

Farnborough FC Supporters Trust (FaST) AGM
Thursday 24th June 2021 - 7:30pm
Held at Farnborough FC

Present: Garry Ward, Phil Martin, Luke Burford, Paul Sampson, Brian Blewett, Bob Perry, Suzanne Martin, Dennis Bullock Jnr, Kevin Dyer, Sue Reason, Jim Hardy, John O'Hara, John Ayer, Alan Simpson and John Davey.

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, Malcolm Upward, Paul Spicer, Roger Peirce, Sarah Hoyle and Geoff King

3. Review and approval of 2020 AGM minutes

There were no discrepancies raised by the members present and were thus recommended for approval

Proposer: Garry Ward

Seconded: Suzanne Martin

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 sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Trust. This would normally have taken place at the end of April but timing has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under current Government guidelines we are unable to hold a meeting inside The Platinum Lounge and so to meet our legal requirements and to be compliant with Covid regulations we are taking the permitted course of moving outside but within the stadium. To all our members here tonight may I apologise for any inconvenience caused and I sincerely hope that we can revert to an indoor AGM next year. In the past year FaST has 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 although our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Paul Spicer has moved out of the area but has kindly agreed to carry on his duties as Treasurer remotely for the time being. Needless to say, our thanks go to him for all the work he has done in preparing the accounts. I am pleased to advise that Malcolm Upward has agreed to take over the role of Membership Secretary. In accordance with the Society rules I am due for re-election this

evening together with Board Member Paul Sampson. Subject to the aforementioned elections FaST is continuing to run with 8 full board members and 2 co-opted board 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 Honary 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 valuable member Andy Burford passed away suddenly last December. Andy drove the FaST Supporters minibus to away games and was a long standing supporter. He compiled many interesting quizzes to test our general knowledge and help the long journeys seem to go by quicker. Andy also offered many helpful suggestions to assist with the running of FaST and is sadly missed by all.

Considering our enforced lack of matchday activity our membership has held up well. There has been a drop in the number of full members but counteracted with a rise in Junior Members resulting a small reduction overall. As of the last Board Meeting in May the Membership was 66 compared to 70 last year. The rise in Junior Members has been helped by our successful promotion of providing a club snood in return for a joining membership fee at no extra cost. Junior Membership can be secured for a payment of £3 annually. Once normal football activities are resumed I would like to have a new drive for members and the last time this was done we were fortunate to have the help of Libby Mills which proved to be highly successful. Hopefully Libby will be able to offer a hand in this pursuit next time.

Unfortunately, due to the truncated football activity last season we were only able to run three minibus before matches were halted. It is very much hoped that we can reinstate these next season. FaST is extremely grateful to Sue Reason for taking on the organisation and we hope that she will be able to continue.

For the second season running the playing season has been declared null and void. The club was only able to fulfill 8 matches of 42 before the order came to stop due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There has already been some interesting signings announced for next season and we can only hope that there will be no interruption this time.

Unfortunately, fund raising has been hugely curtailed and it is hoped we can get back on track as soon as football activity resumes. The 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 and enjoy such benefits as a match day meal and parking to have the full Platinum Lounge experience had to be put on hold and this promotion will be resumed as soon as possible. It is hoped that those supporters who bought tickets so far have retained them ready for when this prize is drawn in due course. All ticket sale profits will go to FaST funds and every indication was that this scheme will be a great success.

Although there has been a lack of football activity and consequent reduced income our support for the club infrastructure and maintenance has continued undaunted including Toilet refurbishments at a cost of £1,481 and floodlight bulb renewals for £1,116. Most of the practical 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. FaST also made a contribution of £1,000 towards the cost of an urgently required chiller in the cellar. Without this the club's bar income would have been seriously diminished and our members use of the bar affected.

In addition FaST have recently funded the cost of new lights in the dressing rooms and players tunnel area at £310 and a drag mat to help with pitch maintenance for £480. Also a sum of approximately £200 has been agreed for purchase of paint for the ground.

The project to complete the cladding at the far end of the PRE stand and also install water drainage down pipes with the object of finally completing all work on the structure has been put on hold due the fall in income although we understand it is possible that this work may be taken on by the club themselves. We will advise when the position becomes clearer.

Another very important project currently in the course of preparation is the replacement of the rather tired and old fashioned FaST website with a bright new site. This will have a much more up to date modern look and will be more user friendly. This involves considerable effort and expertise and FaST are extremely fortunate to have on our Board Luke Burford who is undertaking the work. Our thanks go to him. It is planned for the the new site to be launched ahead of the 2021/22 season and so keep your eyes peeled.

The sales of 50/50 tickets have been seriously affected by the shortened season and a large part of our income lost. Nevertheless, thanks go to all our matchday operatives who have always carried out this work very efficiently when they have been able to do so. A special word must go to Bob Perry who is standing down after many years service and we wholeheartedly thank him for all his efforts to make this scheme a success.

Administration of the fund raising 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 it was not appropriate to arrange a Supporters Player of the Season Award and it is our hope that this will be restored at the end of 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 particularly given the difficult conditions in which we have had to operate.

Garry Ward
Chairman

5. 2020 Accounts.

As mentioned by Garry in the Chairman's report, our Treasurer, Paul Spicer, has now relocated out of the area. He is happy to carry on his role for now on a remote basis. Phil and Garry took over the responsibility of sharing the accounts with those present. Firstly it was 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.

Proposed by Brian Blewett
Seconded by Luke Burford
This was passed with no votes against

Full copies of the 2020 accounts were available for all members present, plus Paul Spicer had prepared a summary sheet of the accounts, which was presented by Phil. The accounts were recommended for approval.
Proposer: Phil Martin
Seconded: Kevin Dyer
These were passed with no votes against.

With the relocation of the treasurer, we were unable to reappoint Roger Walters-Duke as the independent examiner of the accounts. We thank Roger for his diligence over the last few years, and we will be actively seeking a replacement.

6. Election of Directors.

The following board members were happy to stand for re-election:
Garry Ward and Paul Sampson
Proposer: Suzanne Martin
Seconded: Sue Reason
There were no objections.

7. 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.
- Alan Simpson asked if it would be possible for the 50/50 table to have a contactless method of payment. Also the possibility to buy tickets online prior to the match. Kevin Dyer to investigate the possibility of a pdq machine.

8. Close.

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

