



## **Minutes of Bradford City Supporters Board Meeting**

**Venue: 1911 Suite, University of Bradford Stadium, Valley Parade**

**Date: Thursday 26/01/2023, meeting commenced at 7.00 pm**

**In attendance: Tony Bates (Chair), Wayne Robinson (Vice-Chair), John Barker, Steve Gorringe, Christine Tarren, Adam Baker, Jonnie Carrington, Richard Johnson, David May, Marco Townson (BCAFC).**

**Apologies for Absence: Ian Taylor, Ryan Sparks (BCAFC).**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

**The Chair welcomed the three new members of the Supporters Board (Jonnie Carrington, Richard Johnson, David May). All members present introduced them selves and their affiliation with Bradford City.**

### **2. Code of Conduct & Non-Disclosure Agreement/Signing**

**All members present received a copy of the Supporters Board Code of Conduct and were requested to sign the Club's Non-Disclosure Agreement.**

### **3. Review of Minutes/Actions from previous meeting**

**The Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Meeting, having been circulated were accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Key decisions were now documented in a separate circulated Action Log which forms part of the record of meetings.**

**It was reported that Chris Windsor had withdrawn as an invited new member of the Supporters Board, best wishes were sent to him.**

### **4. Updates from the Club not captured on Agenda**

**Marco Townson (BCAFC) reported that the a new website section "Your City Experience" would be launched shortly with the aim of capturing supporters views and match day experience after each home match.**

### **5. 120th Anniversary Plans**

**Marco Townson (BCAFC) reported that plans to mark the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original founding of the club were in progress and would be discussed at the next meeting.**



## **6. Increasing Communication – 6 monthly highlight report**

Wayne Robinson (Vice-Chair) presented the first edition of the “Supporters Board Bulletin”, this was warmly received with Wayne thanked for his work in drafting and designing the bulletin.

It was requested that this be circulated with a future edition of the weekly Club email and to emphasise the Supporters Board social media channels for communicating information and news as well as a central point for supporters to contact the Board.

## **7. Questions from Fans:**

a. Fan Safety due to volume of people using Steps to Burlington Road (opposite ticket office) at full time. Can stairs be widened?

Club Response; it is not possible to widen the stairs or to remove the barrier at the top of the stairs, any changes in this area would require permission from Bradford Council, although there may be provision for a wheelchair ramp. However the Supporters Board requested improved signage and lighting in this area.

b. What work is club doing to reduce trips by private care to matches? Have they considered a working group with fans and other stakeholders in this area?

Club Response: There is a discounted fares facility with First Bus on service routes from Bradford City Centre to Valley Parade. The Club is hoping to extend this to a “Park and Ride” facility with the Broadway Centre.

c. Cover/Weather protection over Fire Memorial at Ground to minimise damage to donated items.

Club Response: The Memorial is located close to a Fire Door that must be kept clear and provide ease of access, however this would be investigate again to see if a cover can be installed.

## **8. Working Group Update**

New Supporters Board Members were briefed on the background and activity of the Working Group (which is detailed in the “Supporters Board Bulletin”). A meeting was due to take place with Paula Watson (BCAFC) on next projects. An appeal had been made by the Supporters Board to find volunteer artists to complete the Midland Road concourse. It was proposed to speak with local sporting artist Paul Town and to ascertain how this type of activity could come under the scope of the “City of Culture” award.



## **9. Junior Supporters Initiative**

A meeting with Ian Ormondroyd (Community Foundation CEO) and Tony Bates (Chair) had been scheduled to discuss and progress.

## **10. Supporters Board Finances Update**

Currently the only external expenditure was £10.80 per calendar month for website hosting and provision of emails. Historically the Supporters Board had been funded by an annual donation from the individual Supporters Travel Clubs.

Future potential activity such as the Player of the Year Awards “Unsung Hero” would require a funding strategy. This would be a regular agenda item.

## **11. Any Other Business**

A discussion took place on the provision of team line ups as this did not appear to feature fully on the scoreboard coupled with difficulties in reading the font size.

Whilst the Clubs digital matchday information provided full details of home and away lineups, this was negated by poor phone signal coverage on match days around Valley Parade. It was suggested that print outs of the Team sheets produced for Executive Boxes and Hospitality Areas could be on display in the various concourses. Marco Townson agreed to investigate the practicalities.

The Club are also currently investigating with our IT partner Amico the viability of providing free stadium Wi-Fi on matchdays, this will negate the issue with mobile phone signals for those wishing to download team sheets, use the app etc.

Adam Baker, supported by other members, raised the involvement of the Supporters Board in discussions and preparedness for next season. It was proposed that the Supporters Board receive a calendar of decision making timelines so that the Board can have an involvement whilst planning is happening rather than afterwards.

There was a general discussion on the match day atmosphere.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting TBC:**

The date of the next meeting was Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 via Microsoft Teams



**It was agreed to seek to hold one in every three meetings in person, with the balance online.**

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.**