



Argyle Fans' Trust

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Saturday 21st November 2015; 12 noon

Stoke Bar & Grill, 72-74 Devonport Road, PLYMOUTH. PL3 4DL.

No	Item	Discussion/Summary	Action
1	Welcome by the Chairman / Apologies for absence	<p>Board Members Present: Bob Foale (BF) Chair Celia Ellacott (CE) Vice Chair Ed Shillabeer (ES) Frazer Lloyd-Davies (FLD) Ken Wild (KW) Tim Chown (TCh)</p> <p>Tony Cannan (TCa) Secretary Paul Bartolini (PB) Treasurer Sally Snow (SS)</p> <p>Apologies: Bob Wright (BW)</p>	
2	Chair's report	<p>BF confirmed that there were 20+ AFT members in attendance, making the AGM quorate and therefore official as an AGM.</p> <p>Announced Romain Larrieu (present) as the AFT President. Unanimous acceptance and applause.</p> <p>BF explained that we would be looking for future input from our members with ideas and ways in which we can help serve the fans of PAFC. We as a Trust would be looking to represent our members and seek guidance where necessary.</p> <p>BF went on to report that:</p>	BF



- We are delighted that this year our membership has steadily grown to over 1,000.
- We established who has ownership of the three tracts of land that make up Home Park and have since applied for the whole site to be given Asset of Community Value status.
- We discussed the freezing of season ticket prices, irrespective of which division we would be in this season, before the news was released.
- We raised the state of the iconic 1930's front entrance and the club accepted our offer to pay for the materials to have it redecorated.
- We continued to sponsor the first team 'poppy appeal' shirts until May.
- We have taken up personal issues about ticketing and seating arrangements on behalf of supporters.
- We have been instrumental in making sure that the promised fans' forums have taken place, setting dates with the club.
- We have fostered an excellent working relationship with PASALB.
- We have established positive links with the fans' trusts at Torquay, Wycombe and Portsmouth.
- We have met on two occasions with the club and other groups to discuss next season's home and away kits.
- We have raised issues about the suitability and safety of the current grandstand as well as concerns over corrosion to the newer horseshoe.
- The chair has tried to interact with fans not only from our membership, but also via PASOTI and ATC, to share concerns and questions with the CEO. More recently the



chair has begun a series of regular updates to all our members.

- We have campaigned for a replacement for the much missed Far Post Club. We were pleased after months of canvassing on this issue that JB relented at an Open Fans' Forum and agreed that it would be a good idea. We have been assured that the club and the Green Taverners are in advanced negotiations to provide a temporary fans' suite, but not until the New Year.

- We have continued to produce a very successful regular fanzine, 'the Grass Is Greener', which is selling over 500 copies each print run.

- We continue to undertake an annual survey of our membership.

- For the first time this year our membership has been allowed to vote for its own player of the year and donate a trophy.

- We have, through donations, provided over £5,000 of produce to the local Food Banks.

- As well as additional sponsorship, we donated £1,000 to the Youth Team's Milk Cup Fund.

- With much appreciated support from the Green Taverners, we helped the club turn a £1,000 profit at the bar for our St. Patrick's Night event.

- Three members took part in the static event for the Pedals For Pounds initiative at the Life Centre. This year a team will be riding on behalf of the AFT.

- Following a very positive meeting with Chris Errington, we are now providing a fortnightly column in the Evening Herald.

- We have talked at length with Tudor Evans, the Leader of Plymouth City Council and are due for our next meeting before Christmas.



		<p>Those discussions have been concerning and will be concerning both the provision of a new grandstand and the AFT's bid for ACV status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romain Larrieu has agreed to become the Trust's honorary President (previously mentioned).• We were delighted to be given Michael Foot's Argyle scarf and rather than sell or auction it, the Board unanimously agreed to have it framed with a photograph of Michael to be displayed in a prominent position at Home Park.• We brought one of our members, Lewis Ridge, to the attention of the club and his 30 year record of never missing a game home or away will be recognised at next week's game versus Leyton Orient. <p>Some of the issues we have raised have been contentious, such as seeking clarification over the role of the club president, but have been asked as a direct result of our members' queries.</p> <p>Similarly, some of the actions we have taken have also been contentious, such as funding the materials for the refurbishment of the 1930's façade. In line with the AFT's objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "being the democratic and representative voice of the supporters of the Club and strengthening the bonds between the Club and the communities which it serves" <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "promoting responsible and constructive community engagement by present and future members of the communities served by the Club and encouraging the Club to do the same"	
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		<p>we responded to numerous concerns about this issue from our membership by raising it with the club in order to seek a solution.</p> <p>BF further pointed out that: I want to be absolutely clear that the AFT is not a fund raiser for James Brent or PAFC. However I believe that the Trust needs to maintain a high profile both with our members and the wider community of fans. We cannot simply appear on the horizon should the club end up in the wrong hands or indeed go back into administration. Rather we have to be seen to be effective in what we are doing in the here and now.</p> <p>Thank you for your support and constructive criticism. I personally have learnt some lessons over the first nine months of my chairmanship which I hope will stand me in good stead for the next nine months.</p>	
3	Membership Report	<p>BF reported membership figures as follows:</p> <p>Number of Shareholding members = 870 Junior members = 150 Total = 1020</p> <p>Lapsed members 877</p> <p>BF reported (in response to a question from a member) that we would be looking for a total of around 1500 members in the following 12 months.</p>	BF
4	Treasurer's Report	<p>The financial position is as follows:</p> <p>Year End Accounts to May 31st 2015</p>	PB



