

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

(trading as Bees United "BU")

Minutes of AGM

Held online via Zoom

At 18:00 on Wednesday 7th December 2022

BU Board Present:

Stewart Purvis (SP) Chairman, Don Tanswell (DT) Secretary, Jim Walsh (JW) Treasurer, John Scott (JS) Membership Secretary, Ron Cooper (RC), Christine Powell (CP), Chris Tate (CT), Stuart Hatcher (SH), Jeff Dent (JD), Jon Gosling (JG), Sharon Wright (SW), Keith MacInnes (KM), Fran Carroll (FC)

BU Board Apologies were received from:

Jeffrey Roy (JR), Colleen Wong (CW)

BU Members Present:

In addition to the BU Board Members present, 140 BU Members were present.

Zoom Host and Co-Ordinator:

Shannon Foster

1. Chairman's Introduction and Welcome

SP opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the BU AGM.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 17th January 2022 were approved.

SP referred to his written report and said that, at the last AGM, five members had been newly elected to the Board. SP offered his congratulations.

3. Chairman's Address

SP said that it had been another successful year for BU. At the last AGM he had outlined three objectives for 2022:

1) Bigger and More Diverse Membership – Target of 3,500 Members

Membership stands at 3,522 and SP said congratulations were due to Membership Secretary, JS, for this achievement. (There were only 459 members just three years ago).

A breakthrough has also been achieved in terms of gender balance with 3 women on the current BU Board (three years ago there were none).

All 5 newly elected Board members have brought new energy.

II) Keep an eye on Governance and the Government's Fan Led Review

It is hoped that by the end of next month there will be an agreement in place between the Club, BU and BIAS to create a Fans Advisory Board – a requirement by the Premier League (PL) at each PL Club. Separately, BU will continue to have a seat on the Club Board.

III) Build a relationship with the Brentford Community Sports Trust

4. Treasurer's Report and the 2022 Accounts

JW thanked all BU members. The increased membership numbers makes BU more representative of the Club's overall fan base. It also helps to give BU a greater voice. JW especially thanked all those members who continue to make donations, whether regularly via standing order or on a one-off basis, despite membership being free.

JW said that after a year of significantly higher than usual expenditure in 2020/21 (BU Book and retrospective audits) spend had returned to more normal levels in 2021/22 and, thanks to Members donations, BU had generated a surplus for the financial year of just over £5,000.

The Balance Sheet remains healthy with Net Assets of circa £1m – broadly £320k cash and £680k in loans to the Football Club, of which £402k is secured. Following the Club's move from Griffin Park, the security has moved from the ground to the Community Sports Trust building.

The Board will be looking at how spare cash assets can be made to work better.

JW outlined why BU still require funds and said there were three main reasons:

- i) Cover the annual running costs
- ii) Supporting community projects
- iii) Maintaining/increasing BU's "war chest"

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 2023, hereby electing to dis-apply section 83 of the Act.

This resolution was passed (99% voted in Favour)

5.2 Subscriptions

That there will be no membership subscriptions for the coming financial year (2022/23)

This resolution was passed (96% voted in Favour)

5.3 Accounts

To adopt the Society's Accounts

This resolution was passed (100% voted in Favour)

5.4 Elections

To re-elect each of the following Board Members after a three rotation, in accordance with the Society's rule 34.

5.4a – Ron Cooper

This resolution was passed (99% voted in favour)

5.4b – Chris Tate

This resolution was passed (100% voted in favour)

5.4c – Don Tanswell

This resolution was passed (99% voted in favour)

5.4d – Jon Gosling

This resolution was passed (100% voted in favour)

Please note, all voting percentages are expressed excluding “Abstains”

6. Other Business

SP informed the AGM that, at the BU Board Meeting in October, he had announced his decision to step down as Chair of BU and that this would be his last AGM in that role. SP said that he had been Chair since February 2019, when Brentford were 18th in the Championship, recently appointed Head Coach was enduring a poor run of results in his first 10 games in charge and some fans were fearing the possibility of relegation to League 1. A lot has happened in the intervening four years! It has been a brilliant time to have been BU Chair and on the Board of the Football Club and, having watched his first game 65 years ago, SP said that it was a real privilege to eyewitness Club history.

SP thanked those he had worked with on both the BU and Football Club Boards and also thanked, most importantly, all the wonderful Bees fans he had met during his time as Chair.

At the BU Board Meeting of 1st December, the Board had resolved to appoint long-time Bees Supporter Stuart Hatcher as SP’s successor. SH had been heavily involved with BU in its early days, including agreement with the Club on the Golden Share. The Premier League have formally approved SH as a fit and proper person to be a director of a PL club.

SP said that he was delighted with SH’s appointment and wished him luck for when he takes over in February 2023.

SH thanked SP and said that he was looking forward to taking on the role and working with the BU Board to continue to protect and promote our “bus stop” of a club. SH thanked SP for his time as Chair of BU saying that he was leaving it in a very healthy state.

7. Any other business

There was no further business and the AGM was formally closed at 18:30.

SP then introduced and hosted a Question and Answer session with Thomas Frank, Head Coach of Brentford Football Club.

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Chairman