

Farnborough FC Supporters Trust (FaST) AGM
Tuesday 30th June 2020 - 7:30pm
Held on zoom mobile conferencing

Present: Garry Ward, Phil Martin, Paul Spicer, Luke Burford, Paul Sampson, Brian Blewett
Bob Perry, Andy Burford, Suzanne Martin and Dennis Bullock Jnr

1. Welcome.

The chairman, Garry Ward, welcomed the members to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Linda Soltysiak, Andy Soltysiak, Dave Workman, Jim Neville, Jim Hardy, Nigel Long, Alan Simpson, and Kevin Dyer.

Due to the covid restrictions and the inability to hold a real time meeting, added to the difficulties of getting everyone online, the Trust issued a questionnaire both by email and an online survey platform, for members to vote on the vital issues. The Trust also offered the ability for members to nominate a board member to vote on their behalf.

Garry Ward was nominated to vote on behalf of Dave Workman.

Phil Martin was nominated to vote on behalf of Jim Neville

Voting forms were received by email from Linda and Andy Soltysiak.

The online survey was completed by Alan Simpson, Jim Hardy and Nigel Long.

John Ayer returned the form by post.

3. Review and approval of 2019 AGM minutes

The members present were supplied with a copy of the 2019 AGM minutes. There were no discrepancies raised by the members present.

Proposer: Andy Burford

Seconded: Paul Sampson

4. Chairman's Report.

Garry read out his report on the activities of FaST over the last 12 months.

I would like to welcome you all as members of the Farnborough Supporters Trust (FaST) to the delayed fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Trust. This would normally take place at the end of April but timing has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under Government guidelines we are unable to gather together for the purpose of holding a meeting and to meet our legal requirements we are using the alternative method of communicating by video conferencing. FaST has had a busy year during which

we have maintained our close links with Farnborough Football Club (FFC) for which we thank Club Owner and Director Rob Prince and his fellow Directors for their support.

The make up of the Board has remained unchanged since the last AGM. In accordance with the Society rules six of the Board are due for re-election this evening, those being Phil Martin, Paul Spicer, Luke Burford, John Davey, Sarah Hoyle and Brian Blewett. Subject to the aforementioned elections FaST is continuing to run with 8 full members and 2 co-opted members leaving 2 vacancies. If anyone wishes to put themselves forward to fill a vacancy please make themselves known.

We are fortunate to have a Board Member in Phil Martin our Honorary Secretary who is also a Director of FFC and this enables the Trust to liaise with the football Club Board and put forward ideas for consideration as well as receiving feedback as to the club's plans.

It is my sad duty to report that our former Chairman Graham Ellicott passed away in the past 12 months and we offer our wholehearted gratitude for his loyal service also as Treasurer and as a Board Member over many years. RIP Graham.

We have enjoyed a successful membership drive thanks largely to the efforts of our member Libby Mills resulting in an increase to 70 members which includes three Junior members. Junior Membership can be secured for a payment of £3 annually and this is an area that we also would like to boost in the next period. FaST have maintained membership incentives of cheaper travel on the away match minibuses and a 10% price deduction on merchandise purchased in the Club Shop and we thank Sue Reason for agreeing to this concession.

Our away travel minibuses have continued to prove popular for away games and the introduction of flexible charges based upon distance travelled has enabled them to become more viable at a small but sustainable loss per coach. FaST would like to improve further and run them at a break even level and every attempt will be made to achieve. Again, FaST is extremely grateful to Sue Reason for taking on the organisation and to the voluntary driver Andy Burford who does such a great job. At this moment I would just like us to offer our profound gratitude to the memory of Chris Cook whose driving skills were appreciated so much by the travelling members and for his great willingness to fulfill the role. He was always very supportive and is sadly missed by all. RIP Chris.

This playing season has been unprecedented in the decision of the Southern League in liaison with the Isthmian League and Northern Premier League to suspend the league programme with results considered null and void at the time that FFC had completed 30 of 42 games, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to that point the team had attained a comfortable mid table position and having just had two consecutive 4 – 0 victories looked well placed to have an exciting run in closing on the play-off places. Reminiscent in many ways to the previous season and an outside chance of achieving their goal. Overall performances had lacked consistency through the season but in the last few games before the enforced stoppage it was clear that the hard work of the football management team was finally paying off and the team was linking well to earn the results the squad deserved. Although truncated, it was an enjoyable season for our fans overall and if the nucleus of the current team can be retained all bodes well for next season.

Unfortunately, the fundraising scheme that FaST introduced 2 years ago to replace Boost the Boro known as FaST Ground Development Fund which is dedicated solely to ground projects, has not been supported by the fan base and FaST will need to consider whether to hold this open or explore

alternative options to raise more funds. One such idea was put forward by Board Member Luke Burford which, with the kind cooperation of the Club, involved a raffle of tickets to win a table in the Platinum Lounge for the prize winner to have the benefit of free attendance with 5 others of his choice on the last match day of the season and enjoy such benefits as a match day meal and parking to have the full Platinum Lounge experience. All ticket sale profits would go to FaST funds and every indication was that this scheme would be a great success. Unfortunately, with the curtailment of the season we have had to defer this prize until next season on a date to be agreed but we are confident of a good take up.

