

**BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED**

**(trading as Bees United "BU")**

Minutes of AGM

Held at the Musical Museum

At noon on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Board Members present:**

David Merritt (DM) Chairman, Donald Kerr (DK) Secretary, Andre Sawyer (AS), Ron Cooper (RC), Chris Tate (CT), Bill Hagerty (BH), Stewart Purvis (SP), Greville Waterman (GW), Jim Walsh (JW)

**Apologies Received from:**

Jon Gosling (JG) **Other Members present:** Bruce Powell, Christine Powell, Keith Leech, Trevor Inns, Gerry James, Russell Wallman, David Tate, Michael Mayo, John Scott

- **Chairman's Welcome and minutes of previous AGM** DM opened the meeting. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.
- **Chairman's Report** DM read his report, as outgoing Chairman, confirming that, under the rules of the Society, after 12 years, he would be stepping down from the Boards of both BU and the Football Club. DM's position on the Football Club board would be taken up by the incoming Chair, SP. Having also served 12 years, DK is also stepping down from the BU Board but had been asked by the Football Club to remain on the Club's Board – a credit to both DK and BU. JW, on behalf of all BU members, thanked both DM and DK for their service to both Boards over the last 12 years.
- **Presentation of the 2018 Accounts** DM presented the accounts to the meeting for approval. Key numbers for the Period Ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 included; Revenue £29,561 (PE 2017: £32,909) Operating Profit £24,330 (PE17: £26,459) and Net Asset Value £990,375 (PE17: £966,255 The meeting voted unanimously to accept the accounts.
- **Chairman's Handover** DM handed over to the incoming Chairman, SP. SP thanked DM and DK and presented gifts to both in recognition of their service to BU over the last 12 years. He also thanked CT for his work in producing the annual accounts. SP gave his views on the role of BU supporting and guiding the Club through the farewell to Griffin Park and move to the new ground.
- **Society Board Elections** Steven Cowan has stood down from the Board during the last year. CT has stood down as Treasurer and will replace DK as Secretary. JW will replace CT as Treasurer. CT, JW, AS and SP will form an informal Finance Committee. SP reported that John Scott (JS) and David Anderson (DA) were also standing for election. JW and GW said some words on behalf of each candidate (who were unable to attend the AGM) respectively. (NB. JS joined the AGM before the close). The meeting voted unanimously in favour of their election. SP confirmed that RC (Membership & Heritage), AS (Hosting BU members in the Boardroom), JG and BH would continue on the Board while the newly elected JS would look after Technology and represent the interests of West Country Bees and DA will write about football and finance for the BU website. GW will continue to write and blog as required.

- **Any other business**

- In response to a question from Michael Mayo around recognition of former players and managers at the new stadium, SP said BU had not yet received a plan from the club but there was a limit to how much could be put on display and that more flexible use could be made of digital screens. RC added that BU were working with English Heritage around the possibility of having Blue plaques in Boston Gardens, to mark where former manager Harry Curtis had lived and on Kew Bridge or The Stable pub to mark the pub (The Oxford and Cambridge) where Brentford Football Club was formed. RC also said that it was important to have something physical to connect with any players being recognised, e.g. Idris Hopkins Welsh international shirt and cap.
- Bruce Powell said that he had had great difficulty in navigating the official site when looking to renew his BU membership (and had also experienced difficulties on the BU website). DM and SP said that BU were fully aware of the difficulties experienced last year as part of wider problems with the introduction of the new Club ticketing system. SP had discussed the issue with Jon Varney, the new Club CEO and was confident the issues can be resolved in time for new Season Ticket and Membership applications (BU looking to bundle BU membership with Season Ticket or Club Membership – with an option to opt out).
- Trevor Inns said that he still has the physical Golden Share (BU Special Share) with veto over the sale of Griffin Park. DM confirmed that BU had sent a letter to the club supporting the proposals for the new stadium and that we do not intend to enact that veto – on the condition the new ground is delivered as proposed.
- In response to a question about the disappointing crowds and whether there was any role to play for BU, DK said that BU had an objective to “bring the club closer to the local community” and that he had spoken to Jon Varney on how BU and the Community Trust can work with the club on this. **The meeting closed at 1pm**

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Chairman