

REGISTRATION NUMBER IP29244R

BEES UNITED
The Brentford Supporters' Trust

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

SOCIETY INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Officers and Advisers	Stewart Purvis (Chairman) Chris Tate (Secretary) James Walsh (Treasurer) Andre Sawyer Greville Waterman John Scott Bill Hagerty Ron Cooper Jon Gosling David Anderson Don Tanswell	Appointed 7 March 2020
Secretary	Chris Tate (Secretary)	
Company number	IP29244R	
Registered office	Griffin Park Braemar Road Brentford Middlesex TW8 0NT	
Accountants	Levy + Partners Limited Chartered Accountants 7 - 8 Ritz Parade Western Avenue London W5 3RA	
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank P O Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	
	Barclays Bank Plc United Kingdom House 180 Oxford Street London W1D 1EA	

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Page
Chairman's Statement	1 - 4
Board members' report	5 - 6
Accountants' report	7
Income and Expenditure account	8
Balance sheet	9 - 10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 13
 <i>The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts</i>	
Detailed Income and Expenditure account	15 - 16

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Introduction

Just like the Bees on the pitch, Bees United has made excellent progress in recent times but there is still important work to be done.

At this year's Annual General Meeting - our first ever 'virtual' annual gathering- we will reflect on what's been achieved but also keep moving forward.

In this statement I report on progress during the year ending 30th June 2020, the developments since then and what we hope to achieve at the AGM at 7pm on March 31st 2021.

Impact of COVID-19

When we last gathered, on 7th March 2020 at the club's new offices next to the new stadium, there had been just 50 cases in the UK of the new coronavirus, COVID-19 but no deaths.

As we moved on later that day for the game against Sheffield Wednesday who would have predicted that the 5- 0 victory would be the last time we gathered together as a full crowd of Bees fans either at Griffin Park or, as yet, at our new stadium.

And who would have imagined that a year later over a hundred and twenty thousand people would have died in the UK after contracting COVID-19.

Among those we mourn are Miriam Waterman, wife of BU Board member and Bees historian Greville Waterman. The disrupted season saw Brentford achieve its highest position for 73 years.

The Bees scored 80 goals, more than anyone else in the league and conceded only 38, a record bettered only by champions Leeds United.

But we faltered at the last, losing the final scheduled league game to Barnsley and then the Play-Off Final to Fulham. This year we hope that automatic promotion will avoid the need for a return to Wembley

Membership

Last year I reported on our progress on two priorities:

- to build the database of those members who receive our newsletters
- to merge that list with legacy databases of past and present members.

Since then we have had remarkable success: in January 2020 there were 459 BU members on the newsletter database, there are now more than 2,280.

Our next ambition is to pass 2,500. Every month these members receive our newsletter and, even better, we can tell from the stats that most of them read it and some email us to say how much they enjoy it.

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The growth in members has been achieved in two other ways; firstly, remarkable work by our Membership and Technology Secretary, John Scott, who has tirelessly worked through all our membership records and has been able to reconnect with about 1,500 fans where we had lost contact.

This task has also included getting in touch with fans overseas and we now have 142 BU members outside the UK.

This process has also enabled us to meet the privacy requirements of GDPR. I want to formally record our thanks to John.

Secondly the publication of our book 'Bees, Battles, Buckets and Ballot Boxes; How Brentford Fans Paved The Way from Griffin Park to Lionel Road'.

Sending a free printed copy of the book in time for Christmas to 1,889 fans for whom we had a postal address became a significant logistical challenge. But judged by the positive feedback from West London to California and New Zealand it proved well worth it.

The book recorded the role of Bees United in particular and Bees fans in general in creating the new stadium. In addition, our success in producing and distributing it reflected our ability to meet the high standards we have set ourselves.

The editor of the book, Greville Waterman, was a calm pilot throughout the journey. Together with the creation of the free digital book 'A Last Season to Remember, Every League Match in Brentford's Farewell to Griffin Park Season', we created a further reason for Bees fans to join and support BU. We will continue to use both books in our recruitment drive.

Bees United Communications

Our monthly newsletter and associated articles on our website continue to be our principal communication with our members.

We create new content which has not appeared elsewhere and also provide a guide to online articles and video about the club that members may not have seen.

Last season we provided a match report from every home and away game, a service we started when coverage of the club in the media seemed to be declining.

This season we have suspended that because of the logistical problems of getting to every game and the fact that as the reputation of Brentford has grown so has the coverage in the media.

AGM arrangements

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The creation of a full digital database allows us to save money on postage when communicating with members. The BU Board therefore recommends that this will be the last AGM when we send out paperwork in the post about the meeting. In future it will all be done by email and online.

