

	<b>City Fans United</b> <b>2019 AGM Minutes</b>	
	<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>21</b> <small>st</small> <b>N</b> <b>o</b> <b>v</b> <b>e</b> <b>m</b> <b>b</b> <b>e</b> <b>r</b> <b>20</b> <b>19</b>
	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Blues Bar,</b> <b>Swansway</b> <b>Chester</b> <b>Stadium</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Chair: David Harrington-Wright</b>  <b>Directors: Mike Day</b> <b>          Andy Morris</b> <b>          David Williams</b> <b>          Jeff Banks</b>  <b>Non-Executive Directors: Richard Lynes</b> <b>  Paul McDermott</b>  <b>Independent Scrutineer: Simon Rhodes</b>  <b>Secretary: Christine Robson</b>  <b>74 CFU members present and 20 members registered for the</b> <b>live streaming</b>	
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Directors: Chris Robertson</b> <b>          Kieron Shiel</b> <b>          Mark Jones</b>	
<b>MINUTES</b>		
<b>19/1</b>	<b><u>Resolution 1 – Adoption of the minutes of the</u></b> <b><u>AGM held in 2018</u></b>  Minutes from the previous AGM held on 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 were distributed to members	

	<p>with the AGM meeting papers, there were no matters arising.</p> <p><b>Resolved that the minutes be approved by 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room.</b></p>
<p><b>19/2</b></p>	<p><b><u>Resolution 2(i) and 2(ii) – Affirmative vote that Paul Bodman and Kieron Shiel be elected to the Board</u></b></p> <p>Christine Robson thanked Richard Lynes (Chair), Marion Needham, and Simon Rhodes (Independent scrutineer) from Wrexham Supporters Trust for the work they had undertaken as members of the Election Management Group to ensure that the process</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 19/2 continued ... ..</i></p>

	<p><i>Item 19/2 continued ... ..</i></p> <p>had complied with the Election Policy. CRR also thanked the volunteers in the ticket office who had helped with the preparation of the AGM mail shots; she also reminded the meeting that if members had already used a proxy vote that they could not vote again. To be elected to the board the requirement is that candidates must secure the support of more than half of those present at the meeting and those who have expressed their preference by proxy vote.</p> <p>The result was as follows: Paul Bodman received 100% support of the 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room Kieron Shiel received 100% support of the 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room.</p> <p><b>Resolved that both Paul Bodman and Kieron Shiel be elected to the Board.</b></p>
<p><b>19/3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Chair's report</u></b></p> <p>David Harrington-Wright presented a report based on the year 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019:</p> <p>David thanked everyone for a great turnout, as some had travelled far including coming from abroad and always thought it strange that he was delivering a report for the previous year half way through the current year. He wanted to say thank you to some key people, as without them the club would be in a far worse place. Thanks went to the sponsors, MBNA, 1885 Arena group, Swettenham Chemists, Intilery and Swansway, but no less a thank you must go to all the other businesses and supporters that have ground boards, have sponsored matches, balls and programmes, have used the match day hospitality services, or generally donated money or goods that help with the running of this business. DHW also wanted to say a big thank you to all his fellow board members who have had to deal with some challenging times and</p>

assisted him when he has not been able to be present at the club. He stated that a thank you should go out from all the CFU members and the fans to the volunteers (over 100), that are registered as active at Chester FC. Their combined value, not just of their time, but also their experience in many different fields is truly immeasurable.

DHW was however very disappointed that so few members had put themselves forward to stand for the board this year. It is the second year running that numbers have been so low that an election was not required and effectively, we still had two vacancies to fill. It is becoming impossible to rely on the same willing group of volunteers, year in and year out. The Club risks a burn out for these individuals, and therefore, the very nature of our supporter owned model, is at risk. Being a supporter owned community club means that we all, as members, have a responsibility to preserve the precious principles that separate us from the rest of the footballing community.

