

Saints City Trust Annual General Meeting
9th November 2020 19:00



Saints City Trust Board members present: Ian Rogers (IR); Ian Oakley(IO); Aaron Paea(AP); John Bracken(JB); Duncan McLeod (DM); Barry Hilliard(BH) and Gavin Rumble(GR).

1. Welcome and Introductions

DM opened the meeting, which was held virtually via zoom, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of 12 Trust members attended. Apart from the Board members listed above the attendees were Martin Rix, Lee Wood, Nick Salvatore, Ryan Mann and Mick Holland. DM set out that formal business had been minimized for the meeting given current circumstances. He welcomed back IR as Chair of the Trust and thanked IO for his role as Interim Chair. DM then gave a brief explanation of the format of the meeting and the documents previously circulated.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from 3 members: Dave Church, Sarah Hilliard and Peter Knock.

3. Minutes of last AGM 7th October 2019

There were no specific matter arising.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Chair's Report

This was taken as the last main item. IR then summarised the Annual Report that was made available to all present and was on the Trust's website.

He highlighted meetings with Lawrence Levy and Leigh Page. The Club recognised that it should have consulted fans' groups about the change in the badge and other key decisions. A more 'corporate approach' was being adopted to raise income. IR had stressed that supporters should not be excluded, even though they could not attend matches. Fund raising from traditional sources was restricted and many supporters remained hostile to contributing following the increase in admission prices. The adverse impact on 'Boost the Budget' and season ticket sales was raised.

A question was raised about when fans may be allowed back in grounds and whether the Club had a Plan B in respect of its finances, if restrictions lasted all season. IR reported that the Club felt that it had done all it could to facilitate the return of fans but was not optimistic in the short term. It did not seem that the Club had a detailed Plan B but this was difficult, given the changing circumstances. IR also felt that there would be no reduction in admission prices and that all clubs were struggling to plan for the future, given general uncertainties and financial support from the National Lottery being due to end in January. There was concern some fans would not return even when restrictions were eased.

IR was asked about the future direction of the Trust and he stated that it was a priority for the Board to consider and frame a plan for the new position.

IR stressed that regular meetings were planned with the Club and this remained the best way to influence policy and share supporters' views. These would be reported back regularly to fans.

5. Treasurer's Report

JB presented the Treasurer's Report, including an explanation of the final accounts for 2019/20. Again, these were made available to all present and on the website. JB highlighted the income and expenditure account with a surplus of £956 for the year, compared with £779 in 2018/19. The rise was mainly due to a reduction in administrative expenses. It was noted that the interest rate on deposits had fallen significantly. The accumulated balances amounted to £17,965, which was raised entirely by subscriptions and donations.

It was noted that an independent examination of the accounts had been undertaken by Patricia Bennett and her statement was included in the documents.

The accounts were unanimously adopted. JB then moved a resolution to disapply the obligation to appoint auditors for the 2020/21 accounts. This was unanimously adopted.

6. Appointment to Board

Members had previously been informed that due to Covid-19, no elections to the Board would be held this year. There will be elections in 2021. As vacancies exist, further volunteers would be welcome.

7. Report on Membership

DM gave details of membership numbers. There were 93 paid up members in 2018/19, while this reduced slightly to 86 in 2019/20.

8. Questions and Answer Session

This was covered under Item 4.

9. Any Other Business

No AOB was raised. The meeting was formally closed at 19:45, thanks given to those who had attended and to IO for hosting the meeting.