# AGM 2026

**Wed 25th Nov**
**@ Jacobs Well**
**7pm**

## Draft Agenda & Papers

Affiliated to FSA. FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

# Bantams Supporters' Trust

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Proposed Date / Time:

## Wednesday 25th November 2026

## 7:00pm

## Jacobs Well Pub

## & Zoom Online Conferencing

## Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on Wednesday 26th November 2025 [page 3]
3. Matters arising from the Minutes (not elsewhere on the Agenda)
4. Membership Statement [page 10]
5. BST Treasurers Report [page 10]

   The Trust Board proposes:

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

6. Auditing Arrangements for 2025/26 [page 11]

   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 12]
8. Secretary's Report [page 12]
9. Chair's Report [page 13]
10. Accounts to Year Ending 31 May 2026
11. AOB

Manny Dominguez,

BST Chair

November 2026

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

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

**Venue: Jacobs Well Pub & Online Skype Call**
**Date: Wednesday 26th November 2025**

**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.

**2). Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 27th November 2024**
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**
Tony Deacon asked whether if the Football Supporters Association had any further plans to challenge the decision to scrap F.A Cup Replays (from the First Round Proper). Manny Dominguez agreed to check developments around this.

**4). Membership Statement**
MD reported 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, an increase of 7

Thanks expressed to all our members who support us financially including those who contribute to the Trust stall and merchandise on home matchdays, which is the Trust's primary source of income to allow the Trust to function.

**5). Treasurers Report**

Adam Baker expressed thanks to longstanding BST Treasurer, and former Chair, Alan Carling who had sadly passed away since the last AGM.

Following the passing of our long-standing Supporters' Trust Treasurer, Alan Carling, The Trust had experienced difficulties with accessing the online bank account and it took a number of months to rectify this with the bank.

Despite this the Trust maintained a health surplus in relative terms to the size of the organisation which was assisted by the sale of merchandise via donations for the Supporters' Trust kiosk at most home matchdays.

Adam Baker informed members that the Trust had £2,763.63 as at 31st May 2025, an increase from £2,370.41 the previous year.

This enables us to continue to cover our existing operational expenses (predominantly website fees and stock purchases) for effective communication with our members, together with donations to Trust good causes in the coming year as far as possible.

The process of electing a new Treasurer has been actioned.

We would continue to offer our thanks to Jaime Dorward who had again agreed to assist to prepare the 2024/25 Financial Accounts, which will meet the deadline for our requirements to submit to these to the FCA by the end of the year and will be circulated seperately to members – due to the delay with the bank access following Alan Carling's passing.

**6). Auditing Arrangements for 2025/26**.
AB explained that, for no full professional audit to be required for the Financial Year 2025/26, 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 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.

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

**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.

Valid nominations for re-election have been received from Adam Baker and Simon Hagerty.

The re-election of Adam Baker was proposed by Manny Dominguez and seconded by Justin Brett. This was unanimously carried.

The re-election of Simon Hagerty was proposed by Tony Deacon and seconded by Matthew Pickles. This was unanimously carried.

**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 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**

**Manny Domingues presented the Chair's report written in October 25, ahead of our November AGM 2025.**

**On the Pitch**
Manny Dominguez provided an overview of the current position on the pitch with an impressive start to the season. This has seen increases in attendances.

In May the Bantams finally got promoted on the last match of the season *which led to scenes of unprecedented celebrations, a pitch invasion, and much celebration on North Parade amongst fans and players.*

This season, has seen an increase in squad investments compared with previous years, to compete at League One level. There is currently a pride in supporting Bradford City the hope is that momentum is maintained.

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

This was welcomed and had been long awaited.

As far back as 2012/14 the National Fan's Organisation submitted evidence to a Culture, Media and Sport Committee (endorsing far stronger rules on club licensing, ownership and protection of assets outlining why "the regulated should not control the regulator"), Proposals submitted by the FSA to protect professional clubs following the collapse of Bury FC and 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 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.

