



Argyle Fans' Trust

Annual General Meeting – MINUTES

Sunday 26 November 2023, 7.30pm, by Zoom (online)

No	Item	Discussion/Summary
1	Welcome by the Chair and Apologies for Absence	Virginia Pike welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting was declared quorate with 23 members present (20 members or 5% of the membership are required, whichever number is the fewer). A total of 26 members had registered in advance for the meeting. Apologies were received in advance from Ed Shillabeer, Mark Joannes and Ray Stidwell.
2	Chair's Report	The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved, with the correction of renumbering Section 10 to Section 7. The motion was proposed by Roger Willis, seconded by Bill McCarthy and passed unanimously. Virginia gave her report, which included the following topics: • Donations made, including to PAFC Displays • Remembering Gordon Sparks • AFT contributions towards, and overall Football Supporters' Association (FSA) progress, on the Fans Led Review • AFT donations of books and programmes • The continued sponsorship of men's and women's team players • Working with the Level Playing Field (LPF) organisation on issues affecting disabled fans • Collaboration with other southwest fans trusts through regular meetings • Displaying Argyle memorabilia at Ashburton school • The Plymouth Foodbank appeals, with a collection upcoming on 2 December at the home match against Stoke • Maintaining the Asset of Community Value (ACV) status on Home Park • Raising the issue with the Club of the (initial) lack of reciprocal pricing for the Leeds game • The Argyle close season survey • Discussions with the City Council on improved parking and bus routes • Working with the FSA on safe standing • Joining the FSA's away fans working group to discuss issues affecting all travelling supporters VP stated the AFT was very much open to ideas for activities.
3	Secretary's Report	Tim Chown summarised the result of the 2023 Board election, as overseen by the independent chair of the Election Management Group (EMG), Neil LeMilliere from the Exeter City supporters' trust.



		Neil's report, along with the candidate statements, is available online at the Election area at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/events/election-2023/. Only two nominations were received, from Sam Down and Chris Dennis. With 6 places available, no contested election was required. The meeting thus moved to approve the appointments, proposed by Tony Cannan and seconded by Paul Sweet. Tim thanked Neil for his assistance in coordinating and validating the election process. Tim then explained the rationale for the new AFT Rules being put to members. The Rules are based on a new 2022 template from the FSA, with the new version including only minor changes, mainly to clarify support for online activities (meetings, AGMs, etc). The adoption of the Rules was formally proposed by Mike Perry, seconded by John Lloyd and approved unanimously. Tim will update the web site with the new Rules, which will also be uploaded to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)'s Mutuals Register site.
4	Treasurer's Report	Virginia is acting Treasurer, assisted by Ray Stidwell, who she thanked again for his excellent work. Tim confirmed that Mark Hunter has been appointed by the board as an independent (non-member) examiner. He thanked Mark for his report on the 2022/23 accounts, which were deemed to be in order. The AFT accounts for the 2022-23 financial year (1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023) were presented to the meeting. The AFT has repeated its modest surplus of a few hundred pounds on the year. VP reported a total of £11,179.61 in the AFT's accounts including the £1,000 investment with the Green Taverners, but with the Adam Randell sponsorship still to pay (£800+VAT). The delay in payment was due to a change in AFT bank accounts. The meeting unanimously approved the accounts, the motion being proposed by Bill McCarthy and seconded by Chris Dean. No concerns were raised. The accounts are available online at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/events/agm-2023/. These will be submitted with the annual AR30 return to the FCA by the end of December. The Society's Mutuals returns and documents can be seen freely at https://mutuals.fca.org.uk/Search/Society/12389. The meeting also approved that Rule 83.7 of the Trust's rules be applied again as per previous years; this removes the requirement for the AFT to formally audit its accounts for 2023/24, given the scale of its turnover, and



		again an independent 'lay audit' will be conducted. The vote was proposed by Paul Sweet and seconded by Sam Down. [The cost of an audit could easily be £1,000, and the AFT provides a detailed breakdown of its income and expenditure, as per the accounts presented.]
5	Membership Report	There are approximately 340 active AFT members (adult and junior) as of 26 Nov 2023, pending some renewals to be processed.
6	Prize Draw	The prize draw was then held via a random online 'wheel spinning' site. Bill McCarthy won the signed framed shirt and Adam Dyer the Jack Leslie book. The meeting was formally closed at this point, at 7.55pm.
7	Open Q&A	Several topics were discussed by the members present. These included: • The upcoming fans forum on Thursday 30 November – members were encouraged to attend and ask questions • It was asked what has happened to the Fans' Assembly (PAFA)? The secretary (Mark) is planning a meeting for January, which the AFT will attend. It's important the AFT participates in such fora to have influence – PAFA, SW Trusts, FSA Network, FSA Away Fans WG, etc. • Mark Swainston asked about getting fans onto the club board. Virginia said this had previously been raised but the club was against it. It was noted that the Fan Led Review may lead to changes in this area once the Independent Regulator is legally established. • On the question of shares for fans, Graham Clark reported that an exploration of the process has showed it too expensive to provide a share issue • Tim highlighted the Fan Led Review report, and the potential for a Golden Share for supporters trusts in the future, protecting heritage aspects of clubs • The topic of whether you can sit where you like for away games was raised. Argyle are regularly selling out away, yet it's rare to sit in right seat, people just go in and take a space, which can cause problems. It is frustrating when older fans are stuck behind standing fans at away games. Virginia will raise this with the club. • It was asked whether we might have online match streaming for sold out Saturday 3pm matches? Virginia will raise with the FSA. John Lloyd pointed out it can be an issue for lower league clubs, e.g., if Southampton fans watch their club on TV rather than go Eastleigh. Likewise, Argyle and Parkway.
8	Close of Meeting	The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Tim Chown
AFT Secretary
14 December 2023