



Minutes of the Cardiff City Supporters' Trust AGM

Held at The Ricoh Suite Cardiff City Stadium on the 30th May 2024

Registration/Attendance

Martin Bale[210]; Stuart Cole[1737]; David Collins [1304]David Craig[254]Andy Davies; Paul Davis[644]; Jonathan Day[1181];Phil Dooley[551]; Chris Edwards[1287]; Karen Jones[457]; Clive Harry [1582]; Jonathan Hicks [549]; James Huxtable [1678];]; Robert Jeffery[1559];Lynda Jeffery[1635]; Clive Mann [1169]; Jeffrey Mansfield[1327]; Keith Morgan[162]; Stephen Morgan [1736]; Anthony Mulhern [379]; Joan Nicholls [1724]; Phillip Nifield[211]; Michael Spear[1577]; Rhiannon Spear[1700]; David Stelling [1740]; Ron Williams[500];Sylvia Williams[1273]; Jeremy Williams [942]; Nick Williams[1677]; Gareth Williams [1735]; Matthew Wright [967]; John A Young[982]

Apologies

Apologies received from board member Gethin Evans [1709]

Minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved as a true record

Chairman's Annual Report

This is the first full financial year for the Trust since we were registered as a Community Benefit Society in May 2022.

As now seems to be the norm with being a supporter of Cardiff City FC, the year since our previous AGM in May 2023 has been full of incident both on and off the field. There have been highs, lows and periods of utter confusion some of which I touch upon in this report.

Football issues

Results on the pitch improved in the 2023/24 season with a 12th place Championship finish compared to fraught relegation battles in the previous two seasons. However, a number of fans still expressed their disappointment with the style of play adopted by the team which they regarded as too defensive and unexciting.

Erol Bulut was appointed as our manager in June 2023 following a season in which we had three different managers. As at the time of writing this report, his one-year contract had not been renewed with negotiations for a potential renewal ongoing. Yet again, the club's directors and owner seem to have no clear strategic plan for the club in terms of its football operations.

One of the key factors impacting on the team has been a transfer embargo imposed on the club by the EFL preventing it from paying any fees to sign players. Initially the embargo was for three transfer windows but was subsequently reduced after the club paid the full transfer fee to FC Nantes regarding the Emiliano Sala transfer. However, to comply with revised Profitability and Sustainability Rules signings could only be made towards the very end of the January 2024 transfer window which meant signings were restricted to just one permanent signing and a handful of last-minute loan signings.

Legal cases

The club continues to pursue legal cases against FC Nantes and Willie McKay relating to the Emiliano Sala transfer. A full updated note on progress was sent to all Trust members earlier this month. A separate legal case against insurance brokers was settled in the club's favour.

Consultation with fans

I have previously reported on the extensive work your Trust has undertaken to progress the Fans Led Review of Football to Government White Paper stage. This year there has been significant progression with the creation of a Football Governance Bill building on the White Paper recommendations such as the appointment of an Independent Regulator to oversee the game and formalised consultation by clubs with their fans. The Bill has received two readings in Parliament, both of which were strongly supported by politicians of all the main parties and is now at Committee discussion stage to produce a finalised version prior to progressing to the House of Lords and then (hopefully) full legal implementation.

Work done by the Trust on this has included negotiating with CCFC senior management to put in place a Fans Advisory Board which now exists and has had its first formal meeting with the club. Two members of the Trust board sit on the FAB which has ten members in total.

In addition to representation on the FAB, the Trust continues to represent its members at periodic meetings chaired by the CCFC Chair Mehmet Dalman and at Supporter Liaison Officer meetings. These meetings are also attended by representatives of the Supporters Club, Disabled Supporters Association and independent travel groups. In all these meetings the Trust retains an entirely independent position outside the control of the club.

Community involvement

During the last year the Trust has organised further successful food bank collections on match days where the beneficiaries have received thousands of food items plus monetary donations. This has only been possible by excellent support from fans and the club's staff and players.