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.

**The year's work**

- Communication – Continuing to keep members informed in our conversations with the Club on their behalf, and nationally ,with our email articles (to over 500 contacts who receive these), which we also post on social media.

- Matchday Stall and Commercial Relationships – Our stalls on matchdays in the stadium helps us to both raise funds and engage with members and supporters in person.

  We continue to utilize Teemill (ethically sourced company,) for clothing for the stall. There is no investment costs with this, (the Trust however receives a percentage of each item sold). We also have a QR code on the stall to direct supporters to the online store.

Last year we began to work with Arena Scarves Ltd. who produced white retro scarves and 50 ‘home’ claret and amber retro style scarves both in the jacquard knit design. These have proved popular and we are in process of ordering more in a variety of styles.

This season we have been able issue Trust leaflets around the ground on a matchday We have just started to do this and hopefully will assist to increase membership and awareness of Trust activities.

- Engagement with the Club through ‘Structured Dialogue’ (Please see item overleaf)

- Involvement in discussions around Sanctions and Banning’s Policy - Meeting 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 Banning’s 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.

- Assistance in organising volunteers for the Annual Plastic Surgery and Burins Unit bucket collection – this helped to raised £7,387.70 (nearly double on the previous year). The Trust were also guests of the Council at the annual memorial in Centenary Square on Sunday 11th May 2025.

- Promotion of community work - Including Foodbank event organized by Accrington Stanley Trust colleagues last April, community events and exhibitions such as the Community event at Valley Parade 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 City Gent fanzine displayed and the editor, Mike Harrison was among other editors and writers speaking at that exhibition event last June.

- Valley Parade as Asset of Community Value – This was approved in June 2024 following our application and in July 2024 the BBC’s Look North carried a story on this piece of news and featured prominent City supporters.

  In July we also met with Naz Shah MP to explore if there is a covernant to further protect the stadium.

**Our publicity and website**

The Trust 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.

The Trust also have an Instagram site with 76 following on that.

Manny Dominguez reported we continue to try and keep members and supporters up to date on our activities, and through our affiliation with FSA networks around national news that can have a direct Impact or indirect impact on supporters.

**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.

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:**
**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.

**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.

Manny Dominguez reported 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 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).

However it is now easier to join the Trust 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 Costs"

**The Trust Board**
Manny Dominguez advised the Trust Board continues to meet monthly.

Manny expressed thanks the current board members for keeping the Trust going as a collective however it does 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.

Manny Dominguez also expressed 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.

**Agenda item 10). Accounts to Year Ending 31st May 2025**

This item was taken together with Item 5. Treasurers Report.

**Agenda item 11). Any Other Business**

A discussion took place around Board Member training on offer to Bantams Supporters' Trust and this will be pursued over the coming year.

Chair Manny Dominguez closed the meeting at this point.

## Agenda Item 4 - Membership Statement

To date, we now have 1,008 contacts that we have on our InTouch database, an increase of 12 this time last year (2025), and the email membership figure now stands at 349, a reduction of 159.

We have a total of 437 ‘suppressed’ contacts (an increase of 147 on last year (2025) - This list covers all contacts whose emails have bounced.

Earlier this year a number of email companies changed the maximum number of emails they allow you to store in your inboxes. When your email box is full, new emails to that inbox bounce. Generally people are not always vigilant at deleting emails. The main reason why the numbers receiving our emails have fallen is because the maximum limit for email storage has got smaller.

Other reasons why some emails have been suppressed could be because members have have changed their email addresses, or indeed passed away. It covers members who have unsubscribed or indeed members who have no other contact details.

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

We mainly get membership increases through us being in the ground engaging with people, which is why our presence is so important on matchdays.

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

The Trust's primary source of fundraising remains sales of merchandise at most home Bradford City FC matchdays - which have increased significantly over the last financial year.

