

Blue & Gold Supporters' Society Special General Meeting

Date: 18 August 2021
Venue: Conservative Club – London Road
Time: 7:30pm

MINUTES

ITEM	ITEM & ATTACHMENTS	ACTION
	<p>Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance. The meeting was opened at 7:40pm.</p>	
1	<p>Apologies: The Chairman acknowledged the numerous apologies received prior to the meeting..</p>	
2	<p>Rationale for Convening this Meeting: The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was scheduled to be held in February, but could not take place due to the Covid -19 restrictions in place at that time. The AGM should be held within 6 months of the end of the annual accounting year which is August. At that time guidance was sought from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Football Supporters' Association (FSA). As a result, the audited Annual Accounts up to the period 31 August 2020 were registered with the FCA on time and copies were forwarded to all members for perusal and comment. No comments were received. Now that many of the restrictions have been eased, the Directors agreed that it would be good to arrange a General Meeting to give members an update. Any meeting out-with the aforementioned 6 month period has to be called a Special General Meeting (SGM). The meeting will be an information/discussion session and no formal voting will take place until the next AGM scheduled for February 2022.</p>	
3	<p>Summary of Annual Accounts: Copies of the audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were made available. Again no comments were received. Copies can also be viewed on</p>	

	the website.	
4	<p>Communication/Relationship with KLTFC: The Chairman informed the meeting of his numerous telephone and email conversations with Mr Cleeve particularly when trying to make payment to the Club in respect of the 2 Trust initiated Ground Development Fundraising (GDF) efforts. The Secretary had on numerous occasions spoken with KLTFC officials to remind them of the GDF and that if projects were identified that these funds could be used for, then these monies would be made available. During Mr Cleeve's campaign to raise funds to help the Club survive through to the end of last season, no effort was made by the Club to contact the Trust to request the GDF funds even though it was known that essential development work was going on at the ground. Sadly, it took an article by a fan and Trust member to appear in the local press asking why the Club had not approached the Trust to make use of the GDF funds to prompt communication from the Club. Even then, the process of handing over the funds was not made easy and was somewhat protracted. Despite raising nearly £8,000 towards GDF works, it seems that the Club has little interest in having meaningful communication with The Trust. To that end, the Directors have agreed that there is little appetite to raise any further funds for KLTFC at the moment. The members present understood the situation, and fully supported the decision of the Directors.</p>	
5.	<p>The Trust – The Way Forward: The priority of any Supporters' Trust is to endeavour to achieve formal supporter involvement in the running of their club. The Blue & Gold Supporters' Trust aims are no different. However, it is evident that Mr Cleeve sees the B&G Trust as insignificant, only occasionally communicating with the Trust to expect that Trust funds be given to the Club. Financially the Trust funds are insignificant in comparison with the alarming debts accrued by KLTFC under Mr Cleeve's tenure. These liabilities can be seen by accessing the accounts for Lynn FC and Blue & Gold Holdings on Companies House website. Of additional interest is the in excess of £500,000 loan to the club by one of Mr Cleeve's companies, First Class Traveller. All of this as well as the £500,000 loan from Sport England. With all of this taken into consideration it is extremely unlikely that the Trust can achieve formal supporter involvement in KLTFC, particularly with Mr Cleeve in charge. To that end, the Trust Directors have agreed to review the Trust perspective at the end of this coming season and consider restructuring the running of the Trust. It must be emphasised that this is not in any way the Directors looking for a way out. Many options can be considered if and when necessary and members can be assured the Trust Funds will be safeguarded for the purpose they have been raised. Again, this decision was fully supported by those members present.</p>	

<p>6</p>	<p>Any Other Business: The Chairman informed the meeting that The Trust had been contacted by a commissioned author of a Government Led report called “ Power to Change – These Clubs are Ours” This ties in with the Governments ongoing Fan Led Review into Football Governance. This report makes the argument for greater fan ownership of football clubs primarily through willing Supporters’ Trusts. It will also call for beefed up rights for Supporters’ Trust which have registered grounds and stadiums as Assets of Community Value. The B&G Trust have had The Walks Football Stadium as an Asset of Community Value. After an initial one hour telephone conversation with the author, the Chairman has agreed that the Blue and Gold Trust will participate in any necessary meetings, thus contributing to the report. Members will be kept informed of any progress / outcomes.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Closure of the Meeting: There being no other business to discuss, The Chairman again thanked those present for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8:50pm</p>	