BWFC Supporters' Trust

MEETING NOTES

Subject:	Board Meeting
Venue:	Teams
Meeting Date:	24 02 2026 @ 6.45pm
Present:	Terence Rigby (TR) Sue Higson (SH) Alan Houghton (AH Martin Parnell (MP) Ian Pegg (IP) Pete Bond (PB) Jamie Adams-Mercer (JM) James Storey (JS) Robin Fletcher (RF) – Secretary Shane Stopforth (SS) -Guest
Apologies:	Paul Wood (PW)

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1. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

a) The previous minutes were approved.

2. Introduction of the new Board Directors

a) Pete Bond, Jamie Adams-Mercer and James Storey introduced themselves in turn and were unanimously welcomed onto the Trust's Board

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

a) **RF** to prepare a milestone plan of key events, timings etc throughout the year to share with Board Members

b) RF advised that there had been no update from our accountants regarding the closing down of dormant CIC. **RF** to chase for confirmation that Companies House have dealt with the matter.

c) The Trust have been asking for over a year for a Q&A with the coaching staff, which also mark the Trust's 10th anniversary. The Trust are hoping to also announce a Charity/legends game at the event. **RF** to puruse as time is getting very short. The intention is to put on a pie and peas supper and attract a large an audience from both within and outside the Trust. The entrance cost will be structured to attract attendees to have joined the trust and paid their subscription.

d) Further to the decision at the October 2025 meeting to ask the Club to include a pictorial plaque to be situated on the route of the stadium tours, **RF** will look out for a possible location whilst doing the tour later this week. JM handed over to AH a list of the players and their last known whereabouts with the view to organising reunion in 2029.

4. Financial Report

a) MP confirmed the current account balance is £9,005.52. The Capital Reserve and Fighting Fund have had no withdrawals, and, have accrued £760.30 and £209.16 in interest since the 1st of August 2025.

b) The Trust have changed from Mailchimp to Mail Lite to distribute emails out its database, who have proven to offer an improved service a lower price.

c) RF reiterated the intention for the Trust to live within its means without diminishing the Capital Reserve. To do so implies an annual income of circa £12,000.00 is required to cover our costs, including sponsoring the Supporter of the Season Award, a Women's and Youth team player.

4. Membership update

a) MP has recently share with the Board his Third BWFCST Data & Membership Report.

b) The current membership is 743 i.e. those who have paid their subscription in the last 12 months. 8 of the these are subscribing as Corporate Members, albeit some appear to be private individuals.

c) MP has been working closely with our Tech support to update the database as there does appear to be some duplication, however, it is a reasonable interpolation that between 5,500 and 6,000 who have been members at one time or another.

d) For the benefit of the new Board Directors explained that the Trust adopted the following protocol in respected of lapsed subscribers:-

i) The share was not deleted in its entirety but laid dormant as many members renew one year and forget the next. There are others who have tried to subscribe but have had issues in doing so.

ii) Only a member who has paid there subscription in the last 12 months is entitled to-

- Nominate or stand for election to the Board
- Propose a motion at either the AGM or any Trust meeting
- Vote on motions.

iii) Lapsed or Bolton supporters in general are allowed to attend the AGM provided they have registered for a entrance ticket.

iv) Similarly lapsed or Bolton Supporters in general can submit questions or points for discussion prior to the quarterly Structured Dialogue meetings with the Club.

e) **SH** & **MP** are looking into a better way for collecting subscriptions which automatically chases payments etc.**JS** advised the DSA have software for renewing membership and will pass on the details.

f) One of the benefits of being a member is the 10% discount offered at the Hotel for accommodation. **RF** & **MP** will review whether the membership card should be re-issued each year upon renewal of the subscription.

g) Previously the Club have offered to promote the Trust. **RF** to include this in the topics for discussion at informal meeting on the 6th of March. SS advised the QR code on the Flyers was not working. **RF** to investigate and rectify.

h) **SH** to prepare a draft update for the Trust flyer including the photographs.

i) **SS** to ask **MS** were the pop up display was purchased as it too needs refreshing.

