



Bath City FC Supporters Society

2021 Annual General Meeting

7.00pm on Thursday 24th June 2021

Via Zoom

Minutes (confirmed)

Present: 29 members online

Apologies received from: Steve Tanner

1. Welcome & Chair's Report

Emma Sparks welcomed everyone to the meeting. Emma had been both Acting Chair and Secretary since the last AGM in September 2020. She reported that key issues during the year included:

- **New SLO election:** Two candidates stood for the SLO post following the resignation of the previous post-holder. Cheryl Bradley was elected as SLO at the IGM in December 2020.
- **Covid:** A great deal of work had taken place behind the scenes as part of the Covid response and in the end the 2020/21 season was declared null and void in February 2021.
- **Financial transparency:** As agreed at the 2020 Society AGM, Jon Blain and Oliver Holtaway worked with the Club to create a user-friendly financial summary. This included high level income and expenditure figures and showed the progress being made towards a break-even position.
- **Meet the Manager:** An event with Gerry Gill in February 2021 was very well attended and another (rescheduled) event will be held before long. Cheryl Bradley would be arranging a new date.
- **Memorandum of Understanding:** This sets out how the Society Committee and Club Board will work together including two joint meetings a year, clear roles, working jointly on club strategy, and identifying issues that the Society would be consulted on. It is hoped that this will be agreed and signed shortly.
- **Community:** The Society, particularly Sally Harris, is exploring the steps that need to be taken to set up a Bath City Women's team, has worked with Joy Saunders, Community Director, to launch a film competition focussing on heroes of the pandemic, and has supported Amnesty UK's 'Football welcomes refugees' campaign.
- **Redevelopment:** Work is ongoing following the rejection of the planning application in March 2020. This includes exploring various options and the Club will report in due course.
- **Membership:** ES thanked Mark Taylor for his work as Membership Secretary. The current membership has remained quite stable despite the pandemic, standing at 377 compared to 387 at the time of the 2020 AGM.



2. Treasurer Report

ES reported that the 2020 accounts have been drawn up and should be finalised shortly. Unconfirmed figures show an income of £9,567, expenditure of £13,205 and cash in the bank of £7,566. By far the largest item of expenditure during the year was a donation of £9,000 from the Society to the Club to help deal with the Covid crisis.

3. Discussion/Q&A

- Nick Blofeld asked about progress with appointing a new Treasurer. ES replied that a couple of options are being followed up and hopes to report an appointment before long.
- Michael Clayton asked for information on the Society's expenditure during the year. ES confirmed that the £9,000 donation had been the largest item and the Society had also contributed £1000 to the Club's Crowdfunder appeal.
- ES told the meeting that she is standing down from the Committee now and wanted to thank Committee members for their support during the last year.

4. Re-appointment of auditors

The AGM agreed to re-appoint Blomfields as auditors (Proposed: Oliver Holtaway, Seconded: Colin Voutt).

5. Election Results

Oliver Holtaway, Election Officer, reported that 172 Society members had voted in the elections, representing a turnout of 46%. The results were as follows:

Club Board Directors – two places for three years each:

Nick Blofeld	Yes	152 (elected)
	No	7

Shane Morgan	Yes	153 (elected)
	No	9

Supporters Society Committee – six places for two years each:

Paul Brotherton	Yes	146
	No	6

Christopher Flanagan	Yes	142
	No	6

William Heath	Yes	135
	No	11

Ken Loach	Yes	162
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	No	6
Stuart Page	Yes	128
	No	20

ES offered her congratulations to those elected and thanked OH and Sally Harris (Election Observer) for running the election.

6. Debate on motions*

OH reported that three motions had been received. These would be discussed, and possible amendments made, at the AGM but voting on the motions will take place online (or by post for those with no email address) after the meeting. This enables all members to have their say.

Motion 1: *"This AGM calls upon the Society Board to ensure that the stadium name can only be changed or amended permanently – i.e. for more than one season - after a fair, clearly worded and unambiguous ballot has been conducted amongst the membership of the Bath City Supporters Society".*

Proposer: Marc Thomas

Secunder: Jon Blain

MT explained that this motion adds the stadium name to a previous agreed motion which was to ensure that core parts of the Club's heritage (eg Club colours) could not be changed without a Supporters Society members ballot. In answer to questions, he confirmed that the ballot would be for Supporters Society members only, as this is a defined group of people, and that there is currently no suggestion that the stadium name be changed. Commercial Director Matthew Falk confirmed that there are currently no proposals to change the name and expressed his support for the motion.

