

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The pandemic has impacted massively on all of our lives over recent times and for football supporters it has been a surreal time, with matches being played behind closed doors and a number of restrictions in place when matches are held.

The Trust have been in regular contact with the football club throughout the last year regarding a range of issues covering the streaming of games, cashless admission, match day programme, volunteers and communication to supporters. All of the issues raised have received a prompt response from the club and have mostly been resolved.

I have been asked if the Trust is consulted on everything the club does, such as the erection of the temporary covering at each end of the ground. The answer is that we do not expect to be consulted on every single issue but those that directly have an impact on supporters should be subject to such consultation. As of now, I attend the club's leadership meetings, which are essentially a board meeting and have free rein to raise items and express an opinion on all matters. This is a very positive step as the club looks to operate on a more professional level and allows for effective two way communication.

A number of changes that have been made, cashless admission being one, have not been well received by everyone. We have made strong representation to the club on this particular issue and we have urged the club to communicate more widely on this, recognising that some supporters do not use social media or the internet to get information. Another item raised by supporters was the match day programme, where it was initially proposed to only print around 20 copies per game. Due to the Trust's intervention, this has now been increased to a level that allows sufficient copies to be available.

Change is going to be constant at the football club in the future and it is our role as the Trust to ensure that supporters' views are heard and considered in all relevant areas.

In closing, I would like to thank Aaron Paea who is leaving the Trust board, for his valuable input over his tenure.

Ian Rogers

Chair

Saints City Trust