BFC Governance

At Bees United we use our seats on the BFC Board of Directors and BFC Audit Committee, our 'special share' in BFC and our BFC director's role as Adjudicator on supporter complaints to try to help set the highest possible standards of governance at the club.

Brentford has adopted a form of what's known as 'structured dialogue' with supporter groups, in this case Bees United and BIAS. We look forward to engaging with the club management on a regular basis.

In addition, I wish to record my personal admiration at the way the owner Matthew Benham, the Chairman Cliff Crown and the CEO Jon Varney have steered the club through these difficult times created by the global pandemic.

Rules

Bees United will be 20 years old in June. BU began as a pressure group, bought majority ownership of the club, and then created a partnership with Matthew Benham which led to him becoming the owner.

The BU Board decided that this would be a good time to review all our rules in order to take account of the changes and developments over those two decades. Two Board members, Jon Gosling and Don Tanswell, have worked through all the detail of the 120 rules.

Their recommendations have been considered by the BU Board and a new set of 84 rules has been drafted which we believe update, simplify and clarify them. The most important changes are those redefining what Bees United wants to achieve, known as the 'objects' of BU.

These recommendations are being presented to members for their consideration and it is hoped they will be approved at the AGM.

Jamie Powell

Bees fans often talk about the 'Brentford family' and there was a special example in 2020 when many parts of that family came together to support one of our own, Jamie Powell, who is a BU member. His fundraising target was reached to enable him to get specialist medical treatment in America. BU was pleased to be able to contribute.

BU Board

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Every member of the Board has contributed to the success of recent times and I want to take this opportunity to thank them. This past year we welcomed back as a co-opted member Christine Powell who helped start the Supporters Trust with her husband Bruce Powell.

Under BU's constitution 'No person can be a member of the Society Board who has been a member of the Society Board for 12 consecutive years'.

Andre Sawyer is completing his final term as a Board member. Andre was part of the group of Bees fans who helped the club survive during the years before Matthew Benham became the owner. He was one of the few who was working full time while on the Board, and he also managed the rota that allowed BU members to visit the Griffin Park boardroom on match days.
Many thanks Andre for all you have done.

Owing to his personal circumstances one other Board member, Greville Waterman, is standing down after many years of valuable service on the BU Board, but I have invited Grev to become our first 'Contributing Editor' which recognises both the importance of our publications and his role as a contributor and an editor.

The quality of his work on both books we published in the past year is testament to his professionalism. I am pleased to report that he has agreed to take on this role in the 'BU family'.

Stewart Purvis
Chairman

Dated: 25 March 2021

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The Board Members present their report with the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Principal activities

The Society's principal activity during the year continued to be that of a football supporter society.

Constitution

The Society is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Guiding Principles:

The Society is run on the following fundamental principles:

- Accountability - through annual elections to the Society Board in line with Supporters' Direct recommended practice ;
- Democracy - by fully involving members in key decisions of the society and operating in an engaging manner;
- Inclusive - by setting a membership fee that is affordable to all and open to all;
- Open - by being transparent in all our activities.

Principal Aims :

The Society was set up with the following principal aims:

- To maintain a senior Professional football club in the local community;
- To bring the benefits of football closer to the community;
- To have elected supporter representation on the Board of the Club;
- To raise sufficient funds to invest in the club in pursuance of the above.

Board Members

Currently Serving

Elected Directors

Stewart Purvis (Chairman)

Chris Tate (Secretary)

James Walsh (Treasurer)

Andre Sawyer

Greville Waterman

John Scott

Bill Hagerty

Ron Cooper

Jon Gosling

David Anderson

Don Tanswell

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities

The board members are responsible for preparing the Annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The board members are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society and of the surplus or deficiency for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the board members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Society will continue in business.

The board members are responsible for maintaining satisfactory systems of internal control and keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The board members are responsible for maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the society's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the board on 25 March 2021.

Signed on behalf of the board

Stewart Purvis (Chairman)

Chris Tate (Secretary)

James Walsh (Treasurer)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT UNDER S85 OF THE CO-OPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETIES ACT 2014 ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

We report on the unaudited financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited for the year ended 30 June 2020 set out on pages 8 to 13.

This report is made solely to the society's members, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the accounts that we have been engaged to compile, report to the society's members that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the society and the society's members, as a body, for our work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of officers (board members) and reporting accountants

The society's officers (board members) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and they consider that the society is entitled to opt out of an audit. It is our responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable us to report our opinion.