Once again we must recognise and sincerely thank the ongoing support of our members in particular monthly donations to support Trust activities. Regular membership and donations remain consistent, although these show a reduction due to a one-off donation by Chair Manny Dominguez within the 2024/25 Report and Accounts.

Donations this year also included £40 following a Question and Answer event with former Bradford City commentator Tony Delahunty. We hope to continue to increase the number of fundraising events going forward.

In 2025 we reported delays with accessing the Trust Bank account following the passing of previous and long-standing Treasurer, Alan Carling.

We are pleased to advise that this was rectified and, following escalation with the Bank, we recieved a £50 rebate.

Unfortunately and disappointingly we did incur a fee in the course of the year following an article published to acknowledge the sad passing of former Bradford City player Terry Yorath. This inadvertently included an image of the Terry Yorath which subsequently incurred a fee from the copyright owner for its use. A reduced cost was negotiated retrospectively. However we will endeavour to pay yet closer attention to such matters going forward. In particular to minimise the risk of unexpected and disproportionate costs in the course of publishing articles and communications with our members - in the context of our priority to maximise contributions to Trust good causes and activity for the benefit of our members.

Remaining costs included our ongoing Remembrance activities around the 1985 Bradford City Fire disaster which we mark each year with purchase of a wreath at the memorial service.

We also continue to participate in the Bradford City Player of the Year Awards with provision of the Young Player of the Year Award Trophy. This continues to support the profile of the Trust and synergy with the historic activities to support the Bradford City Youth Academy. We would be keen to increase our sponsorship in this area in the future where funds permit.

Overall we are pleased to report the Trust maintains a healthy surplus in relative terms to the size of the organisation, supported by growth in matchday fundraising.

As at the Year End 31st May 2026 The Trust had £3,191.33 an increase from £2,736.63 the previous year.

This continues to enable the Trust to cover existing operational expenses (predominantly website fees and stock purchases), for effective communication with our members and with a view to to donations to Trust good causes in the coming year as far as possible.

We also continue to offer our thanks to Jaimie Dorward for her work in preparing this Accountant's Report for FY 2025/26.

## 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 (re-elected 2025), Simon Hagerty (re-elected 2025), Nick Asquith (elected 2024) and Matthew Pickles (elected 2024) remain within their 3 year terms. Nick Asquith and Matthew Pickles, (elected 2024) have both served their first year as board members this year of 3.

Jean-Paul Portas and Tony Deacon's 3 year terms expire this year and are eligible for re-election this year.

Trust Vice-Chair Justin Brett's 3 year terms also expires this year. Trust rules only permit elected board members to serve 12 years – however Justin Brett would now be eligible to be co-opted for the coming year.

Chair, Manny Dominguez remains co-opted (since 2022) as previously served 12 years.

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.

Valid nominations have been received from Tony Deacon (re-election) and new board member Helen Jeffrey (election).

## 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 2025 Annual Report to the Financial Conduct Authority was accepted accordingly, whilst FCA return for the 2026 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 26, ahead of our November AGM 2026, commenting on the season we reached the EFL League One Play-off Semi-Final and the tumultuous start to this season, as well as the national picture as a backdrop. It also covers our engagement with the Club, and all the work we have done amongst supporters linked to that.**

**On the Pitch**
At the time of writing, we have a new manager, Michael Duff and his Assistant Manager, Alex Morris, who have replaced Graham Alexander and his Assistant Manager, Chris Lucketti who have returned to their former club, Preston North End, we thank them for playing their large part in rekindling the Club's success on the pitch and restoring pride both to players and fans. We have written a short article on Graham Alexanders' departure here. One of the drawbacks of having a successful manager is that other Clubs are always on the lookout if their teams are having a difficult season and it just so happened the Preston North End were. We wish Graham Alexander every success at his former club.

