BWFC Supporters' Trust

MEETING NOTES

Subject: Board Meeting

Venue: Inspire room, Bolton Whites Hotel

Meeting Date: 24 09 2026 @ 6.45pm

Present: Sue Higson (SH)
Alan Houghton (AH)
Ian Pegg (IP)
Pete Bond (PB)
Jamie Adams-Mercer (JM)
Mike Smith (MS)
Robin Fletcher (RF) – Secretary
Shane Stopforth (SS) – Guest
Paul Wood (PW)
James Storey (JS)

Apologies: Martin Parnell (MP)
Terence Rigby (TR)

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1. **Approval of the previous meeting minutes**
   a. The previous minutes were approved pre meeting.

2. **Matters arising from the previous meeting**

RF updated that:

- Dormant CIC is now closed
- Milestone plan to transition to new secretary – all to read if not already read
- RF asked re pictorial representation of Young team re Coventry. Alan liaising with Paul to push for a picture and appropriate representation. Can we push to replace the day to forget with the day to remember. Jamie has met with Simon Marsland to contact all players & consider appropriate memorial– can we get a plaque or picture or both and prepare something for Aug 2029 as a 10th anniversary. Need to raise in structured dialogue meeting – could we do something in the bar area as something to open on the 10th anniversary?
- Every subscribing member will get a digital membership card in next couple of weeks. The card will have an expiry date and is to be presented in order to claim a discount from participating retailers. The aim is to increase the number of participating retailers. JM to contact Luciano's. Discount agreements documented. Trying to get the digital membership in a format to store in Google wallet (Apple wallet is costly). E mail open rate is still only circa 40%
- Affiliates – Martin has been trying to contact all lead affiliates – update to follow.

- Corporate members – currently 4 - Dawsons, Wardour, Aquila, Precision Marketing Group – need to do more on promoting their businesses, and ensuring we are invoicing for payment
- Thomas Ogden grave – still not found a family member – can do a Statutory Declaration as a Trust to own the grave in the absence of any family. Overdale team need to attend training to understand the process so may only be possible to pursue from April 27 once training complete. BWRG will continue to maintain grave as far as possible over winter – all agreed to pursue statutory declaration proposal.
- Memorial garden – architects commissioned, plan produced but way over budget. Club have asked architects to look again to see what they can do. Trust to push for mechanism for self-funding plaques within the memorial wall and possibly build as they go.
- Road runner videos - MS updated may have some time to do it – need to share the load or find someone who could. MS will assess what's needed when he's back from the US
- Memorabilia inventory – RF started an inventory but as part of the 150th Simon Marland advised he had already one. Simon is to forward a copy to RF, who will add on the memorabilia held by the Trust and if possible Bolton Museum.

3. Financial Report

a. Draft accounts prepared, and draft financial report shared with the Trust board . The surplus for the year ending 31st of July 2026 has increased from the previous year. The Board agreed to retain £27K as the sinking fund representing running costs for 3 years; return £7K back into original fund to replace legal fee expenses incurred 2019/20.agreed
b. RF advised that implanting the foregoing provides a fund of circa £28K to be used for justifiable benefits for the club.MS shared that Daisy Hill (Women's Home ground) urgently needs £3K to professionally repair the pitch. Time is of an essence, and whilst ideally the membership would be consulted prior to committing to offering financial help, it was agreed MS would approach the Club to offer cover, at least in part, the cost. If possible the Club will be persuaded to pay the whole amount. If not the Trust will seek a tangible benefit on a quid pro quo basis e.g. free advertisement behind the goal posts, heavily discounted table at the End of Season dinner etc.
c. The Board are to put in writing other suggestions worthy of expenditure, which if agreed by the Board will be put to the members at the AGM for approval. Some ideas discussed at the meeting
    - JS proposed Golf buggies to help get disabled fans, closer to ground; the idea being to purchase one, get it branded and pilot it, learning from the Derby model.
    - IP proposed the possibility of funding a 'Talking Bench'

4. Trust Roles

a. Rotating statutory roles – MP proposed a new role of membership secretary. The proposal was approved The term of office to be extended to align with the other roles to March 2029.
b. Chair – PW
c. Treasurer – JM
d. Secretary – JS
e. The roles commence in March 2027 for two years. Over the next 6 months the incumbent will gradually hand over to the new officer. In a similar vein the role will handed over from September 2028 to March 2029.
f. SH proposed Honorary positions be created to recognise the contribution made by long standing Board Directors. RF had put forward a similar proposal in January 2025. It was agreed to pursue the idea.
g. It was also agreed a further role be created for a Communications Officer
h. SH to use the existing templates for duties and responsibilities to align all existing roles and the new proposed roles.

5. Jamaican Hurricane Relief Fund Charity

a. Sue gave update on Ricardo fundraising – further call with Ricardo tomorrow to finalise dates, charity vehicle and fundraising target.

6. Elections/Date for the AGM

a. RF set out the time table for the 2027 elections.
b. IP has advised he will no longer offer himself for election to the Board. IP offered to continue with his leadership role of the YAG, liaising with B1Homes/Manbassadors, which was unanimously agreed by the Board.
The Board recorded their gratitude for the tremendous effort and dedication IP has given to the Trust, YAG, DSA and wider fan base throughout his term of office.
c. MS also offered to stand down if 'new blood' comes forward for election.
d. It is the intention that the introduction of new Board Directors would replace those standing down, however, experience suggests this may not be the case. In order for MS, MP & AH to be available to continue on the Board they must submit their nomination no later than the 7th of January 2027.
e. In the likely event poling will not be necessary the incoming Board Directors will be ratified at the AGM.
f. The AGM has to be held before the 31st of January 2027 in order to have the Accounts approved by the members. The date for the AGM will therefore be Thursday the 21st of January 2027.

7. Recruitment of Discount Partners

a. **RF** to collate further retail partners to offer discounts and possibly, but not necessarily, also being Corporate members.

8. Bruce Rioch Era Event

a. The Board agreed there is a strong appetite to stage a Bruce Rioch Era event. MS to investigate a plan to run alongside the existing 150th and Chairty match plans.

9. Priority Points

a. In advance of the Structured Dialogue Meeting the Board are requested to send to RF their views on a Priority Points system.

10. Agenda for the Structured Dialogue Meeting.

a. The proposed agenda has been circulated to the Board for approval. It was requested a further item be added with regard to bird droppings on many of the seats. RF to issue the proposed agenda to the Club tomorrow.

11. Family Ticket

a. Bernstein Kitchens have again made a Family Ticket available. Generally AH will send out a competition and check for the winner. AH requested back-up in the case he is away. In a similar vein AH asked for back-up for the preparation of the Trust's page in the match day programme. **MS** volunteered. RF suggested a dry run is done whilst AH is around to ensure there are no hick-ups when it becomes necessary.

12. Fan Zone Cabin Rota

a. All to check their rota days and swap if unavailable. **SH** to update rota for Jan onwards.

13. Website Update

a. It was recognised the website need to be updated. **SH to look into sourcing support to do so.**

14. Any Other Business

a. JM suggested the Trust offers 'goodie bags' to be handed out to new members. The cost effectiveness of such a venture was questioned. **JM** to carryout further research and costings

15. Next meeting date

6th of January 2027 at 6.45pm

SUPPORTERS TRUST