



Argyle Fans' Trust

AGM – MINUTES

Saturday 24th November 2018

5.15pm, Life Centre, 40 Mayflower Drive, Plymouth PL2 3DF

No	Item	Discussion/Summary
1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	AFT chairman Bob Foale welcomed those present. The meeting was declared quorate with 21 members present. Apologies received: Dave Johnson Mary and Albert Hall Brian Rattray Mary Burgen-Miller Peter Crooker Linda Morris Andy Symons Sam Down Chris Dean
2	Chair's Report	Bob Foale delivered his Chair's report. The year had been one in which the Trust had to rebuild its relationship with the Club, a goal that Bob was happy to report was largely achieved. Bob thanked his fellow board members for their contributions and commented especially on the work to address the membership and financial reporting challenges. He stated that the Trust should work to improve its dialogue with members, including more frequent use of surveys. The Trust board also broadly supported the creation of the Club's new Plymouth Argyle Fans' Assembly and would contribute positively to it. Text of his report is available at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Chair-Report-2018-AGM.pdf.
3	Membership Secretary's Report	Roger Willis gave the membership report. The membership database had needed significant work to improve its consistency. There are 996 membership records on file, of which 440 are current paid-up members.

		The Trust had worked to meet GDPR obligations, including the publication of a privacy policy on the web site. Members are encouraged to read the policy and send any comments to the Secretary. Roger urged members to advise him of any changes in their details. Given the Trust wants to consult members more, having the correct member contact details is even more important. Mike Perry raised the question of the membership renewals of his family members. He had paid a sum of £100 for 10 memberships, but this was done on 10th November, two days after the deadline for members to be active to be eligible to stand in the Board Election. Mike was disappointed that flexibility wasn't allowed; Roger's answer is correct by the Trust Rules. Tim Chown advised that Mike contact the EMG to appeal if he wished to do so. Text of his report is available at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Membership-report.pdf.
4	Treasurer's Report	Virginia Pike presented the financial reports. The Trust's balance as of 31/10/2018 was £10,173.69. £1,500 was transferred to the bank from PayPal on 13/11/18. Having just taken on the Treasurer role Virginia had been working to get the necessary account details updated. There is a broad aim to keep a balance of around £10,000 in the bank. The text of the report can be found at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Treasurer-report.pdf. There is a deficit of £486 on the 2017/18 accounts, which are available to view online at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/AFT-Accounts-2017-18-final.pdf. This compared to a surplus of £644 the year before. The Trust is exploring the acquisition of a card reader to take payments at the Trust table on match days and at other events. The motion to disapply the requirement for a full financial audit for 2018/19 was presented, explained, and was passed with one abstention and no one voting against. AFT Secretary Tim Chown reported on the AR30 form submission process; this would be completed before Dec 31st, as required by the FCA.

		A question was asked as to whether having just 400 members meant the AFT was relevant? Tim Chown explained the fall in numbers from the initial days of the AFT when there were 1,600 members and added that 440 members meant we are still a relatively large Trust compared to many clubs, and we remain the largest legally established Argyle supporter group. As more time has passed since administration, more people don't feel the need for Trust membership. However, we need to discuss and agree priorities, and focus on those and make the value of the AFT more widely known. Another comment from Graham Clark was that the AFT should try to get a regular piece in the match programme. Bob Foale agreed.
5	Secretary's Report	Tim Chown gave his Secretary's report. Having only recently re-joined as Secretary, Tim explained that the year had been one in which a number of processes had had to be reviewed, re-started and brought up to the standard required. This included the financial reporting, which had been achieved largely through Roger's work. The administrative position is now much stronger than a year ago, and a good base to build from. Graham Clark suggested that memberships should all renewed at the same time in the year. Roger said this would be considered. Changing the member PayPal payments that currently are spread across the year would be a significant challenge. In some ways doing 10 renewals a week is easier than 440 at once. Text of the report is available at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Secretary-Report-2018-AGM.pdf.
6	Trust Elections	Neil LeMilliere of ECFC Trust acted as the independent chair of the Election Management Group (EMG) for the 2018 Board Elections. Neil was not present, but has issued an EMG report which can be found at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ELECTION-MANAGEMENT-GROUPS-REPORT-OF-THE-ELECTION-PROCESS-2018.pdf. Neil reported that there had been some process issues that meant the election needed to be restarted, but that overall he was content that the outcome was in keeping with the AFT's Rules and policies. Therefore the following people were deemed elected to the AFT Board: Keith Brown; Susan Clark; Christopher Dean; Sam Down; Celia Ellacott; Robert Foale; Tony Hooper; John Lloyd; Virginia Pike; Anthony Sherlock; Andy Symons; and Roger Willis.

7	Presentation of Incoming Trust Board	The incoming board were all briefly introduced.
8	Discussion of Member Motions received	No motions were received.
9	Other questions from the floor	Graham Clark asked about the new Fans' Assembly and whether this might sideline the AFT. Bob Foale replied that the AFT would continue to have its own meetings and communications with the Club, and would participate in and contribute to the Assembly. Graham also asked about the ACV on HHP and advised the Trust to check what might happen should Simon Hallett seek to bring the land or part of it back into Club ownership. A question was asked as to whether the AFT might seek to obtain at least a "token" shareholding in the Club. Bob replied that the Trust could be interested, but this would need further discussion. There was some discussion about how to mobilise people to support AFT activities; we're only as strong as our membership and what they can do for us.
10	AOB	A question was asked about the "Argyle museum". Bob replied that he was not aware of details but would enquire.
11	Close of meeting	The meeting was then closed.

TC
12 December 2018