5. Supporter of the Season Award

a) RF reported that a response was awaited from one company regarding sponsorship of the Supporter of the Season Award. In the meantime, if any of the Board have any other possible Companies who may be interested, please pass on their details **All**.

6. YAG update/Trust Membership

a) AH/IP reported the YAG are progressing a number of projects including the150th Anniversary 3rd strip, which the EFL will allow to be used on a number of specific occasions.

b) IP also reported that the attendance by the playing staff at the YAG meetings is greatly appreciated.

c) The YAG has made some progress in ensuring the group represents the ethnic diversity of Bolton however work is still needed to proportionately represent the gender and non-binary mix of the community

7. Burnden Disaster 80th Anniversary

a) A number of the Board will be attending the memorial service in Bolton Parish Church on the 9th of March 2026 at 6.30pm

8. Manbassadors/Talking Bench Initiative

a) **IP/RF** are seeking a meeting with the Club, The development Association and BWiTC to discuss a means to complete the project within a budget and timely manner.

9. Affiliates, Corporates and What's App Groups

a) **RF** will forward to the Board a copy of the Collaboration Agreement with the Affiliates. It was recognised that not all members of an Affiliate Group maybe members of the Trust however it was agreed by the Board the Leader of an Affiliate Group must have subscribed in the last 12 months. **MP** to contact the lead of each Affiliate Group to remind them of their commitment to the Trust to have paid their subscription and to have encouraged their group to have done likewise.

b) **MP/RF** to review the number and status of the Corporate members and recommend, if any improvements that can be made to the benefit of both parties.

c) It was agreed to rationalise those using the various What's App groups:-

- The existing 'All New Trust Board' to be scrapped. **Mike Smith** to action as he is one of the Administrators A new group for Board Directors only **RF**. The App to used strictly for the formal Trust business.
- The existing 'Trust Consult' to used by the elected Board Directors, plus those who wish to participate in Trust activities. This is a less formal than the Board App and is intended for those who are not on the Board to be fully engaged with the day to day running of the Trust and have paid their subscriptions. **RF** to ask Maggie Tetlow, who is the Administrator to close the existing App down. **RF** then to set up a new a one in accord with the above.
- 'Trust Banter Group' is the informal App and is open for a much wider group, subject to having paid their subscription to participate. This is the forum to comment on the Team's performance etc. Please bear in mind that it is incumbent on all Board Directors not to pass any comment that is any way detrimental to any individual. **RF** to speak with Maggie Tetlow to take over the Administration.
- 'Affiliates' What's App to be reviewed further as part of a wider discussion on how we best serve our wide and diverse participants, particularly those based overseas. **MP** to take sole Admin for the group and after a period of grace and notice of a month to subscribe to the Trust remove anyone who has not done so.

10. Family Ticket Competition

a) Bernstein Kitchens are to asked as to whether they to continue to sponsor the Family Ticket Competition, and if so, should entry be limited to subscribing members.

11. Any other business

a) **IP** volunteered to attend the Residents' Meeting on the 14th of April 2026 at 7pm
b) **AH** to enquire in person at the Football Museum as to their interest in displaying the David Jack 1923 FA Cup medal.
c) **JS** to forward his photograph and profile to RF for posting on the website.

d) RF has forwarded the FSA guide to fan engagement and asked **ALL** Board Directors to read and make recommendations were both the Club and Trust can make improvements.
e) The Fan Zone Rota was explained to the new Directors. A timely reminder was given to check diaries to ensure attendance at the matches duty calls. Thanks was given to SS for stepping in at the Blackpool match.
f) **MP** as Treasurer has applied for a debit card for the Trust's current account. The other card is held at McKendrey Accounts Ltd for safe keeping.
g) **PB/SH** have located the grave of BWFC's co-founder in Heaton Cemetery. Whilst the grave can be tidied up, a memorial stone can only be laid if approved by any remaining family.
h) The Trust confirm their support for Unite For Access Day on the 7th of March 2026, which will also be the official opening of the Sensory Room.
i) **IP** will make enquiries into the cost of digitising the Road Runner videos.

12. Next meeting date

31st of March 2026 at 6.45pm