

2 CHAIR'S REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Board Directors prior to the elections this January is made of elected members Alan Houghton, Ian Pegg, Martin Parnell, Michael Smith, Paul Wood, Robin Fletcher and Sue Higson. There were also two co-opted members Maggie Tetlow and myself, Terence Rigby.

Robin Fletcher has been acting as the temporary secretary because of Ian Bridge's ill Health. Ian Bridge formally resigned on the 6th of October 2024 in order to concentrate on his recovery.

Before giving my report, and in particular for any member who does not have a copy of the agenda, I would like to set out the order of tonight's AGM.

- I will summarise the activities the Trust have been involved in since the last AGM.
- I will then ask our, Treasurer Martin Parnell, to give an overview on the Accounts.
- I will give an update on our membership numbers.
- Robin will provide us with an update on the Board Elections.
- Followed by what we are looking to do over the next twelve months.
- We will then move onto the Motion(s) received for resolution.
- Deal with Any Other Business.
- Wrap up the AGM having dealt with any questions from members present this evening.

2.0 ACTIONS SINCE THE LAST AGM

2.1 The Board has continued to have a collaborative relationship with the Club both before and after the departure of Neil Hart. Every quarter there is a Structured Dialogue Meeting executives of the Club including Phil Mason and Niaz Shazad (Joint CEOs), Danny Scott (Ticket Office Manager/ Supporter Liaison Officer). Members are encouraged to submit topics for discussion by emailing enquiries@bwfcst.co.uk or in person by visiting the Trust's cabin in the Fan Zone. .

In addition a more informal discussion take place monthly which gives a forum to air any immediate matters and nurture a close relationship between the Club and the fans.

The Trust also participate in regular meetings with the local residents, the Police and the council. We aim to represent our members and non-members alike in a collaborative approach to improving car parking, public transport etc.

2.2 The Trust initially established in 2017 the stadium was an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and this was successfully renewed last year and is in place until the 27th of November 2027.

- 2.3 The involvement of the Trust in the timing and launch of next season's ticket sales, which was instigated by Neil Hart, has continued after his departure.
- 2.4 The Trust has continued to offer a complimentary Family Ticket for home matches due to the backing of one of our corporate members, Bernstein Kitchens.
- 2.5 The Board has maintained strong connections with our various Affiliate Groups. Members of the Board meet with the Disabled Association and improvements to the concourse accessible toilets have been carried out using funds raised by the Trust.
- 2.6 The Trust promotes the FSA, Fair Game and Level Playing Field, with several of our Board Members taking on senior roles within these groups.
- 2.7 Three members of the Board have committed to attending training courses provided by the FSA to improve their abilities for fulfil their responsibilities as Board Directors
- 2.8 The Bolton Wanderers Football Club Youth Advisory Group was launched on the 19th of November 2024, which included 19 young persons from various schools, colleges and youth organisations from the Bolton area. the Club were represented by joint CEOs, Phil Mason and Niaz Shazad, along with Fran, Hayley and Cormac from Bolton Wanders in the the Community. The Trust were represented by Alan Houghton and Ian Pegg, both of whom have been pivotal in setting up this Group. I invite you all to show our appreciation by giving them a well-deserved round of applause .A further big thankyou to Dawson's Bakery for supplying the refreshments and the Club for proving the Chairman's Suite for the launch.

The first meeting too place on the 30th of January this year in the Wellbeing Hub. The group were divided into two and each given a project to work on.

Two members of the Youth advisory Group were invited to join the Quarterly Structured Dialogue Meeting held in January with the Club. Their input was both well presented and received.

- 2.9 Once again the Trust have sponsored a Fan Award for the End of Season Dinner held last April. The Trust have secured the cost of the sponsorship 2025 by way of a donation from the Trafford Centre. I encourage you all to nominate a worthy recipient

3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE ACCOUNTS

- 3.1 A copy of the Financial Report of 2023-2024 is attached.
- 3.2 As our turnover is relatively low, we are legally in a position to not require the appointment of an external auditor. We would recommend

that the members in attendance this evening vote in favour of not appointing an external auditor but utilising an independent examination of the accounts for the next financial year.

- 3.3 The Trust rely on the financial support of its members and those who are currently Associate members are encouraged to convert to Full members by taking out the annual subscription of £10 per annum.

4.0 UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Sixty three new members and one new corporate member have joined the Trust in the last twelve months.
The current shareholding membership stands at 6,386.
- 4.2 The Board acknowledge there are many of our members who would have preferred to have been in attendance this evening, however, distance of travel, other pressing commitments etc. deemed it not possible. The Board do seek the current members to actively encourage friends and family to join the Trust. The greater the number the greater the voice we have in ensuring Bolton Wanderers Football Club is sustained.

5.0 BOARD ELECTION

- 5.1 At the close of Nominations at 5pm on the 31st of January 2024 the following four members had put themselves forward as candidates for the election process:-
Robin Fletcher
Sue Higson
Terence Rigby
Paul Wood
- 5.2 As the number of nominations received has not exceeded the seven Board positions available for election, in line with the BWFCST Election Policy (refer to item 8.3) and the BWFCST Model Rules (refer to item 56), there is no requirement for a ballot process to be undertaken and the four members noted above are deemed to be duly elected and will now join the existing retained board members Alan Houghton, Martin Parnell, Ian Pegg and Mike Smith to form the BWFCST Board of Directors.

- 5.3 There remains three seats available on the Board and members are

encouraged to put themselves forward next year. A Trust Consult Group has been set up to allow any members who wish to be more actively involved on a day to day basis to participate. The Group meet in person every 4/6 weeks and chat regularly on What's App. Any member who is interested in joining should either speak to one of the Board Directors or email - enquiries@bwfcst.co.uk.

6.0 THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

- 6.1 We intend to work with the Club to maintain and improve the facilities at the Stadium and within the Fan Zone.
- 6.2 The Trust will continue to promote the Youth Advisory Group; feedback from the projects to be presented by the two Groups to the Club and Trust next month. Different members of the Youth Advisory Group will be invited to attend the Structured Dialogue Meetings. Great progress has been made since the Group's establishment, fuelled by the enthusiasm shown by all the participants. The Trust is greatly encouraged in the future of Bolton Wanderers is in the safe hands of the younger generation.
- 6.3 A Working Group is to evaluate our policies on Safe Guarding, Social Media and Diversity and make any necessary recommendations to improve them.
- 6.4 The Board wish to carry out a number of social events during the course of the year including a proposed Q&A with the new Head Coach, Steven Schumacher.
- 6.5 To continuously seek the views of our members for ideas that maybe of benefit to the Club, the fans and the community as a whole.