



BWFC Supporters' Trust

Minutes

Subject: BWFC & BWFCST Quarterly Meeting No 13

Venue: Toughsheet Community Stadium

Meeting Date: 11th October 2024 @ 10.00am

Present:

BWFC: Phil Mason (NH),

BWFCST: Ian Pegg (IP), Mike Smith (MS), Paul Wood (PW) & Robin Fletcher(RF)

Apologies: Niaz Shazad(NS) Sue Higson (SH), Terence Rigby (TR), Shane Stopforth (SS), Maggie Tetlow (MT), Martin Parnell(MP), Alan Houghton

Purpose of Meeting:

The meeting is the thirteenth 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.

1. Apologies

Apologies are recorded above. It was also confirmed Ian Bridge had stood down from the Trust due to his continuing ill health. It was requested he be taken off the circulation list of future correspondence and emailing lists.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held on 5th July 2024 were accepted and are available on the Trust website.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

The Ticketmaster system has been upgraded including a virtual view at the point of sale. To be reviewed after the next high demand match.

PM advised the concourse signage for the Changing Place Toilet has now been installed. The external signage has yet to be completed.

RF to review the results of the Loyalty Survey and distribute to the Club and the Trust Board for analysis and publication to the supporters.



4. Youth Involvement/Advisory Group

IP reported excellent progress has been made with the formation of the Youth Advisory Group, with 11 nominations from schools, youth groups etc. across the the Borough. Work is on-going with information sent out to teachers/leaders to enable us to capture the nominated people's data including parental consent forms. All is on track to launch on either w/c 11th or the 18th of November 2024. PM confirmed the Club were very supportive and would make one of the larger corporate boxes available for the launch.

5. Fan Zone

PM advised the Club have converted the FZ from a temporary to a permanent facility, the possibility of increasing the capacity will be looked at down the line. PM confirmed there were outstanding accessibility matters to be attended to by the Operator. RF reiterated the offer of assistance in bringing about a satisfactory Conclusion.

MS to look into the possibility of providing a Trust free wi-fi in and around the cabin. PM would need to ensure this did not interfere with the upgrade being carried out on the stadium as a whole.

6. Hall of Fame/Memorabilia/1923 Medal

A discussion took place re. the feasibility of having a permanent home for Memorabilia/Hall of fame/Museum. It was concluded that the museum, which was installed when the stadium was first opened had initial success, which dwindled fairly quickly. PM proposed that the memorabilia should be spread across the stadium, with regular tours offered to schools, youth groups, businesses etc., with QR codes, which would augment the experience with audio/visual commentaries. RF asked the Trust be given the opportunity to 'walk the course' to assess the Spaces available for displays. It was considered to provide a theme for the displays e.g. the anniversary of the 'White Hot' victory over Liverpool. Each display having a period in the Main Reception and then being moved to the Tour Route. The 1923 Medal is in the safe keeping of the Club pending agreement by the National Museum to be put on permanent display.

RF proposed to put together a sub-committee of the Trust Consult Group to catalogue the memorabilia.

7. Loyalty Survey

RF is provide the results of the survey for consideration and discussion.

8. Ambassador Scheme

The Trust have passed through to the Club the applications received for them to process and offer the places for training.



9. Consultation with BMBC/GMP

RF confirmed the trust were continuing to have regular meetings with Bolton Council and the Police. A further meeting is scheduled to take next Monday afternoon. Concerns have been raised in the past over the safety of fans at Horwich Parkway Station. RF asked if the Club wished to partake in these meetings. PM confirmed his support of any consultation, which was to the benefit if BWFC Supporters.

10. Emergency Medical Procedures

There has been feedback on social media that there had been delays in the response to medical emergencies on match days. PM gave assurance this was not case. PM made the point that the medical team, including the Crowd Doctor and St. John's Ambulance are in attendance much quicker than would happen if it occurred on the Middlebrook, let alone at home.

11. Memorial of Fans

PW suggested a memorial to fans who have died in the last 12 months be put on the pitch side screens the last home game before Christmas. PM explained the Club have plans in place to hold memorial service. The Trust offered to make all their members aware and to give assistance on the day.

12. Update on Stadium Upgrades

Many of the targeted projects have been completed including the refurbishment of the concourse accessible toilets, which were partly funded by money raised by the Trust. PM explained there a significant costs in the maintenance of the lifts and roof. An audit has been carried out by a Roofing Specialist, there are ongoing conservations taking place regarding what will be a significant capital cost due to the age of the stadium. It is one of the primary functions of the Trust to safe guard the future of the Stadium and it was suggested a separate forum be held to investigate means of raising ring fenced funds for major capital expenditure.

13. Next Meeting

10am on the 10th of January 2025.