Basis of opinion

Our work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so our procedures consisted of comparing the accounts with the accounting records kept by the society, and making such limited enquiries of the officers of the society as we considered necessary for the purposes of this report. These procedures provide the only assurance expressed in our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- (a) the accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the society under Section 75 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014;
- (b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records the accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014; and
- (c) the society satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the year specified in Section 84(1) of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and did not, at any time within that year, fall within any of the categories of societies not entitled to the exemption specified in Section 84 (3) of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

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Levy + Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 - 8 Ritz Parade
Western Avenue
London
W5 3RA

Date: 25 March 2021

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	£	£
Income	2	<u>24,905</u>	<u>25,740</u>
Expenditure		(16,912)	(11,916)
Other operating income		<u>912</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating surplus		8,905	13,824
Other interest receivable and similar income		<u>112</u>	<u>127</u>
Surplus for the year		9,017	13,951
Taxation	3	<u>(22)</u>	<u>(24)</u>
Net Surplus for the year	7	8,995	13,927
Retained surplus brought forward		<u>1,003,388</u>	<u>989,461</u>
Retained surplus carried forward		<u><u>1,012,383</u></u>	<u><u>1,003,388</u></u>

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	4	690,075		690,075	
Cash at bank and in hand		332,835		323,520	
		<u>1,022,910</u>		<u>1,013,595</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>(9,199)</u>		<u>(9,202)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,013,711</u>		<u>1,004,393</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,013,711</u>		<u>1,004,393</u>
Net assets			<u>1,013,711</u>		<u>1,004,393</u>
Capital and reserves					
Share capital	6		1,328		1,005
Income and Expenditure account	7		<u>1,012,383</u>		<u>1,003,388</u>
Members' funds			<u>1,013,711</u>		<u>1,004,393</u>

For the year ending 30 June 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

The shareholders have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

**DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of directors and authorised for issue on 25 March 2021, and are signed on its behalf by:

All of the members of Brentford Football Community Society Limited have consented to the preparation of the and the abridged for the current year ending 30 June 2020 in accordance with Section 444(2A) of the Companies Act 2006.

Stewart Purvis
Chairman

Chris Tate
Secretary

James Walsh
Treasurer

Company registration number IP29244R

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

1.2. Transition to FRS 102

There were no transitional adjustments.

1.3. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

1.4. Members Subscription Income

Members subscriptions for both annual and life memberships are recognised as income on a receipts basis.

1.5. Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the society is able to carry on business as a going concern, which the board members consider appropriate having regard to the circumstances.

2. Turnover

The total turnover of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the UK.

3. Taxation

UK current year taxation

	2020	2019
	£	£
UK corporation tax	21	24
Adjustments in respect of previous periods	1	-
	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Secured loans to Brentford FC Limited	402,000	402,000
Unsecured loans to Brentford FC Limited	279,909	279,909
Amounts owed by Brentford Holdings Limited	8,166	8,166
	<u>690,075</u>	<u>690,075</u>

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Loan notes	7,000	7,000
Corporation tax	21	24
Accruals and deferred income	2,178	2,178
	<u>9,199</u>	<u>9,202</u>

6. Share capital

The company does not have an authorised share capital. Each adult member own one share in the society which is not transferrable. The share is cancelled if an individual ceases to be a member.

Movement in shares	2020	2019
	£	£
At 1 July 2019	1,005	914
Movements	(323)	91
At 30 June 2020	<u>1,328</u>	<u>1,005</u>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

7. Reserves	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 July 2019	1,003,388	1,003,388
Profit for the year	8,995	8,995
At 30 June 2020	<u>1,012,383</u>	<u>1,012,383</u>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Income from members				
Income from members				
Members' annual subscriptions	-		-	
Members' standing order payments	<u>23,613</u>		<u>25,376</u>	
		24,905		25,740
Other Income				
Sundry income	<u>912</u>		<u>-</u>	
		912		-
Interest receivable				
Interest receivable	<u>112</u>		<u>127</u>	
		112		127
Income for the year		<u>25,929</u>		<u>25,867</u>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Deduct: Expenses				
A G M costs	1,195		200	
Insurance	900		900	
Printing, postage and stationery	175		222	
Advertising	9,000		-	
Legal and professional	935		780	
Book publication	2,880		-	
Accountancy	1,800		1,800	
General expenses	175		36	
Charitable donations - other	-		7,500	
Subscriptions and memberships	-		373	
Profits/losses on disposal of tangible assets	(148)		105	
		<u>(16,912)</u>		<u>(11,916)</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>9,017</u>		<u>13,951</u>