The Trust has also made contributions to the Memorial Garden at the stadium, a garden maintained and developed in such an excellent manner by the Service Veterans group.

We also continue to support the Disabled Supporters Association in their work

Annual Accounts/Treasurer's Report

At our AGM in 2022, a decision to formalize the Trust's status by registering it as a Community Benefit Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 was taken and its registration was formally confirmed by the Financial Conduct Authority on 18th May 2022.

At the same AGM in 2022, a resolution was passed to confirm that the new Society was exempt from the requirement to appoint auditors, in accordance with the rules for a Community Benefit Society. Subsequently, Evans Entwistle, Chartered Management Accountants & Tax Advisors, were appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Society's first accounts to 31st December 2022 and they have continued to do so for our 2023 financial statements.

Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Nick Williams, Treasurer, delivered the annual report of the financial position using the papers in the Member's Pack as reference.

The Income and Expenditure Report shows that income for the year amounted to £5,457, all of which came from members' subscriptions, as shown in note 4 to the financial statements.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £6,196, as detailed in note 5 to the financial statements. The two major categories of expenditure were firstly, for 'Printing, Postage and Stationery' costs totaling £2,565, covering the costs of producing the Trust's magazines, AGM printing and the postage of distributing these items, together with the rental cost of our PO Box number used for receiving correspondence. The second major category of expenditure related to 'Donations' made by the Trust amounting to £1,799, which included £1,200 to the CCFC Disabled Supporters' Association, £200 to local community food banks, £150 to Rookwood Hospital and £149 to the CCFC Memorial Garden.

Overall, there was a net deficit of £739 for the year.

The balance sheet at 31st December 2023 reflected the Society's financial position at that date:

Prepaid expenditure amounted to £92 regarding insurance. Cash held in our bank account was £32,698.

Creditors owing at that date are detailed in note 9 to the accounts: Accrued expenses of £127; other creditors of £300 and deferred income of £1,619, representing prepaid members' subscriptions.

Share capital of £282 represents £1 ordinary shares held by all fully paid-up members of the Society over the age of 16 at 31st December 2023. Members under the age of 16 and honorary members do not form part of this calculation. Each eligible member holds a £1 share which is taken as the first payment made in becoming a member to purchase an ordinary share in the Society. Under Rule 20 of the Society's rules, if an eligible member ceases to become a member, the ordinary share registered in their name is cancelled and the amount subscribed for the share is to become the property of the Society (see note 10 to the financial statements).

The Society's retained surplus after incurring the deficit of £739 in the year, amounted to £30,944 at 31st December 2023 (see note 11 to the financial statements).

The statement of the annual account was unanimously approved by members.

Examination of Accounts

A resolution was passed approving the appointment of an Individual Examiner to review the Trust's annual accounts as in 2022 rather than a need for a full statutory audit.

Acceptance of the new Board of Directors

The Chair reported that the existing 7 Board members had stood down and put themselves forward for election to the 9 seats available. 2 Trust members had responded to the Election Notice where an appeal was made for members to put themselves forward for Election. As there was a total of 9 candidates for the 9 seats available an Election was not necessary.

- Keith Morgan
- Phillip Nifield
- Jon Day
- Nick Williams
- Mike Spear
- Gareth Williams
- Dr Jonathan Hicks
- Gethin Evans

- Jeremy Williams

The appointment of the above 9 members to the Board was duly approved.

Any Emergency Business

None raised.

Closure of Meeting

Following the exciting and informative Q&A with Rob Pillips and Jason Perry. A raffle was held and a total of £160 was raised. Proceeds will be held and handed over to the recipients of the next Supporters Trust Foodbank collection.

The Chair then thanked all members for their attendance and paid thanks to the Guests who boosted the numbers. A number pledged to join the Trust post meeting.

The Chair also thanked those that work behind the scenes to keep the Trust running smoothly: Mike Morris, Paul Evans and Clive Harry among them.

The Chair then closed the meeting