

Saints City Trust Annual General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup>  
October 2023 19:30



Saints City Trust Board members present: Ian Rogers (IR); Ian Oakley (IO); Jake Ellacott (JE); John Bracken (JB); Duncan McLeod (DM); Julie Scott (JS) and Aaron Livingstone (AL).

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

DM opened the meeting and welcomed all. A total of 18 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, Paul Fairclough, the current England C team manager. DM then gave a brief explanation of the format of the meeting and the documents previously circulated.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from 14 members: D Church, S Hilliard, B Bridle, S Rogers, M Holland, R Aggett, B Hilliard, D Willacy, I Hall, N Archer, I Hilliard, P Bennett, P Coates and M Rix.

## **3. Minutes of last AGM 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

IR addressed specific matters arising from his report at the last AGM. This included progress on input in ticket pricing, quality of stewarding on match days and provision for ticketing without internet access. Other items would be raised in the current year's report.

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 the Trust had forged a close relationship with the Club as a critical friend particularly at the weekly Club Leadership meetings, which IR attended. A number of important items had been raised and the Trust views had influenced policy over the last year. These included:

- Ticket prices for 2023/2024
- Quality of service at food and drink outlets on match days
- Standard of toilets
- Ticketing for those without internet access
- Ground Lighting
- Availability of programmes

IR highlighted the opening of the Trust Shed as a focus for its activities.

IR also updated the meeting about the Trust's main plans for the coming season including away travel, pressing the Club for a Fans Forum, increased use of social media, a regular page in the match day programme and a dialogue with the Club to join the Fair Game initiative.

The meeting was then asked for comments and questions. A large number of topics were raised. These included:

- Why had it taken so long for the Club to produce its visions and values?
- Supporters standing in front of the stand obstructing the view and the lack of stewarding to prevent this
- Public address announcements being inaudible and/or too loud on matchdays
- The lack of replica womens' team shirts
- Shortage of information on the website about future B team games and results
- No food outlets at B team games
- The extent of contacts with other supporters' organisations

IR undertook to take the appropriate items back to the Club.

IR then introduced Paul Fairclough, who gave a very informative and entertaining talk about his long career in football as a player, coach and manager. He gave an insight into his experiences from both the league and non-league. He highlighted the current lack of funding available from the FA of the England C team of which he has been manager for a number of years. Paul then took questions and comments. The audience were highly appreciative of the presentation and thanked Paul warmly.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

JB presented the Treasurer's Report including an explanation of the final accounts for 2022/2023. Again, these were made available to all present and on the website. JB highlighted the income and expenditure account with a surplus of £676 for the year compared with £286 in 2021/22. The increase was mainly due to an increase in members' subscriptions and donations. The accumulated balances amounted to £19,446, 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 2023/2024 accounts. This was unanimously agreed.

## **7. Appointment to Board**

DM set out that there were 7 elected Board members of the Trust. Half the Board resign each year and elections are held annually if required. For 2023/24, 4 current members resigned and sought re-election. No new nominations for election were received this year. The meeting unanimously ratified the appointment of Ian Oakley, Julie Scott, Aaron Livingstone and Jake Ellacott to the Trust Board.

## **8. Report on Membership**

DM gave details of membership numbers which were currently 40 for 2023/24. This would increase significantly. Recruitment had been hampered by Barry Hilliard's unavailability. The meeting wished him well. There were 90 paid up members in 2022/2023.

## **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 9.30 and thanks given to those who had attended and to Milly for opening the bar.