In 2010 when the club was resurrected from the ashes, there was a huge level

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*Item 19/3 continued ... ..*

of interest and support from the community as a whole. That demonstrated how vitally important the survival of the club was to everyone. Similarly, during the financial crisis two years ago, the response was amazing and this further proved how much people cared about the club. We have to make some significant decisions and ask some questions: Is the running of the club to be left to others, and just go to a match and then go home? Does everyone care about the ownership model? If you do, what are the members prepared to do to preserve it for their children and grandchildren? The premise of getting involved when times are good and giving over money when times are bad are very much appreciated, but the reality is that we need more help, more ideas and ore consistent effort from the membership to drive the club forward. The membership must be in no doubt that the Club would struggle to compete, even in our present league with the present income and the amazing donations from Stuart Murphy over the last two years. For those of you who were at the meeting before the AGM started, you will have seen and heard from SM about his vision for the club, but it has to be a shared one with the membership. The membership cannot believe that SM will continue to donate to the club if they just sit back and accept the status quo. SM needs to see real effort and support from all levels of the club, including attendances, volunteering, community involvement and development, commercial income and good governance.

The present Board all have jobs, responsibilities, families and some even run their own businesses, but still find time to give huge amounts of time and effort to keep the club going: they really care about the future of the Club. DHW asked again for more members to get involved and to keep the Club moving forward. If any member wants to discuss anything about volunteering, please speak or email him or speak to Kieron Shiel.

**June** – the month saw the club recruit new managers; in Bern and Jonno, who had no

	<p>illusions about the challenge they faced in having to rebuild a squad from scratch. The issues were many, not least that many of the players on their wish list had already been signed up with other clubs, but through their contact lists and vast experience, they were soon able to put a squad together. With good pre-season work, it led to a good start to the season.</p> <p><b>July</b> – The month saw a great pre-season match against Liverpool, which brought a very strong team, to experience the Deva Stadium. Our journeys to the North East of England were not the clubs best, but did at the start of the season win some home and away games. This had not been seen for a while.</p> <p><b>August</b> – This is a time that the club would like to forget as we had the devastation of the flood. Stating that it was a disaster was an understatement. Andy Morris and DHW spent nearly three weeks permanently at the Club, trying to deal with the insurance issues, but also comments from other clubs who thought that it had been</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 19/3 continued</i></p>
	<p><i>Item 19/3 continued</i></p> <p>manufactured to get out of playing fixtures. The impact on the squad was huge and the knock on effect of re arranging fixtures affected many other areas (lower attendance, reduced match and hospitality sponsorships). The effect has had a considerable impact with the Club trying to balance the books. The positive out of all of it is the Club now has a very good new CCTV and PA system, which are truly fit for the future.</p> <p><b>December</b> – The Club had the arrival of Mr Asante. His first game showed his true talent (a perfect hat trick). He certainly gave the stadium and the club a boost. His scoring record is fantastic and long may it continue.</p> <p><b>January</b> – This month did not see the usual post-Christmas slump, which was the first for many months. The squad were playing well and did not fear when the team went a goal down in the match.</p> <p><b>February and March</b> – Had mixed results for both months. March was the month when the community Trust unveiled the exciting King George project.</p> <p>The season came to a head with the Club in 9<sup>th</sup> position, perhaps a bit disappointing to some given our earlier season’s form, but it was a good season of consolidation and a great foundation for us to move into the hybrid model, which DHW thought was paying dividends.</p> <p>DHW mentioned the wider Chester FC Community regarding the scholars and academy having another fantastic year. It makes good business sense for a young player coming through our youth set up. The continued support for the youngsters at both home and away fixtures, and support particularly from Swettenham Chemists was very much appreciated by both Calum and the Board.</p>