Financial year end completed and returned from Bishop Fleming		
	31/05/2015	31/05/2014
Income	22,438.00	11,312.00
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Post	2,574.00	2,470.00
Survey	599.00	300.00
Stationary	238.00	376.00
Printing	4,673.00	2,359.00
Meeting costs	160.00	926.00
Accountant	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	16,500.00	660.00
Sundry	583.00	155.00
Travel	58.00	0.00
Donations	2,540.00	1,438.00
Depreciation	887.00	296.00
Bank charges	309.00	308.00
Total	29,121.00	9,288.00
Surplus/Deficit	-6677.00	2,024.00
Cash in Bank (19th November 2015)		
	Nov 2015	Nov 2014
Barclays AFT Account	10,148.46	11,626.74
Co op Bank	0.21	0.21
Pay Pal	495.56	345.93
Total	£10,644.23	
	11,972.88	
<u>AFT Poppy Pot</u>		



The Poppy Pot is a separate bank account for donations directly to the Royal British Legion and all collected monies are handed over to the RBL. Donations including pots distributed around the ground came to over £2000.00
This Bank account is now closed

AFT Shirt Pot

The Shirt Pot is separate and specific for all fund raising activity intended to achieve the RBL Poppy Logo back of the Argyle shirt sponsorship with its own Bank Account. Income, expenditure and any other action designated to the Shirt Pot fund is distinct but supplementary to AFT procedures.

AFT Shirt Pot Account

Cash in bank	3,285.53
Total Underwriters debt	8,500.00
Total	-5,214.47

Pay Pal

All the perpetual maintenance of this account is managed and handled accordingly with grateful assistance when required from Peter Ryan.

Co-op Bank.

21p Balance. Interest accrued after all funds were transferred to Barclays.
This account can lay dormant or closed completely at the Boards discretion.

Sage.

Reconciled & up to date.

AR30.

Year-end 2015 forms are complete and require the Boards signatures then will be posted recorded delivery on Monday 23rd November.



5	Secretary's report / ACV progress	<p>TCa introduced himself as the new Secretary and reported on the current status of the ACV application.</p> <p>He reported that the application had been received by Plymouth City Council and was being reviewed.</p> <p>Member Graham Clark suggested that there may have been an item missed on the application which would be needed in order for the Council to proceed with the application. TCa responded saying that the application was checked by Supporters Direct who reported that nothing was missed, but that he would check into Graham's concerns and also raise this with Supporters Direct to double check that nothing has been missed.</p> <p>TCa reported that, Christmas bank holidays aside, we should hear a decision from the Council on or before 30th December 2015.</p>	TCa
6	Trust Elections	<p>Before announcing the new board members, BF announced the departure and soon to depart board members:</p> <p>Paul Bartolini (as treasurer), Bob Wright, Tim Chown and Sally snow. BF thanked the four of them both collectively and individually for all their efforts and hard work for the Trust.</p> <p>BF then congratulated Ken Wild, Frazer Lloyd-Davies and Virginia Pike on their recent elections to the AFT Board, and announced Tony Cannan as the incoming Secretary.</p>	



7	Presentation of the Trust Board	<p>With Tony Cannan having already been introduced, Ken Wild, Frazer Lloyd-Davies and Virginia Pike each took a moment to introduce themselves to the AFT members present, each saying what they will bring to the Trust and what area of expertise they offer and what they intend to be working on. Celia Ellacott and Ed Shillabeer also introduced themselves as already current and previous Board members, each also saying a small piece.</p> <p>BF said that we had room on the Board to co-opt one more member.</p>	BF
8	Motions already received	<p>FLD tabled a motion for the Trust to ask PAFC about scrapping the 'Pay On The Day' £2 price increase. He went on to say that the Club had previously said there is no proof that the extra £2 puts people off coming to the matches. FLD is of the opinion that extra charge could potentially be putting off students from attending matches.</p> <p>This is to be discussed at a future meeting with Martyn Starnes in which a 'trial run' without the charge might be something we'd look towards asking the Club to implement.</p>	BF, FLD
9	Other questions from the floor	<p>There was animosity over the £1500 the Trust paid to PAFC for materials for the repair of the façade. Some fans/members believe that this should not have happened. One member present told the Board that two previous members had not renewed their membership due to this.</p> <p>Whilst BF agreed there were lessons to be learned from how this was handled he remained strongly of the belief that this was</p>	ES, TCa



		<p>the right project for the Trust to support as it was a community based initiative. However, he accepted the feedback that future projects such as this would need much better scrutiny and clarity, and that mistakes were made and apologised profusely for this, adding that we (the Trust) have had our fingers burned and will learn from it. He invited the two complainants to come and speak to him about it as they were not present at the meeting.</p> <p>BF closed this debate saying that the finished project was of excellent quality and we have a façade at the ground that we can all be proud of.</p>	
10	Any Other Business (for information only)	<p>We need to be more visible on matchdays. Use the tabards and gazebo cover. Generally in agreement that we need more manpower around the ground on matchdays. There were a range of possible solutions discussed but this will be on the agenda at the next Trust Board meeting.</p> <p>A flag was also previously given to the Trust, BF agreed we would try to locate it.</p>	All
11	Close of meeting	Meeting closed at 13:15.	BF