

Saints City Trust Annual General Meeting 17th
October 2022 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 Football Club's Joint Owner Lawrence Levy and Secretary Leigh Page. A total of 17 Trust members attended. A full list of attendees is available on request. DM stated that the formal business of the meeting would be conducted first, to allow sufficient time to hear from guest speaker Phil Sharp who has a long career as a referee, assistant referee and officials' development officer. DM then gave a brief explanation of the format of the meeting and the documents previously circulated.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from 17 members: D Church, S Hilliard, T Gannon, F Godman, M Holland, J Scott, R Stanwell, D Willacy, J Sylvester, N Archer, I Hilliard, S Brookes, P Coates, P Knock, L Wynne, A Rana and D Weber.

3. Minutes of last AGM 1st November 2021

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.

The report highlighted how IR believed how the Trust had forged a close relationship with the Club as a critical friend. A number of important items had been raised and the Trust views had influenced policy over the last year. These included:

- Ticket prices for 2022/2023
- Drafting of the Club's Vision and Values plan
- Quality of stewarding on match days
- Standard of toilets
- Ticketing for those without internet access
- Operation of matchday bars
- Establishment of Charitable Trust
- Draw for Trust members every 2 months

IR also updated the meeting about the arrangements for away travel by minibus this season. He recognised this was important but needed support from fans to ensure it was economically viable.

IR then raised the challenge for the Trust of remaining sustainable by attracting more members from the increasing and more diverse attendances at Clarence Park.

The meeting was then asked for comments and questions. A member asked whether IR felt that the Board was doing enough to widen membership and what was the Board's vision for the future. IR said that a paper had been produced to be discussed at the next meeting to examine these issues. There was a discussion about using social media more widely to spread information to more members and others. It was also felt this would improve take up of away travel.

IR then introduced Phil Sharp who gave a very informative and entertaining talk about his career as a football official. He gave an insight into lessons learnt over that period and advice he gives to young referees. Phil highlighted his experiences at the 2002 World Cup, culminating in officiating as assistant referee in the final between Brazil and Germany. Phil then took questions and comments. The audience were highly appreciative of the presentation and thanked Phil warmly.

5. Treasurer's Report

JB presented the Treasurer's Report including an explanation of the final accounts for 2021/2022. Again, these were made available to all present and on the website. JB highlighted the income and expenditure account with a surplus of £286 for the year compared with £515 in 2020/21. The reduction was mainly due to an increase in administration costs. The accumulated balances amounted to £18,774 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.

6. Resolution on Audit of Accounts

A resolution had been circulated to disapply the obligation to appoint auditors for the 2022/2023 accounts. 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 resigned and sought re-election in 2021/22. There is a maximum of 7 vacancies and there are currently 6 elected members. For 2022/23, we have reverted to the previous policy where 50% of current Board members will seek re-election each year. No new nominations for election were received this year. The meeting unanimously ratified the appointment of Ian Rogers, Barry Hilliard, and Gavin Rumble to the Trust Board.

In addition, Phil Coates was appointed as a co-opted member bringing his contacts and expertise from youth football to help expand membership of the Trust amongst younger age groups.

8. Report on Membership

DM gave details of membership numbers which were currently 75 for 2022/23 but expected to increase. There were 96 paid up members in 2021/2022.

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 9:45 and thanks given to those who had attended and to Leigh Page for opening the bar.