



Bath City FC Supporters Society
7.30pm on Thursday 27 October 2016
Twerton Park, Moore Stephens Lounge

Meeting Report

Present: Martin Powell, Colin Voutt, Steve Skinner, Michael Clayton, James Carlin, Shane Morgan, Oliver Holtaway, Marc Thomas, Phil Weaver, Jon Bickley.

1. Apologies

Ken Loach, Pete McCormack, Cheryl Bradley

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted by email.

3. Matters arising

- A date has been fixed for the Society's Interim General Meeting (IGM) - 7pm, 21 November at Randall's Bar, Twerton Park. OH has sent notification to members. In consultation with Supporters Direct, a role description for the Supporters Liaison Officer has been draft, circulated and approved. It is now publicly available on the Society website.
- A provisional Community Shareholders Register has been created, with some payments still being chased. Once finalised, OH will create a new Members Register.
- JC has shared the Localgiving link with the board.
- JB drafted Bid "next steps" bullet points for volunteers on Community Day.
- Pending: PW to create Fundraising Officer role description.

4. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

5. Who will represent the Society at the club EGM?

Agreed by consensus that it should be the Society chair, if available. The date of the club EGM is still to be finalised.

6. Community Ownership update

The current confirmed total stands at over £355K, although that does not take fees into account. Around £6K of failed or promised pledges still being chased.

The “shadow” club board (i.e. the nine directors identified in the Bid prospectus) has agreed the date of its first meeting. The legal process of formally completing the deal continues. Once further progress is made on this front, the date of club EGM will be finalised and announced.

A job description for a General Manager has been drafted and circulated among board members for discussion.

As above, the Society IGM has been called for 21 November and a role description for the elected Supporters Liaison Officer has been circulated.

7. Society strategy and role post-Bid

It was agreed at the last meeting that the Society must clarify its role and direction now that it will become the club’s majority shareholder. MC has been appointed to drive this process.

MC will draft a proposed outline of the objectives, key activities and roles/responsibilities of the Society and club board, respectively. These will be based on what is already publicly available and agreed, i.e. the existing Society Rules and standing orders and the Bid prospectus, business plan and “democracy and governance’ plan.

MC will circulate the draft outline among the Society board for discussion. Once approved, he will contact the incoming club chair and board, using the outline as a starting point for discussion.

8. November Interim General Meeting & Election of Supporter Liaison Officer

Members have been informed of the 21 November IGM by email and post. JC is also promoting it on Twitter. ACTION: OH to promote on Facebook.

JC is serving as Election Officer. Online voting will be provided using the same system (Helios) as was used at the 2016 AGM.

As of 27 October, no motions or SLO nominations had been received. However, MP indicated his intention to stand for the SLO position. As a result, another Society board member will have to chair the election portion of the IGM.

9. Conditions for joining the Society

The current costs and conditions for joining the Society are somewhat complicated, and it was discussed whether the success of the Bid and the influx of new members presented an opportunity to simplify them.

As background: in the early days of the Society, it was necessary to make a large lump sum payment in order to join (originally £1000, later reduced to £500). Members then just paid the £5 annual subscription fee.

Later on, to attract more members, it became possible to join the Society by signing up to a monthly standing order (minimum £2/month). However, out of consideration for those who had paid lump sums in the past, it was agreed that the monthly standing orders would count towards a “target figure” of £500, in line with the minimum lump sum. Once reached, the

member would then only be liable for the £5 annual subscription fee. (NB To date, very few members have reached the target figure in this way.)

It was proposed that this “target figure” for those paying by monthly standing order should be reduced to £250, in line with the minimum investment in community shares. This was agreed by unanimous vote.

It was acknowledged that the decision to lower the target figure could have a financial cost to the Society in the short term, but it was agreed that, as a point of principle, the Society does want to widen our appeal and get new people in.

To offset the financial impact, members who have passed the £250 mark via monthly standing orders will be encouraged to continue their standing orders on a voluntary basis, either directly to the Society or via the 100 Club lottery.

The board considered whether those working towards the £250 figure by monthly standing order could be issued with community shares once the target was reached. As this would require a revised and relaunched prospectus, it was agreed not to pursue this for now.

The board also considered a proposal to make it easier for overseas members to pay their annual £5 subscription fee. Some overseas members have reported difficulty. By consensus, it was agreed that overseas members would be considered to be fully paid-up members if they can demonstrate that they have made a charitable donation equivalent to at least £5 to a charity that uses association football to promote positive social outcomes. This applies only to overseas members.

10. CONFIDENTIAL: Club Board Activity.

11. Appointing a Society Secretary

OH suggests that we should have an experienced, non-Board member Society Secretary, now that the Society is the club’s majority shareholder and now that the membership has quadrupled.

He wishes to step down for work reasons, although he will seek to help the community-owned club in other ways. He will continue until the January meeting and look to have another Secretary in place by the February meeting, to allow a decent handover before the next Society election, when his term ends. We will advertise the position among the membership. If that fails, we will speak to Coops UK and Avon CDA for advice on finding a volunteer Society Secretary.

ACTION: Put on agenda to plan next steps

12. Member Liaison Activity

JC will organise a Society stand for the 5 November match against Concord. Notice boards have been set up at the ground, JC will start to use them

A new Society email mailing list has been set up on Interests.me and is now in use for Society announcements.

13. Treasurers Report

PW to circulate.

14. Any other business

The Supporters Club has arranged a Meet the Manager evening for November 4 in Charlie's.

15. DOTM

Thursday 24 November.