

Saints City Trust Annual General Meeting
1st November 2021 19:30



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

1. Welcome and Introductions

DM opened the meeting and welcomed all and particularly the Club's Director of Football, Dean Austin (DA). A total of 15 Trust members attended. Also in attendance were Andrew Hippisley and Will Tyrer from the SACFC Media Team. A full list of attendees is available from the membership secretary, BH. DM stated that the formal business of the meeting would be conducted first to allow sufficient time to hear from DA. DM then gave a brief explanation of the format of the meeting and the documents previously circulated.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from 8 members: David Church, Sarah Hilliard, Tim Gannon, Frank Godman, Michael Holland, Julie Scott, Richard Stanwell and David Weber.

3. Minutes of last AGM 9th November 2020

There were no specific matters arising.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Chair's Report

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

He highlighted how the Club had accepted that some important issues, such as the new shirt badge, had been launched without full consultation with supporters. IR was happy to report that communication had improved significantly over the current year. IR was a regular attendee at the Club's Leadership Group and had opportunities to raise supporters' concerns. These included streaming of games, cashless admission, match day programmes and volunteers. IR recognised that change was always happening and it was never popular with all. He felt most of the current changes were positive and he realised the Club would not consult on all matters, particularly commercial deals.

A question was raised about how the Club had improved involvement with supporters since last year's meeting. IR replied that the most important factor was his attendance at the regular leadership group, where major decisions were made.

IR then introduced the recently appointed Director of Football, Dean Austin. DA firstly set out his close ties to the Club where he began playing in 1988 before entering the professional game as a player, manager and coach. He had lived in the City for 35 years and shared the vision with Lawrence Levy to develop a structure

that had a strong connection to the local community and produce players for the first team. He outlined the structure of teams below the first team up to the B team. The emphasis was on quality coaching and developing both skills and football intelligence before results. DA aimed for a minimum of 2 players to step up to the main squad each year. Already 2 players have established themselves this year with more in the pipeline.

The audience was very positive about the plans and progress so far. It welcomed local youths stepping up. It was agreed that greater exposure of the visions and the teams would help promote the work being undertaken. This was against a background of relatively limited facilities. DA highlighted how promising young players can have their progress delayed particularly by injuries. He was, however, very positive about the future at the Club.

5. Treasurer's Report

JB presented the Treasurer's Report, including an explanation of the final accounts for 2020/2021. Again, these were made available to all present and on the website. JB highlighted the income and expenditure account with a surplus of £515 for the year compared with £956 in 2019/20. The reduction was mainly due to the membership subscription not being levied in 2020/2021. The accumulated balances amounted to £18,485, 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. J B then moved a resolution to disapply the obligation to appoint auditors for the 2021/2022 accounts. This was unanimously agreed.

6. Use of Trust's Accumulated Reserves

A resolution had been circulated confirming current policy that the accumulated reserves of the Trust be retained to seek a shareholding in the Club, if this becomes available. This was unanimously agreed.

7. Appointment to Board

Due to Covid-19, no elections to the Board were held in 2020/21. As a result, all current Board members, apart from Aaron Paea who was leaving the area, have resigned and sought re-election. There is a maximum of 7 vacancies and 6 nominations for election were received. The meeting unanimously ratified the appointment of Ian Rogers, Barry Hilliard, Julie Scott, Ian Oakley, Jake Ellacott and Gavin Rumble to the Trust Board.

8. Report on Membership

DM gave details of membership numbers and reminded the meeting that no subscription was charged in 2020/2021 or in the current year to existing members. There were 92 paid up members in 2020/2021, while this increased slightly to 95 in 2021/22.

9. Questions and Answer Session

This was covered under Item 4.

10. Any Other Business

No AOB was raised. The meeting was formally closed at 9:00pm and thanks given to those who had attended and to Lisa, Lauren, George and Harry for opening the bar.