



**Argyle Fans' Trust**  
**Board Meeting – MINUTES**  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019; 1.00pm, Goals, Outland Road, Plymouth**

No	Item	Discussion/Summary	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>	<p><b>Members present:</b>  Chris Dean (CD), Tony Hooper (TH), Virginia Pike (VP), Emma Sellick (ES), Roger Willis (RW), Andy Symons (AS), Celia Ellacott (CE), Keith Brown (KB), in person.  Tim Chown (TC, Secretary).</p> <p><b>Apologies received:</b>  John Lloyd (JL), Sue Clark (SC), Sam Down (SD).</p>	
2	<b>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting</b>	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> March were approved, and are uploaded at: <a href="https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/AFT-Board-Minutes-23mar2019.pdf">https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/AFT-Board-Minutes-23mar2019.pdf</a></p> <p>Other topics will come up in today's agenda items.</p>	
3	<b>Membership Secretary's Report (RW)</b>	<p>RW processed outstanding memberships the day before the meeting and has about 50 letters to post.  There are 384 fully paid up current adult members, plus a small number of junior members.</p> <p>The suggestion of having a single renewal date was raised, but this would be problematic given PayPal renewals are spread across the year.</p> <p>CD will deputise for VP when needed for meetings with RW to help things along.</p> <p>It may be useful to run a data cleansing process by calling members on the numbers we have for them. This will be discussed further.</p> <p>TC will print and sign a pack of share certificates.</p>	TC
4	<b>Treasurer's Report (VP)</b>	<p>VP reported that she is now a formal signatory for cheques where required.</p> <p>There is £10,531.19 in the bank.  The PayPal account has £1,519.36  There is also £125.10 in cash, plus a small further amount of cash with CE.  Total is therefore £12,175.65, plus the cash with CE.</p>	

		<p>VP has paid some Trust costs personally while the bank permissions were sorted; this is now resolved and VP can be reimbursed (approx £600).</p> <p>VP is continuing to look at card machine payment companies. The GTs have been paid the Trust's contribution to their new supporters' bar (£1,000). VP has a photo for a web site article.</p> <p>The GTs have reported that they now have all money they need.</p> <p>The Trust's financial year end is 31st May. TC reminded the board that the AR30 needs to be completed and returned by December and presented at the AGM beforehand (by the end of November).</p>	
5	<b>Secretary's Report</b> (TC)	TC had no matters to report.	
6	<b>Events planning</b> (ES)	<p>It was agreed to defer the quiz until next season.</p> <p>The Luton Town trust broadcast their Payer of the Season event; perhaps we can offer to work with the club on something similar and increase fan participation. AS will speak to the new CEO.</p> <p>RW suggested the AFT holds a music gig. He knows of two mad keen Argyle fans in local bands. RW to explore further. The gig could be free to members, or £10 with a free membership; the finances for such an event would need to be checked.</p> <p>It was also suggested that we could think bigger, with more well-known acts.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>RW</p>
7	<b>Social Media Update</b> (ES)	<p>ES reported on the Easter Giftaway on FaceBook and other platforms, which went well.</p> <p>The Ryan Taylor shirt we received from our player sponsorship proved popular. All prizes are being given at the AFT table before the match today. ES will take photos.</p> <p>All social media channels have growing membership.</p> <p>We have had an offer for an AFT YouTube channel; ES to follow up.</p> <p>It is important that we convert interest into memberships.</p> <p>Tony Cannan is keen to help out again. All agreed that we should discuss this with him over the close season. We have one place on the board for a co-optee, perhaps to help project manage specific Trust projects, such as the 'fan zone' idea that Tony previously put forward.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>ES</p>



		<p>TC reminded everyone that we need web site stories, which can then be used to re-instate the regular AFT newsletter. It just needs a couple of paragraphs for a story, ideally with a photo. We could also have a paper newsletter at the AFT table.</p> <p>We could also have a photo competition, e.g., of Argyle fans on holidays in their Argyle shirts, and present these online and put up on a board at the AFT table.</p>	
8	<b>Communications and Marketing sub-group</b> (CE, CD, SD, JL)	<p>CE reported that the fanzines are going well. We sold out the copies we took to Accrington.</p> <p>AS has 31 in car, plus 8 with VP, out of 200 printed. This meant we had £161 in, against £175 print costs. Everyone welcomed the success of the fanzine and agreed that it should continue. ES will seek feedback on social media about the slightly reduced page count.</p> <p>We have quite a few old fanzines. It was suggested that samples could be sent out with new membership packs.</p> <p>CE suggested that we have AFT Christmas cards. She will approach Robby with a view to sell them in November.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>CE</p>
9	<b>Governance sub-group report</b> (KB, TC, TH)	<p>KB presented his proposal to amend the AFT's standing orders, including clarifying the procedures around email / electronic meetings and voting, and on any declarations of interests. He showed an example form for new proposals.</p> <p>All agreed to the changes. AS thanked KB and asked that he finalise the proposal, adding extra text on the chair setting a deadline for email votes and calling the result.</p> <p>TC will then check and do final approval of the new rules.</p> <p>TC will consider how we keep associated papers online along with the minutes; at present these are not included.</p> <p>TH is looking at the club's governance. The Articles of Association are at Companies House. Tony will produce notes for the next meeting. He has also been meeting with the Club Secretary.</p> <p>It was noted that while there is an interest with many supporters in the total playing budget, it seems that there is also a not insignificant non-playing staff bill.</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TH</p>

		At this stage, the AFT's interest lies with how the club operates, and how it is structured. Simon Hallett has reported in his blog that it is still losing money and requires additional investment towards sustainability (which he has been providing).	
10	<b>Membership Building sub-group report</b> (VP, ES, RW)	TC offered to lead the new AFT leaflet production.  Other membership topics were discussed already.	TC
11	<b>AOB</b>	<p>There was an issue recently of an Argyle supporter, and AFT member, being convicted of a racism-related offence. The board discussed this matter and agreed that there should be a no tolerance policy and thus the AFT fully support the ban. The matter of the individual's AFT membership was discussed; it was agreed that the individual should be subject to the standard AFT disciplinary procedure as defined in our Model Rules. TC will seek advice from Supporters Direct.</p> <p>AS apologised to the board for his public discussion with an individual in which he expressed dissent at the Board's collective decision, contrary to Board Policy. The apology was accepted by all.</p> <p>The inventory of AFT memorabilia and other items was discussed. It includes many boxes of Argyle programmes. It was agreed these should be sold to raise funds; any programmes of special value should be retained. TC will explore setting up an AFT ebay account.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would run a competition to design new T-shirt and mug merchandise. Emma and Celia will progress the idea over the summer.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be desirable to have an AFT sail banner for match days. The previous one was for the joint AFT-RBL campaign. TC will get costs.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>ES, CE</p> <p>TC</p>
11	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	The next meeting will be agreed by email, likely around a home pre-season friendly or the first home match of the new season.	
12	<b>Close of Meeting</b>	The meeting closed at 3.00pm	

TC  
28 June 2019