Our support for the club infrastructure and maintenance has continued and our activities include work involving the installation of three new shower booths and a new toilet in the match officials dressing room which, coupled with the work carried out to refurbish the Platinum Lounge Ladies Toilets, amounted to an expenditure of £1,394. The vast majority of this work was carried out by FaST Board Members Phil Martin and Kevin Dyer to a very high spec and we thank them both for their time and efforts.

In addition FaST have assisted groundwork maintenance with a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of a replacement mower plus £200 for replacement of defective pitch sprinkler heads.

FaST have also undertaken to donate £1,000 towards the cost of a new chiller for the beer cellar and are anticipating being called upon to meet the cost of replacing flood light lamps in the close season.

The next major project planned is to complete the cladding at the far end of the PRE stand and also install water drainage downpipes with the object of finally completing all work on the structure.

I am pleased to report that sales of 50/50 tickets are holding up well and continue to provide a major source of our income. Thanks go to all our matchday operatives who carry out this work very efficiently. It is very much appreciated.

Administration of the fundraising Scheme Cherrywood Chance continues under our Treasurer Paul Spicer. There is only a small number of members left in this scheme although FaST hope to find ways of boosting numbers and income. Thank you for looking after this, Paul.

Sadly, with the early finish to the playing season and the decision of the Southern League to expunge all records it was decided by the Board to withdraw the awarding of a Supporters Player of the Season Trophy this season. FaST also took into account the logistics of not knowing when the award could be presented and whether indeed the winning player would still be at the club at such time. The uncertainty was considered too much of an obstacle but it is the intention to present the award next season.

Finally, I would like to collectively thank all Board Members and other members for their contribution to our work and support to me since the last AGM.

Garry Ward
Chairman

5. Fast Equality Charter.

FaST had been advised that we needed to produce and agree an equality charter by the Football supporters Association. Using some guidance and their template, the following was drawn up:

Equality Charter

We adhere to the following equality, inclusion and anti-discrimination guidelines. We are committed to ensuring a safe environment for all involved by applying equality, diversity and inclusion in our day-to-day operations.

We will promote awareness of the benefits of equality, inclusion and diversity with a clear understanding that football belongs to everyone.

In our activities we will not discriminate or treat anyone less favourably on the grounds of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race or nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion/belief or disability. We will not tolerate harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of any kind and will assure the appropriate reporting procedures are actioned if any of the mentioned does occur under our supervision. We are committed to taking action against discrimination.

We will ensure good practice is encouraged internally, with our football club, partners and the wider community.

As part of our commitment to the eradication of discrimination in football and the promotion of equality, inclusion and diversity, we are fully supportive of the work of organisations such as Kick It Out and The Football Supporters' Association.

We as fans stand together as one so that everyone can feel welcome and enjoy the beautiful game.

This was agreed by all present as suitable.

Proposed: Phil Martin

Seconded: Luke Burford

6. 2019 Accounts.

Firstly the treasurer, Paul Spicer, requested that the members present vote on a resolution for the current financial period to negate the requirement to appoint an independent auditors, worded as follows:

Under section 84(2) of the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 an option to disapply section 83 (duty to appoint auditors) exists. The committee wish to take advantage of this option in respect of this year of account. The committee are content not to require a qualified accountant conduct an independent review of the company's affairs for the Directors and to have it's accounts published without an independent report attached. An independent accountant has in fact reviewed the financial records and confirms that the accounts for the year reasonably reflects the documentation provided.

This was passed with no votes against.

The 2019 accounts were presented to the members by Paul Spicer and agreed.

Proposer: Phil Martin

Seconded: Garry Ward

Reappointment of Roger Walters-Duke as the independent examiner of the accounts.

Proposer: Garry Ward

Seconded: Brian Blewett

7. Election of Directors.

The following board members were up for re-election:

Phil Martin, Paul Spicer, Luke Burford, John Davey, Sarah Hoyle and Brian Blewett.

There were no objections.

Proposer: Suzanne Martin

Seconded: Bob Perry

8. AOB.

- Dennis Bullock stated that he would like to have a role and be involved with bringing more disabled supporters to matches. This was welcomed by the board members and will be investigated going forward in conjunction with the football club.
- Phil Martin raised the idea of a junior membership coordinator at the AGM. He suggested that Suzanne Martin was potentially willing to fill this role and organise such things as birthday cards and social media messages. Board to discuss in more depth when proper meetings resume as will require certain access to some data (dob's addresses etc)
- Andy Burford raised a couple of food related items at the AGM. Firstly that a more healthier option be offered at the FaST Food burger bar. Secondly, that filled rolls could be made available to purchase at the bar. Kev to speak to Silv about rolls as and when the bar opens and football starts again.

9. Close.

There was no further business, so Garry thanked everyone for their attendance, and brought the meeting to a close.