



## Bath City FC Supporters Society

### 2020 Annual General Meeting

7.00pm on Thursday 3rd September 2020

Via Zoom

**Present:** 23 members online

#### 1. Welcome & Chair's Report

Michael Clayton welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave an update on recent events including:

- Redevelopment – after various delays the planning application was rejected by the Planning Committee in March. The focus now is on a new submission rather than appealing the rejected scheme. The target date for a new submission is December 2020.
- Club finance – Revenues were improving but have now clearly been hit by the lockdown. Paul Williams was thanked for his impressive work in sourcing funding and supporters had contributed some £53k to support the play-offs. The future remains uncertain because of Covid-19.
- Supporters Liaison Officer – Martin Powell is standing down this year and MC thanked him for his substantial contribution.
- Bath City Foundation – revitalised, with over 500 people participating in various activities.
- Operating model – Paul Brotherton and others have reviewed the Society's constitution to make it more fit for purpose, including clarifying the working relationship between the Society and the Club Board and ensuring members have a clearer route to have a say in key issues.
- Membership – the new online membership system has been implemented and the new flat rate fee introduced. Over the last year membership has increased from 311 to 387.
- Looking forward, the Society now wants to focus on improving communication and engagement with its members.

#### 2. Discussion

- Ken Loach expressed his thanks for everyone involved in the redevelopment, but stressed the importance of getting the redevelopment right for the long term. We need to acknowledge the Council's criticisms of the student accommodation block and review the whole design. The (smaller) revised plan for the stadium would then require additional work costing an estimated £1-2million to bring it up to football league standards, which KL thought was unrealistic. MC reported that FWP has this week been tasked with making a more detailed estimate of this additional cost to the club, so we'll have a definitive view shortly.
- Sally Harris highlighted the need for proper consultation prior to a resubmission in December and asked who would be arranging it. MC confirmed that the Society would be leading this. Pete McCormack expressed the view that the Society should be involved in the redesign of the whole site, not just the stadium itself. It is understood that revised plans for the whole site have not yet been



drawn up.

- John Moore asked if members could have a one or two page summary of the position and options on redevelopment and then a Zoom meeting to discuss them. It was agreed that a summary of the revised redevelopment would be circulated to members shortly and a Zoom meeting will be set up. MC pointed out that the December deadline for a new planning submission is not fixed and may well be subject to delay.
- Steve Skinner asked if the Society had a say in the decision to take part in the play-offs. MC responded that it was a Club Board decision, but that the Society Committee supported it.

### 3. Treasurer Report

MC as Acting Treasurer reported that the Society’s account has a balance of £4.9k, up from £4.4k the previous year. During the year the Society had given a £9k donation to the Club to help with the situation resulting from Covid. The Society continues to be a lender to the Club having loaned it £50k at the time of the Big Bath City Bid and a further £10k which in turn is owed to one of its members. There had been some queries to the Society’s draft accounts which are close to being finalised and made available. MC is in the final stages of handing over the Treasurer role to Mike Laughton.

The meeting agreed that Blomfields should be re-appointed as auditors for the coming year.

### 4. Election Results

Oliver Holtaway, Election Officer reported that 184 Society members (48%) had voted in this year’s elections. This increased to 194 for the SLO election (as Supporters Club members are also able to vote for the SLO following the constitution review).

Results were as follows:

#### Club Board Director – 1 place for three years:

Mathew Falk	Yes	165 (elected)
	No	6

#### Supporters Liaison Officer – 1 place for three years:

Tom Mears	Yes	180 (elected)
	No	14

#### Supporters Society Committee – 6 places for two years:

Sally Harris	159 (elected)
Peter McCormack	150 (elected)
Shane Morgan	142 (elected)
Jon Blain	139 (elected)
Marc Thomas	129 (elected)
Mark Taylor	101 (elected)
James Pullan	87

There was some discussion about the eligibility criteria for standing for election and disappointment that more members hadn’t stood for the SLO position in particular. MC



confirmed that the election had been carried out in accordance with the Society's election policy but agreed that we need to revisit the rules for the future elections. MC offered congratulations to those elected and thanked OH and PB for running the election.

## 5. Motions

OH reported that one motion had been received. This would be discussed today but will be voted on online (and by post for those with no email address) after the meeting so that amendments (if any) could be taken into account in the vote\*.

The motion is:

"Each year the Society Committee shall, within three months of the end of the Club's financial year, provide members with a detailed breakdown and explanation of the Club's annual profit and loss accounts, taking into consideration commercial sensitivities, in order to help members better understand the Club's trading position and promote transparency and financial sustainability".

Proposer: Jon Blain

Seconder: Ben Hatton.

JB outlined that this issue has been around for a while but hoped that a vote will accelerate the process. The finances of the club were of key interest to the Society as majority shareholder and the motion would help transparency but without going into confidential detail. SS highlighted the importance of having a dialogue on finances during the year as well as after the year-end. No amendments to the motion were suggested by the meeting.

\*The subsequent result was FOR: 150, AGAINST: 2 (turnout 39%).

## 6. Vote of Thanks

MC is standing down from the Committee and KL offered him a huge thank you from Society members for all his work on the Committee and particularly as Chair – all agreed. MC thanked everyone for their support.

## 7. Any Other Business

None – MC thanked everyone for their contribution and closed the meeting.