We obviously welcome Michael Duff who has come to Valley Parade with the tough ambition of continuing the success with promotion to the Championship. We have written a piece on Michael Duff here. The Bantams have had a very good start to this season with only 2 defeats in 11 league and cup matches and we are still in the League Cup and EFL Trophy under Graham Alexander. Mark Trueman and Colin Doyle who managed the team while the Club were looking for a more permenant fitting, were able to get a win and a draw out of the first team, against the Millers in the EFL Cup and a goalless draw in the league versus away to Reading.

The first game Michael Duff and Alex Morris were in charge of versus Leyton Orient was something of an anti-climax as the O's set their stall to disrupt the Bantam's game, of which, almost 19,000 came to watch, which ended goalless. He got his first victory against Stevenage a week later, a match everyone thought would be a similar game as the one against the O's. The substitutions late in the game worked and we won thanks to Sarcevics's well-taken penalty kick and a goal scored by Swan in the 9mins of injury time. This hard fought game takes us to the top of the table, but the season is still long and a lot can happen between now and May.

**Last season, 2025/26**
Wind back to the start of last season's campaign, Graham Alexander's recruitment strategy focused on adding experience, physical presence, and to build squad stability, bringing in Max Power, Curtis Tilt, Stephen Humphrys, Will Swan and
Matt Pennington, all who had found themselves at various points in that season, and all except Power had suffered spells of Injury. Fans' favourite Andy Cook lost his place in the starting line up and another fan-favourite, Bobby Pointon, former Trust's Young Player of the Year, along with Antoni Sarcevic both had a prolific season, scoring vital goals to ensure that City reached the play-offs, something that not many fans predicted in their first season return to League One football.

Jenson Metcalfe was also brought in in the summer of 25 from Everton and earned himself the fans Player of the year and Young Player of the Year by Supporters Trust members and the EFL. Antoni Sarcevic also won the Club Player of the Year of the Year award too.

Like the previous season, we started spritely, and earned 23 points from our first 10 games. There were some memorable matches, such as the 3-1 win against Huddersfield at Valley Parade, and the 3-2 win away at Cardiff. Unfortunately the top form didn't continue but we managed to pick up just enough points surprisingly to reach the two-legged Play-Off semi-final against Bolton.

The journey in our first season in League One saw us visit Lincoln City who convincingly beat us at Sincil Bank 3-0 under floodlights and unbelievably finished champions of league One last season. We also had disappointing away trips at Brisbane Rd, where the O's beat us, 2-1, and at Kenilworth Rd, a new ground for many, where the Hatters also beat us 2-1.

On reaching the Play-Offs we lost points and in typical City fashion, relying on other teams around us to lose points too. They lost 12 of their last 26 matches including the play-off matches, and only won 3 of their last 12 games, again, including the play-offs. However, winning against Exeter at St James' Park in the rain was a joy for those that made the long journey south, but it was sad to send the Grecians down.

It was an amazing achievement reaching the semi final, but we were no match for Bolton, they were the better team. Imagine if we had got to the final, beating Stockport home and away and losing to Bolton at Wembley? That really would be a disappointment.

The team's weakness was that they didn't score enough goals and there were many injuries to key players over the season highlighting a lack of strength in certain areas of the squad.

**The Football Governance Act update**
The FSA (Football Supporters Association), is a national body that consults with the FA, EPL and EFL at a senior level to put the best interests of football supporters to them.

Supporters' Trusts, such as ours are mostly affiliated to the FSA. They formed a large part of a consultation process with the FSA in a 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 back in April 21.
It was published by the government of the time and was the precursor for the Football Governance Act 2025.

**Independent Football Regulator (IFR)**
At the center of the legislation is the IFR, an independent public body designed to protect the financial soundness of clubs, safeguard football heritage, and improve transparency across the top five tiers of English men's football (the Premier League, EFL Championship, League One, League Two, and the National 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.

