policing and any changes to sanctions policy and details about what the Club's restorative justice practices involve.
- Now that the ground is registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) in July of this year [we met with Naz Shah MP](#) to explore if there is a covenant to further protect the stadium.
- In May [we played an important part in getting volunteers to do the bucket collection, raising £7,387.70](#) ahead of the Fleetwood game on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, nearly double what was raised the previous year.

### **Membership**

We now have 995 contacts that we have on our InTouch database, an increase of 11 this time last year (2024), and the email membership figure now stands at 508, a reduction of 6.

We have a total of 290 'suppressed' contacts (an increase of 18 on last year (2024) that we have to go through and identify – This list covers all contacts whose emails have bounced – this could be because they have changed their email addresses, or indeed passed away. It covers members who have unsubscribed or indeed members who have no other contact details. This increase is lower than it was last year (272).

Whilst our membership is respectable, we still need to increase the membership in order to represent a wider and more diverse support base the Club has.

We have made it easier to join than ever before, from when people can enter the website on their phones to the links on social media to our articles, there is always an option to join, and supporters can still pay their membership or renew via paypal and bank transfer by going to '[Membership Cost](#)'

### **The Trust Board**

We continue to meet regularly, there is a familiar pattern in that it continues to be difficult in getting everyone available to meet at the same time. This makes it more pressing that we need more people interested in joining the Trust and getting involved and playing a role on the board. With more board members we can reach out more and be a bigger influence.

You don't have to live in Bradford to attend meetings. You can attend meetings on 'Jitsi Meet' (we have had to change from Skype to Jitsi Meet as Microsoft has dropped Skype. Also Teams is only free for only one hour, whilst Jitsi Meet is completely free) and play a role but living in the West Yorkshire area would help as we need more hands to maintain and expand our work. If you fancy it get in touch on at [hello@bantamstrust.co.uk](mailto:hello@bantamstrust.co.uk).

Whilst the Trust as a larger than life presence, as a board, looking to the future, we do need to develop a new generation of Trust activists replenishing the existing board, who do the best that they can give at the present time. And I would like to thank one and all for helping the Trust stay alive.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Board member Simon Hagerty, who continues to play a tremendous role in managing our website and getting our articles and documents out there, making them accessible to all.

The Trust is a democratic and independent organisation, and the only body of City fans that is part of a wider Supporters Trust movement on a national scale. We can act as a critical friend of the Club and as a collective campaigning force that can be organised into action. To realise this potential, we need more fans to join and get involved.