



BWFC Supporters' Trust

MEETING NOTES

Subject: BWFC & BWFCST Quarterly Meeting No 3
Venue: University of Bolton Stadium
Meeting Date: 06 May 2022 @ 10.00am
Present:
BWFC: Neil Hart (NH), Ben Cowcill (BC)
BWFCST: Ian Bridge (IB), Sue Higson (SH), Ian Pegg (IP), Mike Smith (MS)

MINUTES

1.0 Purpose of Meeting

The meeting is the third scheduled quarterly meeting between senior BWFC personnel and BWFCST board representatives as referenced in the joint Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties in August 2021.

2.0 Matters Arising

a) Minutes of second quarterly meeting held on 04 March '22 were approved and are available on the trust website

b) **Fan behaviour**

NH advised that there is a high-level meeting to be held in the near future between club and police in an attempt to resolve several issues that have arisen at recent home games with respect to policing and stewarding.

BC also confirmed that a working group is being established to address various aspects of stewarding procedures.

The trust has written to the club after the recent Sheff W home game outlining several trust members concerns relating to perceived aggressive and confrontational policing at that particular game. NC agreed to reference the trust letter in subsequent discussions with GMP.

It was suggested by the trust that a supporters' representative at SAG meetings next season could help in putting forward the fans' perspective. To be considered further.

The club are also continuing in their attempts to engage with those who have been subjected to a banning order with a view to addressing individual circumstances.

The process to issue a charter to clarify the situation around banning order conditions is still underway.

The whole situation continues to be monitored, with the club looking to act proactively to improve safety and matchday experience.

c) **FanZone** was discussed with BC updating on recent events.

- Scheme continues to be developed with BC now leading from the club
- Directive issued from the board that facility should be functional in time for next season.



- There is a SAG meeting to be held w/c 16 May '22 when necessary FanZone approvals will be discussed in detail. Council have been very supportive to date.
- Process of cost and programme planning is ongoing under the direction of BC.
- Trust confirmed that they are available to assist with any aspect of the ongoing process.

d) **Affiliates Matters**

A series of meetings have been held involving the trust and the BWDSA to develop further the task of addressing several concerns regarding scale and condition of the existing stadium disabled supporters' facilities, particularly with the upcoming Level Playing Field Audit in mind.

Funding for improvements and upgrading of facilities was discussed and the trust suggested that a joint BWDSA/BWFCST fundraising project could be undertaken. NH agreed and offered that the club would match-fund up to £5k any monies raised under such a scheme. Trust to develop further with BWDSA representatives.

e) **'22/'23 Season Ticket sales**

NH advised that the club are delighted with the response of supporters to the early bird offer and that currently, season ticket sales have exceeded 12.5k. Tickets are now back on sale at standard price and sales are still progressing.

There will be further concerted advertising at key points in the future (eg fixture release date in June) and it is hoped that sales will exceed 13.5k ahead of the start of next season.

NH agreed to the trust request for inclusion of a promotional trust flyer to be included within the pack when the season tickets are distributed in June.

g) **Fan-Led Review (FLR)**

NH was handed the full set of members FLR Survey responses and confirmed that the club were generally supportive of the FLR subsequent to recent Govt statement of support. Inclusion in the Fair Game project is still under discussion.

h) **Surveys**

NH advised that the club still plan to carry out an extensive fans survey and requested a meeting soon to discuss content.

Post meeting note: meeting arranged for 19 May '22

i) **Potential future events**

NH advised that the club are currently developing several initiatives in relation to the 25th anniversary of the move from Burnden Park to the Reebok Stadium in 1997. Further details to be announced in due course.

NH also confirmed that the Junior Whites will very soon be re-established. This is good news as this has been a programme that has been missed by BWFC fans.

3.0 **Any Other Business**

No further items were discussed.

4.0 **Next quarterly meeting date**

To be held on Friday 05 Aug '22