	<p>The ladies team continues to develop under the support of the community trust and MBNA, and had played a fixture at the Deva. DHW looks forward to the ladies' game growing as it becomes more popular throughout the UK, with the ladies' premiership attracting sizeable crowds.</p> <p>DHW mentioned about the situation off the field. The work that went on following the flood in August 2018. The amount of meetings, with the council, contractors, insurers and safety assessors. The fact that the club had to wait almost 11 months to obtain settlement pay out was an extremely long delay, especially as liability was admitted. This had caused the club a major cash flow problem, as being an ethical and community business, the Club had paid out all the contractors, before we had received the payment. One of the reasons for this was the Club was facing sanctions from the league for any postponed games.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 19/3/continued</i></p>
	<p><i>Item 19/3/ continued</i></p> <p>So we are now in November 2019, halfway through another season. The optimism around the club is great, especially with the announcement made by Stuart Murphy. DHW is sure that if everyone pulls together the club can get back on track. It requires a great deal of effort from everyone, not just financially, but also in great gate attendances.</p> <p>DHW asked all members of the club to make sure that they keep their membership running, encourage others to join, look at fundraising options and sponsor goal/ squad builder/ eBay auctions etc., and most importantly, to offer their time. As the club has joined the time credit scheme, rewards of free or discounted experiences and tickets to a whole range of things can be given. The most important thing that everyone can do for the club is to continue attending all the games, home and away and to bring someone with you. The amount of income that can be generated from just another 200 people on the gates is enormous. Buying a programme is an easy way to help, as is a match day 50/50 ticket.</p> <p>In conclusion the future is bright, the future is Blue &amp; white.</p>
<p><b>19/4</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Report – Accounts 2018/2019</b></p> <p>The Financial Report was given by Laurence Kirby, due to Chris Robertson being indisposed and not able to attend the meeting. LK stated that he was not expecting to be giving the talk at the AGM and would do his best to explain the numbers for the year ended May 2018, but stressed that he was no longer a Board member, so any questions regarding the current year would have to be picked up by current board members.</p> <p>LK referred to the Statement of Income of the Accounts and the Detailed Statement that had been distributed earlier. The total income for the year was £949,000 which after direct cost of sales had been deducted gave a margin of £859,000. Income details were:-</p> <p>Match day income - £237,000 Season Tickets - £161,000</p>

Central funding and prize money - £34,000  
Transfer fees - £28,000 (Jordan Archer - £20,000 Bury/ James Jones - £8,000 Salford)  
Commercial - £165,000  
Retail - £32,000 – catering and £21,000 – club shop.  
Fundraising, Donations and Lottery - £158,000  
CFU membership £20,000

The biggest outgoing was on staff which was more than 57% of the total. The playing squad amounted to £355,000, down by over £100,000 from the previous year. Match costs were £143,000, which included playing and training kit, stewarding, away travel, players' food, physio and medical services.

Other than the above there was the usual rent, rates, heat and light costs. Stadium and pitch maintenance constitute most of the repairs and maintenance cost. Office costs are the usual printing, stationery, telephone, postage etc.

*Item 19/4 continued*

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The Club budgets to support the Youth section which amounts to £11,000, but the problems that the Club had with Richmond Sport have led to the write off of more than £11,000 of invoiced income for the scholars' programme, which meant that the support from the club was £24,000. The overall Youth budget for the year was £47,000 of which £18,000 was raised from subscriptions and the balance from the scholars' programme and sponsors.

Depreciation was the final main item of £14,0000

Overall there was a loss after tax of £15,000. The Club is very fortunate that it received a non-repayable loan of £20,00 from a sponsor, of which £10,000 is to cover specific expenditure in 2018/19.

On page 5 the Balance sheet shows fixed assets at a net book value of £40,000. There were no significant purchases in the year.

Net Current Assets are now £98,000 reflecting the positive liquidity and cash flow position, in that we are readily able to meet all our liabilities as they become due. Combining these two figures together gives us a members' value in the business of £140,000.

We did not have sufficient reserve in excess of the Special Reserve to meet the loss for the year, so a net £5,000 has been released and reduces the Special Reserve to £90,000.

**Resolved that the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be approved by 12 proxy votes and a majority in the room. These will be submitted**

	<b>to the Financial Conduct Authority.</b>
<b>19/5</b>	<p><b><u>Resolution 4 Arrangements for the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020</u></b></p> <p>DHW put the motion to the members that the Society continues with the arrangement to undertake an independent examination of the accounts in place of a full audit in accordance with rule 89 of the constitution.</p> <p><b>Resolved that an independent examination of the accounts in place of a full audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 in accordance with rule 89 of the constitution be approved by 12 proxy votes and a majority in the room.</b></p>
<b>19/6</b>	<p><b><u>Resolution 5 Re-appoint Hargreaves &amp; Wood as Independent Chartered Accountants</u></b></p> <p>DHW put this motion to members</p> <p><b>Resolved that Hargreaves &amp; Wood be reappointed by 12 proxy votes and a majority in the room</b></p>

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Minutes agreed as a true record of the AGM held on .....

Signed .....

Signed .....