No amendments to the motion were proposed so the existing wording will go to a membership vote.

Motion 2: *"The Society should publish the club's strategy to members - as agreed by the Board - by 1st October 2021".*

Proposer: Michael Clayton

Secunder: James Pullan

Michael Clayton stated that all well-run organisations should have a clear strategy and that in Bath City's case the strategy is an unwritten one based largely on a survey of supporters' priorities carried out in 2017. The purpose of this motion would be to ensure that a written document is developed and shared with supporters. In response to questions MC suggested that the strategy would be a high level document covering key



objectives and how they would be achieved. He said that he'd already prepared some draft material towards the end of his time as Society Chair so the groundwork is there to produce something by 1st October. OH also noted that strategy development is a key part of the MoU. NB reported that this was discussed at the last Club Board meeting and said that SH will be leading from the Society and he will be leading on it from the Club Board.

No amendments to the motion were proposed so the existing wording will go to a membership vote.

Motion 3: "All Club Board member elections should specify the specific role, skill and capabilities required (e.g. Finance, Marketing, Chair, Operations etc.) and should not be generic director"

Proposer: Michael Clayton

Secunder: Mike Nelson

MC said that the Club's Board was specifically recruited to handle the transition following the community bid, and that the motion would enshrine in policy what had previously been done rather than move to a position where anyone could be elected. He felt that the Supporters Society should ensure that the Club Board is skilled and effective. MF supported the motion, saying that he was attracted to the post of Commercial Director (when it was advertised as an interim appointment) and that this was more appealing than the generic director posts which are elected at AGMs.

There was lengthy discussion on this motion. Some concerns were expressed including a worry that the Board shouldn't be closed to people who have very good capabilities, vision and wise heads but lack a specific skill such as finance, that skill requirements may change over time and that flexibility is needed, that skilled advisors can be brought in or co-opted as non-voting members if necessary, that the Board should be inclusive rather than exclusive, that narrowing down the criteria may reduce further the number of people interested and that the current Board does have some 'generalist' members who make a very good contribution. The view was expressed that the Chair would be better chosen by members of the Club Board themselves rather than potentially being someone completely unknown to the Board. It was also unclear how it would be decided which roles the Society-elected directors would carry out and which would be carried out by the three non-elected Directors, and how these would relate to each other.

In reply, MC said that being inclusive and having good skills are not mutually exclusive and emphasised that it is key that the right skills are present around the Board table. In reply to a question about who would decide what the skill requirements are, MC said that there would be an interview process as happened when people were co-opted to the Board on an interim basis to fill a casual vacancy. Mike Nelson emphasised the need for a rounded set of skills on the Board and recognised that, like job interviews, people may not initially have all the specified skills but can develop into the role over time.

Discussion then centred on the specific wording with suggestions to make it less prescriptive. Two amendments were then proposed and agreed by the meeting:



- a) Delete the word 'Chair'.
Proposer: Emma Sparks Second: Paul Brotherton

- b) Delete the word 'All', delete the word 'the', change 'role' to 'roles', change 'skill' to 'skills' and delete the words 'and not be generic director'.
Proposer: Alan Finney Second: Emma Sparks

The amended motion 3 thus reads:
"Club Board member elections should specify specific roles, skills and capabilities required (e.g. Finance, Marketing, Operations)"

The amended motion will now go to a membership vote.

OH thanked members for their constructive participation in the discussion.

***Subsequent voting results were:**

Motion 1	For 140	Against 7
Motion 2	For 142	Against 2
Motion 3 (as amended)	For 111	Against 34

7. Any Other Business

In answer to a question on when supporters will know more about the redevelopment, NB reported that BANES Council will be making decisions about what the Club can and can't do at Twerton in the light of the local plan consultation. We will then know what options are on the table. He estimated that realistically this will probably be in July/August.

KL stressed the importance of engaging supporters in the redevelopment plans as they are vital to the long term future of the Club and urged members to stay in touch and engaged in discussions on this.

NB suggested that it would be timely to do a review of how much progress has been made in relation to the priorities that supporters identified in the 2017 survey, and that it would be good practice to do this on an annual basis. ES agreed that this should be picked up by the new Society Committee.

Finally, KL proposed a huge vote of thanks to Emma who is leaving the Chair and Secretary role as well as stepping down from the Committee. She'd volunteered to do these roles at a very busy time and her contribution is very much appreciated by all. ES thanked everyone and said that she'd enjoyed her time on the Committee and will stay in touch.

ES thanked everyone for their contributions, asked everyone to continue having their say in the Society and Club and closed the meeting.