**The State of the Game Report**

The IFR has produced a draft report, 'The State of the Game', which highlights the financial crisis it finds itself in due to "the disproportionate distribution of growing revenues and the financial cliff edges this has created, most notably between the Championship and the Premier League. These pressures are distorting competition and contributing to rising losses, debt and over reliance on owner funding, creating material risks for clubs throughout the pyramid…" This is an excerpt from the EFL's statement responding to the IFR's report.

It highlights the need for a serious redistribution of wealth from the Premier League through the pyramid.

As City fans enjoying some success on the pitch, we may breath a sigh of relief that it isn't our club in financial trouble, if the financial bubble within the game ever burst the EFL as a competition no doubt would be affected.

FSA chair Tom Greatrex said: "The State of the Game report clearly highlights the unsustainable, broken model of football's finances.

"How is our national game, which generates billions in revenue every year, in such a perilous condition with so many clubs living hand-to-mouth and reliant on regular handouts from owners?

"Whether you are a football finance expert or a match going supporter who pays little attention to off-field issues, it is astonishing that almost one in three clubs could not survive for more than a month if an owner stopped funding them.

"This is an alarm call for English men's professional football that must precipitate real and lasting change."

The IFR does have a backstop in that if a long-term settlement of financial redistribution cannot be agreed between the EFL and PL, it can impose one. It may be that it will require the organisation of supporters to apply pressure, but the crisis football finds itself is due to the profit motive within the competition, and even if money is eventually redistributed, whose to say lessons are not learnt and a tipping point is reached again? Can the profit motive be removed?

The success of the few and the accumulated wealth in the hands of those at the top, and the huge costs associated with transfer fees of players and their wages are very much linked to the multi-billion pound TV deals. In hindsight, the creation of the Premier League could be seen as a bad decision. What would happen if value of those deals go down in future years?

The rising cost of football has impacted on fans in terms of ticket pricing and food and drink despite attendances holding due to high demand. This is the case at City where we have

attracted newer, young supporters during our recent and continuing success. The pressures to increase prices have affected prices further down the pyramid but non-league still has a growing attraction for its affordability and what it has to offer in quality and price of the food and drink.

Would football be better run under democratic ownership of the fans? These are the questions the supporters' movement needs to discuss and debate.

You can read more of what the FSA says about the State of the Game Report here: English football dangerously exposed.

The year's work

The work of the Trust is always demanding. There are 3 things that we do well on:

- Keeping members informed
- Physically engage with members
- Engage with the Club

Keeping members informed and our publicity. We make every effort to keep members and the City support-base at large in the loop about we are doing, whether it is responding to events, locally or nationally, or reporting on our meetings with the club or other news items with our email articles, which we post on social media. Our offerings of good luck in anticipation of the next match, with a 'C'mon City!' after summarizing the previous games on social media have proved popular.

Our profile on these social media channels has grown further slightly and we have a loyal number who like or comment on our posts.

Our Facebook Group has 942 members, up by 18 from this time last year and our 'Followers' Page has 1,705 people following us, up by 16 on last year. Our Twitter /X account, https://twitter.com/bantamstrust, has 398 Following, down 3, and 304 Followers, up by 3.

Our stalls have remained popular. We are predominantly based in the main stand but have ventured to the North West Corner and more recently the Midland Rd when the Club have allowed us to do so, and it's good to chat to members and non-members. Sales of badges and scarves also do particularly well in enabling us to raise money for the Trust which helps to pay for the administrative costs and make returns on the sales items we've invested on, which then can be used to put events on, or give back to the Club through it's charitable causes.

We try and do the stalls most Saturday home matches between 1.30pm and 3pm if the game is a 3pm KO with the exception of being on holiday, or work. When it's a lunchtime KO we normally set up at 10.30am, and we have been known to do a Tuesday night one as well, usually setting up for 6.30pm

Engaging with the Club through our 'Structured Dialogue' is our bread and butter. We keep members and supporters informed with what we have discussed and what comes out of these meetings.

