

Farnborough FC Supporters Trust (FaST) AGM
Thursday 26th May 2022 - 7:30pm
Held at Farnborough FC

Present: Garry Ward, Phil Martin, , Paul Sampson, Kevin Dyer, John Ayer, Roger Peirce, John O'Hara, Dennis Bullock, Suzanne Martin, Jim Hardy, Bob Perry, Sarah Hoyle, Geoff King, John Davey, Simon Gardener, Colin Weeding, Alan Simpson, Brian Dodge, John Stevens, Mike Long.

1. Welcome. 17th

- 2. Club Chairman** Simon Gardener gave a brief welcome and thanked FaST for all they do for the club.

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

3. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Linda Soltysiak, Paul Spicer, Miranda Pennells, Malcolm Upward, Brian Blewett, Luke Burford

4. Review and approval of 2021 AGM minutes

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

Proposer: Colin Weedon

Seconded: John O'Hara

5. 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 seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Trust. FaST has had a busy year and 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 FaST Board has largely remained unchanged since the last AGM although we have had the benefit of Roger Pierce joining last August and he has regularly attended our Board Meetings. He is standing for formal election to the Board this evening together with Geoff King who will add valuable contributions from the fan's perspective. John Davey has previously given notice that he will stand down and not seek re-election and we thank John for his contributions in the past. Our Treasurer Paul Spicer has kindly agreed to carry on his duties

as Treasurer remotely having moved out of the area and we are grateful for his services in preparing the draft accounts and fulfilling the role. In accordance with the rules the following Board Members are due to stand for re-election for a further two year period this evening:-

Phil Martin – Secretary

Paul Spicer – Treasurer

Luke Burford

Brian Blewett

Sarah Hoyle

Subject to the aforementioned elected and re-elected members being approved the ongoing Board will have one vacancy for a full board member if anyone wishes to come forward. The two current co-opted representatives will remain. On a personal note, I am due to serve one more year as Chairman and as I believe we all have our sell by date I have made the decision to stand down at the AGM in 2023. By advising now I am allowing plenty of time for consideration of my successor.

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.

Our total membership in the past year has dropped slightly from 66 to 64 but I am confident with a new Membership drive spearheaded by Libby Mills, who has kindly offered to resume this role whilst she gradually recovers from her serious accident last year, will enable us to hike this figure. Junior membership can be secured for the payment of £3 annually and with our promotion to provide a free club snood in return I am sure this will help to boost numbers.

FaST is pleased to report that we were able to resume the running of matchday minibuses to away games part way through the season as Covid regulations were gradually relaxed and a huge thank you goes out to Sue Reason who very commendably organised the running of the buses including taking all the bookings for supporters and collecting the fares. Sue even extended her skills to ordering two coaches for supporters to travel to the Hayes play-off games. We must also offer great thanks to the club for allowing FaST the use of their minibus thus allowing us to avoid rental costs and sustain the service without financial loss.

On the football front I think that we can all agree here tonight that it has been a very successful season and we wholeheartedly thank Spencer and the team management and the players for delivering so much pleasure and excitement along the way. The double of securing promotion to the National South and winning the Hampshire Senior Cup represents the most successful and gratifying achievements for many seasons. We must also recognise the financial backing and administrative hard work of Club CEO Rob Prince who along with the Players and Management made it all possible. It is undoubtedly a very exciting time for the club and FaST wishes them all success for the 2022/23 season and a new chapter in the higher division.

Despite the Trust's income being set back for over 6 months in the early part of 2021 due to suspension of football FaST have still been able to support the club with nearly £3,000 of pitch

maintenance expenditure including 50% of the cost of a new all singing and dancing mower and a new line marker. There was also provision of other items for over £500 including the cost of the website relaunch, a power bank as part of the radio commentator's equipment and presentation trophies.

The next major project remains the completion of the cladding at the far end of the PRE stand and also to install water drainage downpipes with the object of finally completing all work on the structure. Income has recovered well and FaST are in a position to fund if the club requires.

I am pleased to report that thanks to Luke Burford's excellent work the website has been relaunched and if you haven't already checked it out I recommend you do so to see the vast improvements made. FaST is justly proud of the new site and what it represents. We take the opportunity to again thank Luke for his efforts on our behalf.

Sales of 50/50 tickets have shown very good growth and at the end of last year had realised an increase of approximately 25% to an average of £97 per game. With the success of the team for the rest of the season coupled with the increased attendances we were achieving a share of over £150 per game in the last few matches, which again, has enhanced our financial position . A special mention of thanks goes to Bob Perry who kindly came out of retirement soon after commencement of the season as Libby was unfortunately incapacitated. Also to all the other operatives that chipped in to make it our best ever income from this source. I'm not sure whether Bob will be helping next season but any assistance will be gratefully received! It should be mentioned that FaST have decided to offer the alternative of payment by card and a pdq SumUp device has been purchased as some people are not inclined to carry cash these days. We plan to introduce this payment method next season.

A welcome new form of income to FaST has arisen from the sale of programmes by Derek Mills in the Club Shop. Thank you Derek for your efforts on our behalf and I am happy to announce that £600 has been donated to date.

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.

I am very pleased to record that FaST were able to revive the Supporters Player of the Season Award for season 2021/22. There was always going to be several players in contention having had such a successful season on the pitch but even so the winner John Owenuga polled more than twice the second placed player and was a resounding winner voted by our supporters. Congratulations to John and let us hope he is available to play for us 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.

Garry Ward - Chairman

6. 2021 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 Suzanne Martin

Seconded by Garry Ward

This was passed with no votes against

Full copies of the 2021 accounts were available for all members present, plus Paul Spicer had prepared a summary sheet of the accounts, which was presented by Phil. A review has been carried out by Arnaud Westphal of Centora Ltd, who is happy that they are in order.

The accounts were recommended for approval.

Proposer: Bob Perry

Seconded: John Davey

These were passed with no votes against.

7. Election of Directors.

The following board members were happy to stand for re-election:

Phil Martin

Paul Spicer

Luke Burford

Sarah Hoyle

Brian Blewett

Proposer: Colin Weeding

Seconded: Paul Sampson

There were no objections.

The following put themselves forward to join the board:

Roger Peirce

Geoff King

Proposer: Phil Martin

Seconded: John Stevens

There were no objections.

8. AOB.

- **Colin raised the question of the stand cladding** (see chairman's report)
- **Segregation**
- **2nd burger bar**
- **Player kit sponsorship.**
- **FaST accounts to go on the website.**

9. Close.

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