



**BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED**

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

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting

**Venue** Virtual via Zoom

**Date of Meeting** 6.30pm, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**Present**

Stuart Hatcher (SH)	-	Chair
Sharon Wright (SW)	-	Deputy Chair
Don Tanswell (DT)	-	Secretary
John Scott (JS)	-	Membership Secretary
Colleen Wong (CW)		
Keith MacInnes (KM)		
Jeff Dent (JD)		
Fran Carroll (FC)		
Graham Hancock (GH)		
Shannon Foster	-	Zoom Host and Co-Ordinator
Online attendance	-	137 BU Member Participants

**Apologies**

Jim Walsh (JW)	-	Treasurer
Jon Gosling (JG)		





## **1.00 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION & WELCOME**

1.01 SH opened the AGM and welcomed all attendees. He ran through the agenda and said that the Minutes of the last AGM, held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 had been approved by the BU Board and were on the website. If members who attended that last AGM had any questions or comments about the Minutes they should get in touch after the meeting.

## **2.00 CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

2.01 At his first AGM as BU Chair, SH thanked his pre predecessor, Stewart Purvis, and made the following points :

**BU Membership** : In October 2023 BU had met the membership target of 3750 set at the last AGM. The next target would be 4000 members. We now had an impressive number of international members, including representation on the BU Board via Fran Carroll. SH thanked John Scott, Membership Secretary for his hard work through the year;

**BU Board** : Under our twelve year service rule, we were saying a warm and fond farewell to four Board members - Ron Cooper, Christine Powell, Jim Walsh our Treasurer, and Chris Tate. SH thanked each of them for their service and contribution to BU over many years;

**BU Communications and Events** : The BU monthly newsletter continued to be the core of communications with Members, and we have developed and expanded our output on social media thanks to Colleen Wong. The BU website has new functionality and a search feature which means our extensive library is there for all to see and read. During 2023 we began to reach out to our local Brentford community including participating in the BFC appreciation day at the Steam Museum and the Brentford Canal Festival. We were also delighted to sponsor the Brentford Penguins Summer Camp, and to announce our partnership with HerGameToo;

**Fan Engagement** : Following the 'Fan-Led Review' conducted on behalf of the Government in 2022, the recommendation to set up a regulator was adopted in February 2023. Much of the thinking behind this appears to be to restrict the chance of English clubs from joining closed-shop international competitions, which are judged to harm the domestic game and to prevent a repeat of financial failings seen at numerous clubs. Locally and more importantly, the Premier League has acted to implement the creation of Fan Advisory Boards (FABs) which has now been established at BFC and is jointly Chaired by Bees United;

**Compliance and BU Governance** : Led by our Secretary Don Tanswell, BU continues to meet the high levels of compliance required of a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Societies Act 2014; and

**Heritage** : The BU Vision, now summarised as our "Four Pillars" on our website, is of Management, of Representation, Sharing with you, and "To Promote and protect the history and heritage of the Club." This year started a long term project when we became owners of the BFC archive and we brought heritage alive in November, to fans Members and to the community, when we mounted and unveiled a plaque to celebrate the foundation of the Club. This was preceded by a stunning event at the stadium celebrating the heritage of the Bees in a variety of ways before an audience of 150, with input from Brentford FC Historians including Jonathan Burchill and Brendan Nevin.

## **3.00 FINANCIAL REPORT**

3.01 SH said BU was solvent and had made a profit in the last financial year and thanked all BU Members who donated.



Brentford FC had repaid £180,000 of its loan from Bees United in the last financial year. There is still £500,00 of BU funds lent to the Club. Interest on repaid monies would be used to fund our heritage work.

SH thanked Jim Walsh, our outgoing Treasurer, for maintaining BU in a healthy financial position and noted that there was a resolution to agree that Graham Hancock be elected to the Board to take over the Treasurer role.

## **4.00 RESOLUTIONS**

### **4.01**

4.1. The Resolution is that under the provisions of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, an audit shall not be required for the current Financial Year Accounts, ending 30 June 2023, hereby electing to disapply section 83 of the Act.

**This resolution was passed (87% in favour)**

4.2. The Resolution is that there will be no membership subscriptions for the current financial year 2023/24.

**This resolution was passed (94% in favour)**

4.3. The Resolution is to adopt the Society's Accounts.

**This resolution was passed (91% in favour)**

4.4. The Resolution is to elect Graham Hancock to the Bees United Board.

**This resolution was passed (89% in favour)**

## **5.00 BU COMMUNITY FUND LAUNCH**

### **5.01**

SW said that the Board was excited to announce the Bees United Community Fund at the AGM. The Community Fund would distribute 5% of Bees United income from donations annually to projects, groups or events in support of our core aims.

It was expected that the BU Community Fund to distribute around £1000 in 2024 and applications are sought in support of projects, groups or events that :

- Promote and protect the history and heritage of the club; and/or
- Support Bees United in representing the interests of our members, the wider supporter group of BFC and the local community.

To be eligible for funding projects, groups or events should demonstrate that they would :

- Contribute to at least one of the core purposes of the Fund (History & heritage and/or Bees United fan and community engagement);
- Support projects and events within the London Boroughs of Hounslow, Richmond and Ealing;
- Be clear about who will be involved and the activities the funding will support; and
- Set clear outcomes that will be reported back to Bees United.

The Application Pack would be on the Bees United website after the AGM and application forms should be returned by 31 March 2024. There would be a further call for applications later in 2024 if all funds were not allocated in the first round.

## **6.00 AGM CLOSE**

### **6.01**

SH thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM.

A short video showing Bees United's key achievements over the past year was played.

The AGM was followed by a live interview with Christian Nørgaard where he answered questions submitted by BU Members.



.....  
Chairman