

THE CARDS TRUST

Minutes of AGM held on Monday 25 November 2013 in the Cardinals' Bar, Woking FC

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies were received from David Holmes, Jennifer Tombs, Linda Taylor, David Potter and Matthew Erskine.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM ON 22 NOVEMBER 2012

2. The minutes of the last AGM were approved by the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4. Rosemary Johnson highlighted the following aspects of the Trust's work during the past year:

- In spite of the difficult financial climate, the Trust had continued to support the Club by providing £30k to the playing budget through the Boost the Budget scheme, plus other support provided as the result of the beer festival and other activities. Everyone involved in raising these sums, plus the Goldrush sellers and organisers, was to be warmly congratulated and thanked for their hard work
- The Trust had continued to be represented on the Club Board and, following the change in the Board's articles, the Trust is now entitled to elect its own representative as opposed to being represented at the invitation of the Club Board
- A great deal of hard work was undertaken to amend the Trust's articles to complement the Club's new Articles
- The Trust has continued to operate in an open and democratic way, publishing its minutes and producing newsletters.

5. Rosemary said that, as she was now standing down from the Trust Board, having been elected in her own right to sit on the Club Board, she wished to take the opportunity to express her gratitude for the enormous support which she had received from the Trust's Board and Nick Shaw, who had acted as a co-opted member. In addition to those she had already mentioned, she also wished to record her grateful thanks in particular to Jennifer and Hazel in the Club Shop and to Judith Burnett, who had given valuable assistance in George's absence.

6. Rosemary added that, although she was standing down, she would continue to take a close interest in the Trust's activities, including continuing to supervise the away coaches and to help in the Club Shop on matchdays, and would do all that she could to assist the Trust.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

7. George Burnett said that membership of the Trust currently stood at 304 paid-up members, including family membership. This compared with some 499 people who had been members of the Trust at some point during its existence. The aim, clearly, should be to try to maintain, and preferably increase, Trust membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

8. Darren Garner tabled his reports to the meeting, mentioning that the balance figures reflected the fact that the difference in surplus received last year and this year was made up of 10K revenue received from the Supporters club last year when they disbanded and an extra 6K spent on shares compared to last year.

9. There were no questions about the accounts.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

10. Darren Garner proposed that the accounts should be accepted. This was seconded by Peter Holdsworth and endorsed by the meeting.

ELECTION OF CARDS TRUST CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

11. Ray Maskell proposed that Peter Holdsworth should be elected as Chairman of the Cards Trust. This was seconded by Peter Young and endorsed by the meeting.

12. Alan Barnes proposed that George Burnett should be re-elected as Secretary. This was seconded by Alex Burnett and endorsed by the meeting.

13. Jim Flood proposed that Darren Garner should be re-elected as Treasurer. This was seconded by Jennifer Tombs and endorsed by the meeting.

ELECTION OF CARDS TRUST WOKING FC BOARD DIRECTOR

14. John Moore proposed that Ian Nicholson should be elected as the Cards Trust Director to serve on the Club Board. This was seconded by Peter Holdsworth.

15. Ian Nicholson was invited to address the meeting. He spoke about his long-standing support of the Club, his leadership and charity work in the community, his appointment as Club Chaplain in 2008 and the various other volunteer activities he had undertaken in support of the Club, including devising the Boost the Budget scheme. He said that he would regard it as a privilege and an honour to represent the Trust on the Club Board. If elected, he would hope to play his full part on the Board but to ensure too that he acted as a conduit for fans' views. Volunteer and community activity was a key part of a non-League club like Woking and it was very important that fans and the Trust continued to play their part.

16. The meeting endorsed Ian's election as the Trust's representative on the Club Board. It was confirmed that Ian's position on the Trust Board would be that of an elected non-voting member.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE TRUST'S BOARD

17. Rosemary Johnson noted that there were now vacancies for two vacancies on the Trust's Board. She proposed that Nick Shaw should be elected to fill one of those vacancies. This was seconded by Alan Barnes and endorsed by the meeting. Ian Formby proposed that Alan Barnes should be elected to the other vacancy. This was seconded by Barry Kimber and endorsed by the meeting.

ADDRESS BY NEW TRUST CHAIRMAN

18. Peter Holdsworth began by warmly thanking Rosemary Johnson for her leadership, dedication and hard work over many years on the Supporters' Club Committee and as Chair of the Cards Trust Board. She had ensured that the Trust had solid foundations on which to move forward.

19. Peter outlined his views on some priorities on which he hoped the Trust Board would be able to make some progress:

- Boost the Budget – Ian Nicholson had done a wonderful job in devising and nurturing the scheme. Inevitably, a few contributors had fallen by the wayside, with the result that expected donations were now lower than £30k. It was important to try to find ways to re-energise the scheme
- Trust membership – he hoped it would be possible to increase Trust membership since the number of members sent an important signal to the Club Board and others about the importance of fans' views. He suggested members should make a special effort to encourage friends to join.
- Volunteers – volunteers were the lifeline of a club like Woking. Efforts needed to be made to attract more volunteers, especially among younger supporters.
- Communications – Nick Shaw had done an excellent job in publicising the Trust through the web. We needed to look at other possible ways of raising the Trust's profile.
- Relations with the Club Board – it was important to work closely with the Club Board but to not be afraid of challenging things if the Trust felt that this was necessary. He thought that it might be helpful if the Club Board agreed to a regular meeting between the two Boards.

20. Peter said that the Trust Board would seek views on an action plan and would very much welcome ideas and comments. Contact details for all the Trust Board members were available on the website and he would always make himself available at home matches.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. Alan Barnes mentioned a forthcoming meeting between the Football Supporters' Federation and Conference chairmen and said that he would welcome suggestions on issues which could be raised.

22. Rosemary Johnson updated the meeting on the possible timing of new appointments to the Club Board, including that of a Finance Director.

23. There was a discussion about stewarding and segregation at matches. Rosemary Johnson emphasised that decisions on segregation were always taken in the light of the best information available. Sometimes segregation was required by the police. On other occasions the decision rested with the Club – in practice, Peter Jordan. The number of stewards required was influenced by ground grading and County Council requirements. If a supporter had concerns about stewarding at a particular match, it would be helpful if this could be raised with the Club as quickly as possible.

24. There was a reminder about the Christmas Party on Friday 6 December, organised by the Bar staff, for which free tickets (including a raffle ticket) were available.

26 November 2013