



**Bath City FC Supporters Society  
7.30pm on Thursday 26 January 2017  
Twerton Park, Charlie's**

**Meeting Report**

Present: Martin Powell, Oliver Holtaway, Cheryl Bradley, Shane Morgan, Steve Skinner, Ken Loach

Emma Sparks, a candidate for Secretary, attended at the invitation of the chair.

**1. Apologies**

Phil Weaver, James Carlin (resigned), Jon Bickley, Michael Clayton, Pete McCormack, Colin Voutt, Marc Thomas.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Approved.

**3. Matters arising**

- The 1000BC group met but did not have time to discuss getting more Society coverage in the programme.

**4. Community ownership update**

Another shadow board meeting was held on 19 Jan. Updates were given regarding commercial, transition, football, finance and redevelopment matters.

A meeting with the lawyers will take place on 27 January – we hope to come to an agreement on the documents and come to an agreement on an AGM date and process. The club is waiting for a decision from a potential social lender before proceeding with the EGM/AGM process. This is expected in early February.

The shadow board has completed the first stage of the hiring process for a General Manager. The final interviews will take place in early February.

Policies to formalise the proposed working group structure, as well as the ability of the chair to appoint “direct report” club officials, have been confirmed by the shadow board and published on the new volunteer page of the Society website. These policies will take effect when the new board comes into effect.

The meeting also approved the creation of a Volunteer and Partnership Officer, as promised in the Bid prospectus. This person will report directly to the chair and is responsible for attracting volunteers and connecting them to the right working groups, as well as developing mutually beneficial, non-commercial and non-charitable partnerships with local employers

and institutions. A role description has been circulated to Society members, who have been invited to apply by 16 February. OH will take up the role on an interim basis.

The first quarterly meeting of the Community Working Group was held on 24 January – it was well attended and feedback was positive. Sally Harris will circulate notes soon.

The 1000BC marketing and promotions group met on 23 January and mostly discussed the planned 25 March Family/Youth day – details to be announced soon.

Bid team member William Heath is to co-ordinate a “vision and values” session for the new community-owned club. Some Society board members expressed scepticism at the seemingly “corporate” nature of such an exercise, while others defended the practice as being of proven use to charities and non-profit organisations. The Society board agreed that this process should be properly inclusive and relatable.

Wednesday 15 March has been set as date for second showing of *I, Daniel Blake*. This is a good opportunity to invite people in Bath who wouldn't normally come to the Twerton area – members are encouraged to make suggestions as to groups and individuals who should be invited.

## **5. Society role post-Bid**

As MC is leading this and was not present, this was deferred to the next meeting.

## **6. Club visits**

**Lewes:** OH and Sally Harris visited Lewes FC in December as guests of the Lewes FC board. It was a very fruitful visit with Lewes FC clearly having faced, and continuing to face, many of the challenges we now do. OH and Sally Harris have filed a meeting report to the Society board and to the club chair-elect. OH has also filed a report from his visit to a European fan summit in Malmo, which he attended on behalf of Supporters Direct.

These meeting reports are to remain confidential (i.e. restricted to Society board members and club officials) given that the other participants shared information in confidence or under Chatham House rules. However, it is proposed that the key learnings and most notable ideas can be put together into a summary report to be presented to members ahead of the Society AGM.

**Future visits:** OH had submitted a proposal in November for the Society to agree in principle to fund future club visits on a case-by-case basis, but was unable to present the item in person. The Board asked for more information about the agenda of the visits before making a commitment. OH has circulated a set of agenda categories (i.e. governance, commercial, membership, finances, volunteering etc) to the Society board and the Society's club board representatives and received some feedback.

The consensus view was that the club visits were valuable and should continue.

**SD event at Twerton Park.** Supporters Direct is setting up a network of community-owned clubs with funding from Power to Change, a national organisation for community businesses. This will involve face-to-face meetings and webinars. They have expressed interest in hosting a SW regional meeting at Twerton Park on a Thursday in February. Confirmed for 23

February, 5.30pm. We will seek to publicise this with the local press and invite a journalist. Oliver will ascertain how many people can attend and send invitations around.

**FCUM event:** FC United of Manchester has invited a representative from Bath City to join a pre-arranged exchange visit between FCUM and Cork City, to take place in Manchester on Feb 3-5. OH plans to attend the Manchester meeting and asks the Society to consider covering his train fare. This was approved by consensus.