We feel that fan engagement is absolutely key, as it is important the Club understands how supporters feel on key matters. It is equally important to keep abreast of the Club's plans and direction.

One of the key topics during a season has to be season tickets and we always ask for genuine consultation on their plans with a view to a consultation process with supporters.

We like to keep updated on football governance issues through the FSA Network meetings as they help us update the Club about what we know, whether it is about enhancing the importance of fan engagement or about heritage, for example, because these things feed into the EFL which in turn comes round to their member Clubs.

**Statutory Club Licences**

On July 1st this year the IFR published its final statutory club licensing rules and guidance for the top five tiers of English football. For owners, chief executives, directors, and key management, the publication of these rules is the blueprint for all our club's legal permission to exist, operate, and compete in the football pyramid. All 116 clubs in the top 5 tiers of the football pyramid must apply for a Provisional License between November of this year and the end of February 2027. The earliest a Club can apply for a full license in June 28, the deadline is the end of the 2029/30 season.

The license covers 4 mandatory conditions:

- The Financial Plans
- The Corporate Governance Statement
- The Fan Consultation
- Freestanding Duties & Heritage Protections

*We can look at the detail of what they cover in another article.*

In a our most recent Structured Dialogue meeting the Club said that in June it was part of a pilot scheme to sign up for a provisional license. This was to test the process, receive supervisor feedback, and help iron out procedural issues.

Since we last published our Chairs' Report last October we met with the CEO Ryan Sparks 4 times, which is actually a record since we started these meeting in January 2022. We met in November 25, and then February 26, June 26 and then August 26.

Our aim has always been to meet quarterly and we have been consulted on the Club's Fan Engagement Plan (FEP) where we spoke to Liam Mould (LM), the Fan Engagement Officer and we were able to amend the FEP and have the Trust Chair's quote in the plan. In that meeting in March 26, LM was able to tell us of the Club's aims of us being regularly consulted within a Fan Advisory Board (FAB). Supporters Boards in the Premier League have been rolled out as FAB's and this process is been rolled out within EFL member clubs.

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.

**Important achievements for the Trust**

We've had the 2nd of our 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. The last meeting was in July.

We were central to organising volunteers for the annual bucket collection for the Burns Unit.

We had a successful event of bringing former radio commentator at Pennine Radio, Tony Delahunty to the Ale Exchange raising money for the Burns Unit.

And we ran a campaign writing to bus companies, Councillors and the West Yorkshire Mayor about buses, getting supporters home on an evening, and we hope to do some more work on this in the months to come. This is just some of the work we have done through the year.

**Commercial relationships**

**Arena Scarves**

Our scarves make the best sales. In September of 2024 we designed 2 versions of a retro scarf – one claret and amber (home) and the other white with the claret and amber trimming (away). We got 50 of them produced in both versions both in the jacquard knit traditional football supporter style by Leicester based firm Arena Scarves. The home ones have been the most popular, and last season we reproduced 80 of those claret and amber ones and 20 of the white ones.
We are still selling them at £15 each.

**Badges UK**

In the Summer of this year we went with Badges UK for enamel badges as we had run out of the previous original ones that were made by badge Base from 2022. We had a run of 100 of those. Today we are with badges UK and we produced two new versions – one with the season with a banner underneath our circular logo design. We had the same style but in silver and black representing the memory of the fire disaster. We have produced 200 of each and are very popular.

**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.

**The Trust Board**

Whilst there maybe a perception that the Trust has 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.

It needs more members to get involved to make ideas happen and generate more interested in joining the Trust. We believe fans interest to be taken on board, whether it's on keeping the match going affordable and the match day experience that everyone can enjoy, home or away. It is important that fans have an independent voice and we want to give fans the confidence that standing together can win things.

With more active board members we can reach out more and be a bigger influence.

If you fancy it get in touch at hello@bantamstrust.co.uk.

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.