



City Fans United

2011 AGM Minutes

Date: 24th November, 2011 @ 20:00
 (adjourned)
 16th February, 2012 @ 19:45
 (completed)

Location: Blues Bar, Exacta Stadium

Attendees:	Chair: Chris Pilsbury (CP) Writer: Campbell Smith (CS) Jeff Banks (JB) Mike Vickers (MV) Pat Cluskey (PC)	Jane Hipkiss (JH) Alan Tarbuck (AT) David Evans (DE) Mark Howell (MH) Approx. 150 members (both meetings)
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Apologies:

Distribution:

Item	Minutes	Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes from previous meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes from the previous AGM held on 27th May 2010 and from the SGM dated 16th November 2010 were distributed to members with the AGM mailout. There were no questions or matters arising.</p> <p>The minutes were approved by majority decision; unanimous in the room.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Board's Annual Report</u></p> <p>Chris presented the board's report on progress made during the previous 18 months.</p> <p>He started by thanking Jim Green who is standing down from the board at this AGM, and reminded members that an additional board place is available due to the sad death of Richard Wightman since the previous AGM.</p> <p>Steve Ashton, a co-opted board member who acted as our CEO during the initial set-up of the football club, is also standing down at this meeting. Chris thanked him for all his work during this time and remarked on the debt of gratitude we all owe him.</p> <p>Chris also thanked his fellow board members and current CEO Pat Cluskey for all the hours he puts in and the large amount of sponsorship he has negotiated and arranged. Finally, he also thanked all the volunteers who do a superb job for the club, often in the background. We would not be able to move forwards without them.</p> <hr/> <p>Contd ...</p>	

	<p>It has been an eventful first year. Chris missed the final game of the season at Garforth as he was on holiday in France at the time, receiving texts about Skelmersdale's goals!</p> <p>Chris thanked Neil Young and the players for all their hard work in winning us our first successful promotion season.</p> <p>On the Football side, development is continuing and there are currently four youth teams in place.</p> <hr/> <p>Plans for a Training Ground are still in progress – there will hopefully be more announcements on this in the near future. The project will provide training facilities for all of our teams.</p> <p>The Blues Bar development is also still being looked at but may need to be delayed as the priority is the training facilities.</p> <p>The club will continue to be run in a financially prudent manner.</p> <p>Membership cards will be sent out soon. Jon Freeman will be taking over from Jeff Banks in the role of membership secretary. Chris thanked Jeff for all his work on memberships and on the new club website.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Merger with Chester Exiles</u></p> <p>The exiles have expressed a wish to work more closely with the football club and have already passed a motion at their last AGM to merge with City Fans United.</p> <p>In the first year, all members outside of the local area will be enrolled free of charge into the new Exiles section of City Fans United.</p> <p>The resolution to merge was pass by majority vote; unanimous in the room.</p>	

4.	<p><u>Accounts and Independent Examiners Report</u></p> <p>Mike Vickers presented the accounts, explaining that these covered an 18 month period due to changing our Financial Year End at the previous AGM to fall in line with the football season.</p> <p>The first six months therefore cover the build up of City Fans United prior to Chester Football Club commencing trading – a period which saw us build up a £70,000 foundation to build on.</p> <p>There were several one-off costs in the first year, such as investment in pitch covers and IT equipment, which have reduced the profit in the first year by £30,000.</p> <p>Mike thanked the club sponsors and supporters for their tremendous support in helping achieve these results.</p> <p>Our accountant, James Hargreaves, commented that the accounts show a solid first year of trading, with a turnover of £818,000 resulting in a profit of £107,000 before tax, £83,000 after tax.</p> <p>There was a comment from the floor that gate money doesn't cover playing costs. It was explained this will never be the case and the club will always look to invest in new revenue streams such as would be provided by training facilities.</p> <p>There was a question about the inclusion of rent but no rates on the accounts. It was explained that the rates were actually paid by Exacta (approximately £11,000) as a contra deal for their sponsorship and stadium naming rights.</p> <p>Finally it was explained that the full audit was still being prepared, and that voting to adopt the accounts would therefore be held over until an adjournment of the AGM.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Election of Board Members</u></p> <p>Campbell explained that due to an error on the ballot paper, only three board members would be elected this evening. The board intended four, and therefore the two candidates with lowest number of votes would take part in a second ballot; results of which would be announced at the adjourned meeting.</p> <p>Campbell introduced Ben Harrison from Tranmere Rovers Supporters Trust who acted as independent examiner and received all the ballot papers. Ben announced the results of the ballot which were as follows:</p> <p>Paul Walker: 79 Russell Hughes: 93 Bill Smith: 132 Mark Howell: 203 Jeff Banks: 224</p> <p>A resolution to adopt the three highest scoring candidates as board members was approved by majority vote; unanimous in the room. Bill Smith was therefore duly elected and Mark Howell and Jeff Banks re-elected as board members.</p> <p>Campbell thanked Ben and Tranmere for their assistance with the election process.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned to be reconvened at a date to be determined.</p>	

7.	<u>Reconvened AGM</u> The AGM meeting reconvened on 16th February at 1945.	
8.	<u>Accounts and Auditors Report</u> It was explained that the accounts were fundamentally unchanged from those presented to the original meeting, with just a tax adjustment and correction to assets (due to sale of player before year end) taking place. There were no additional questions on the accounts which had been discussed in detail at the first meeting The accounts were approved by vast majority; unanimous in the room.	
9.	<u>Appointment of Auditors for 2011-2012 Financial Year</u> A resolution to re-appoint Hargreaves & Woods as auditors was passed by the vast majority of votes cast; unanimous in the room.	
10.	<u>Election of additional board member to the board</u> Campbell introduced Ben Harrison from Tranmere Rovers Supporters Trust and thanked him again for assistance in receiving and counting the votes. Ben announced the votes cast which were as follows: Paul Walker: 154 Russell Hughes: 173 A resolution to adopt the candidate with the highest votes was passed by majority; unanimous in the room. Russell Hughes was therefore elected to the board.	
11.	<u>Any Other Business</u> There was a question from the floor regarding the need for a full audit rather than independent examination. It was explained that although our turnover requires us only to have an independent examination to meet regulatory requirements, our own constitution and membership of Supporters Direct require a full audit to ensure transparency and accountability as a supporter owned club. There was a question regarding the co-option of members to the board as opposed to election. It was explained the rules allow co-option of additional board members, either to fill a gap in experience identified by the elected board, or to provide representation from major partners and stakeholders such as Cheshire West and Chester Council. There was no other business and the AGM was therefore closed.	

Minutes agreed as a true record at AGM held on

Signed

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