Cork City has also invited Bath City to send a representative to a meeting between Cork City, Malmo FF and Schalke in Cork in April.

## **7. Proposed amendment to Membership Subscriptions Standing Order**

People who bought community shares in September were promised 1 year's free Society membership. However, the current standing order calls for 2017 membership subs to be collected between May 1 and August 31.

This collection period was designed to coincide with the AGM in June, but in fact very few people pay in cash at the AGM. Also, this raises the issue of a Membership Secretary starting the collection process but then stepping down or failing to be re-elected at the AGM, before the collection process can be concluded.

It is also suggested that the stipulation that the membership secretary must make the third and final reminder by telephone is now too onerous given the number of members, and that this should be removed.

It is also proposed that language is added to clarify the consequences for holders of community shares who allow their membership to lapse.

For this reason it is proposed that the standing order be amended to the effect that:

1. **The Society's membership year runs from 1 October to 30 September each year. Membership years shall be formatted as 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, etc.**
2. Annual membership subscriptions will fall due on **30 September** each year.
3. The membership secretary (or other committee member responsible for maintaining the members register) will contact all\* members during the month of **August** notifying them that annual subscriptions **for the membership year ahead** are due **by 30 September**, according to members' preferred method of communication. This may include an electronic invoice, such as a Paypal payment request.
4. The membership secretary will send a further reminder to members ~~who remain in arrears~~ during the month of **September**.
5. The membership secretary will make a final effort to contact members who are in arrears ~~by telephone~~ during the **first two weeks of October**.
6. If a member remains in arrears by **15 October**, they will be removed from the Members Register, regardless of whether the membership secretary has established contact. The membership secretary will contact them informing of this, and explaining how to re-join.
7. **For the avoidance of doubt, removal from the Members Register does not in itself invalidate ownership of community shares issued by the Society. However, it is membership alone that**

confers the right to participate and vote in Society meetings and elections, including any elections to the club board.

This was approved by consensus.

#### **8. Board activity report (CONFIDENTIAL)**

#### **9. Distribution of proceeds from film screening**

It was suggested that the Society's share of proceeds (£420) could go to repairing or replacing the club's PA system so similar events can take place in the future.

Approved by consensus.

#### **10. Delivery of bid benefits**

Final share certificate artwork is now ready and OH will send to Minuteman Press for test printing. Likely to be completed within 2 weeks – will aim for the Truro game. We can hand them out at the match and hand-deliver to some Bath postcodes to save postage costs.

MT is responsible for arranging the badges – not present, deferred.

Responsibility for delivering other benefits needs to be assigned.

#### **11. Update on Society Secretary**

Emma Sparks agreed to become the new Society Secretary as of the next meeting. Emma helped the Bid as part of her previous job at Geometry PR, and has previous experience as the secretary of Bath Rugby Supporters Club.

OH will meet with Emma before then to go through a proper handover.

#### **12. Member liaison activity**

Members Liaison Officer James Carlin has stepped down from his role and resigned from the Society Board owing to family and work commitments. In a message to the Board, James expressed his intention to continue to assist the club's 1000BC and community working groups as time permits. The Board recorded a vote of thanks to James for his contributions during his term as director.

Emma agreed to assume responsibility for member liaison within the Secretary role. This will include arranging a rota for Society board directors to be present once a month before matches in Charlie's.

#### **13. Treasurer's Report inc 100 club**

Received.

#### **14. Spirit of Bath City award**

The board discussed nominations for the chair to consider.

### **15. Role description of Society Lottery Officer**

PW not present – deferred to next meeting

### **16. AOB**

CB noted that c. £1000 still sits in the Bid donations account. This will be transferred to the Society account and used to cover the delivery of Bid benefits e.g. badges.

Match sponsorship to be added to the next agenda. The Society will sponsor a match this season.

Fans of Italian club Lecco have been in touch to set up a commemoration of our 1977 Anglo-Italian Cup meeting. A delegation of their fans will come to the WSM away match on 4 Feb, and City fans have been invited to meet with them.

### **17. DOTM**

To avoid a clash with the SD meeting on 23 February, the next meeting will be 9 March.