

**BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED**

**(trading as Bees United “BU”)**

Minutes of AGM

Held in The Oxford and Cambridge Lounge, Brentford Community Stadium

And online via Blue Jeans by Verizon

At 18:30 on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Present in the Lounge:**

**BU Board** - Stewart Purvis (SP) Chairman, Don Tanswell (DT) Secretary, Jim Walsh (JW) Treasurer, John Scott (JS) Membership and Technology Secretary, Ron Cooper (RC), Christine Powell (CP)

**BU Members** – 35 BU members attended in the lounge.

**BFC Staff** – Cliff Crown (Chairman), Sally Stephens (Fan and Community Relations Director), Joanne Surgeoner (Fan Relations and Events Manager), Greg Mailer (Corporate Affairs Director).

**Present online:**

**BU Board** - Chris Tate (CT) Fan Engagement, Jon Gosling (JG), Fran Carroll (FC), David Anderson (DA).

**BU Members** – 125 BU Members attended online

**Apologies Received from:**

Jeffrey Roy (BU Board Member)

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**1. Chairman’s Introduction and Welcome**

SP opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the first BU AGM held as a hybrid meeting (both in person and online) and commented that BU members from 14 different countries were attending the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were approved. There were no matters arising

**3. Chairman’s Report**

SP spoke of some of the work that the BU Board had done over the last year including:

- the significant growth in membership numbers, much of which is thanks to the hard work put in by JS, particularly in reconnecting with “lost” members.
- compliance work led by DT which allowed us to put forward the Brentford FC/Bees United model to the Government’s “Fan Led Review” into English football.
- the heritage work, led by RC, including the exhibition at the London Museum of Steam and Water.

SP then covered the key objectives for BU in the year ahead, which are:

- a bigger and more diverse membership.

- to keep an eye on Governance and the “Fan Led Review” - and its impact on BU and BFC
- to build the relationship with the Brentford FC Community Sports Trust

#### 4. **Treasurer’s Report and the 2021 Accounts**

JW thanked all members of BU, with particular thanks to the over 400 members who still make regular donations via standing order, despite membership now being free. These donations form the majority of BU’s annual income. JW also thanked the other donors – one-off donations in response to the BU book, donations via Paypal and the “Donate” button on the website and from the Jazz Club, who had made what was very likely their last donation to BU in the last Financial Year.

JW then gave a brief summary of the key figures within the BU Accounts for the Year ended 30 June 2021

- Income at c. £24k (£23k from members) had held up well – c. £26k in 2020
- Expenditure at c. £49k was much higher than normal largely due to i) Costs of publication and distribution of the BU Book (£26k) and ii) Auditing and Accounting costs (£15k). This level of expenditure should not be repeated going forward and JW said that he expected the Accounts to return to an annual surplus from the next year.
- The BU Balance Sheet remains strong with Net Assets of £990k – Debtors (Loans to the Club) £690k, Cash at bank £320k and Creditors (recently paid) of (£20k)

JW then invited questions from the floor

##### ***Question – why wouldn’t we have the Accounts audited?***

JW responded that this was purely looking at saving on costs. He added that, as a qualified Accountant he prepares the draft annual Accounts but, to ensure independence and to assure members, they are reviewed and finalised by a firm of Accountants (Carpenter Box)

##### ***Question – what are the Auditing and Accounts costs in the Accounts if we are not having the Accounts audited?***

JW explained that although the resolution was passed at the last AGM (negating the need for an audit of the 2021 Accounts) it appeared that the resolution had not been put to some of the previous AGMs. Therefore, to ensure compliance with the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority, our regulator) an audit had to be undertaken for each of those years.

##### ***Question – should we consider investing some of our cash elsewhere other than the banks?***

JW said our account with the Co-operative bank is our main operating account with all our income and payments going through here. It is non-interest bearing. Our account at Hargreaves Lansdown is a cash account with very little movement. Although our account at Barclays is interest bearing, current interest rates mean that we receive very little interest. JW agreed that it was a good point and something that should be looked at.

#### 5. **Resolutions**

##### **5.1 Audit**

Under the provisions of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, that an audit shall not be required for the current Financial Year Accounts, ending 30 June 2022, hereby electing to dis-apply section 83 of the Act.

**This resolution was passed (98% voted in Favour)**

##### **5.2 Subscriptions**

That there will be no membership subscriptions for the coming financial year (2021/22)

**This resolution was passed (98% voted in Favour)**

### 5.3 Accounts

To adopt the Society's Accounts

**This resolution was passed (100% voted in Favour)**

### 5.4 Elections

(Note. The resolution put to the AGM was a slight amendment to the published document as David Anderson had decided not to stand for re-election).

To re-elect the following Board Members in accordance with the Society's rotation policy of 3 years: Stewart Purvis and John Scott

**This resolution was passed (100% voted in Favour)**

SP then explained that under BU's rules there was scope for a further 5 members to join the Board (which would bring the Board to the maximum of 15, with David Anderson not standing for re-election). 6 candidates had completed the necessary paperwork and therefore an election will be required. The February meeting of the Board will discuss the election process with an announcement to members shortly after that.

## 6. Any other business

There was no further business.

SP, on behalf of BU, thanked the Football Club for use of the Lounge as a fantastic venue for the hosting of the AGM.

**The AGM was closed.**

There then followed a Members Question and Answer session with Cliff Crown, Chairman of Brentford Football Club.

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Chairman