

	City Fans United 2022 AGM Minutes	
	Meeting date:	Thursday 3rd November 2022
	Location:	Blues Bar, Chester Deva Stadium
Attendees:	Chair: Kieron Shiel Directors: Adam Langan Jeff Banks Matt Dickenson In Attendance: Georgina Slawinski James Hargreaves Independent Scrutineer: Phil Young Secretary: Christine Robson 45 CFU members attended in person 60 CFU members registered online through Microsoft Teams and 47 CFU members voted through proxy	
Apologies:	Directors: Jim Green Nick Phillipson Ian Swettenham Members: Richard Lynes John and Jane Rutter Mark and Anne Salmon	
MINUTES		
22/1	<u>Resolution 1 – Adoption of the minutes of the AGM held in 2021</u> Minutes from the previous AGM held on Thursday 4 th November 2021 had been distributed to members with the AGM papers. There were no matters arising. Resolved that 46 proxy votes and the majority in the room approved the minutes, with 1 proxy vote abstention.	
22/2	Chair’s Report Kieron Shiel presented a report based on the year 1 st June 2021 to 31 st May 2022. Before Kieron commenced, he thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for those joining through Microsoft Teams. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 22/2 continued</i></p>	

Item 22/2 continued

Due to Andrew Morris resigning from the Chair and as a Director in February, Kieron had been nominated and subsequently appointed as Chair on 7th February 2022. In April, the Board co-opted Kate Mylchreest.

The Board agreed Key Principles to measure themselves against, to track and improve. These were **Respect, Integrity, Visionary, Passion, Fans First, Belief, and Reliability.**

In May, the Board recruited a much-needed commercially focussed General Manager in Georgina Slawinski. The year has been encapsulated in the following.

FOOTBALL

Team performance

Encouraging pre-season with a five-day training camp in Bangor and several new signings alongside key retentions. Underwhelming start to the season and it became evident early on there were issues with the balance and makeup of the squad.

The Board were committed to support managers and sought to work with them to address these issues, however results in league and cup remained disappointing

The Club parted company with Anthony Johnson and Bernard Morley by mutual consent, which involved a financial settlement, contained within their contracts.

We appointed Steve Watson as Manager until end of the season and oversaw squad changes, which brought some improvement, however performances remained inconsistent. Following amicable discussions, it was agreed Steve would leave the club at the end of his contract, enabling the recruitment process for a new manager to begin earlier.

The recruitment of a new manager commenced, with the appointment of Calum McIntyre, Colin Woodthorpe, and the promotion of Mike Alcock to Academy Head Coach.

Football model

From September 2021 and aligned to the KGV development, the club began a review of its football operations, training model and structure.

Item 22/2 continued

Item 22/2 continued

Significant work was undertaken in exploring the various options, researching how other clubs operate and the financial variances between part-time, hybrid and full-time.

In March 2022, the board considered the review and agreed a change to daytime training for 2022/23, as it was felt this would provide the best opportunity for the club to be successful in an increasingly competitive division.

Planning

The transition between evening to daytime training and the recruitment of a new manager required the board to make some decisions around retention of players to protect the club's interests.

The recruitment process for the new manager was completed swiftly with Calum McIntyre the outstanding candidate in a strong field of applicants.

Work immediately began on further retentions and recruitment of players in line with the new football model, which was an intense task given the timeframe.

ACADEMY/YOUTH

Under 19 team finished a creditable 4th in The National League Alliance. Finished comfortably ahead of Notts County, Stockport County and Chesterfield with a young side containing several first-year scholars.

Under 18 team got through four rounds of the FA Youth Cup and were runners-up in both Cup Competition's in the Northwest Youth Alliance. They won the Northwest Youth Alliance Premier Division.

Former Youth Team Captain, Harrison Burke and Ollie Heywood made their first team League debuts. Ollie signed his first professional contract with the club and Harrison notched his first League goal.

The lower age groups of the Youth section were restructured to provide a higher quality and more challenging environment for players to progress through

Item 22/2 continued

Item 22/2 continued

FAN ENGAGEMENT/MEMBERSHIP

Membership Total – 982

Direct Debit – Increasing volume of members selecting Direct Debit as favoured method of payment.

Lapsed members – 400 lapsed members. Campaign to be set up to encourage re-joins.

Members Discounts – great support from local businesses allowing CFU members discounts on their products although some affected by Covid-19 restrictions still for the first part of the membership period.

Kit Vote

CFU members voted on the kit choice for 2022

Matchday Experience – Following the return to football from Covid, there were restrictions placed around what we could do around the matchday experience.

External kiosks implemented for the Kidderminster match at Easter, were a great success, which improved the atmosphere outside the Stadium.

Online Ticketing Season Tickets– Fans successfully returned to their original seats inside the Deva Stadium following the Covid social distancing measures, and the online platform allocated seats to season ticket holders, meaning easy to renew in future seasons.

Online Ticketing Matchday Tickets – the Box Office development continued and allowed fans to buy selected seats online for home games.

Season Tickets – 1206 sold in total (thank you to the ticket office volunteers for their assistance)

School Season Tickets –300 season tickets generated for schools, with over 75 schools taking part in the initiative.

Cestrian XI Season Tickets also sold at end of 2021, although low take up (10)

Matchday Themes – continuation of themes such as Remembrance, Christmas & Easter Eggs giveaway.

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Item 22/2 continued

FUNDRAISING/VOLUNTEERING

We had yet another successful “Boost the Budget” campaign. The original target of £75k was smashed and then exceeded £85k. Prizes will be sorted in November for this year’s scheme.

We had a profitable Easter raffle that had some great prizes. Seals Lottery has grown significantly and has huge potential. We also had another successful “claim your turf” season.

50/50 on a match day has started slowly increasing in money taken and is an area of potential growth.

We have held multiple volunteer maintenance days over the summer and started a “WhatsApp” group, so we can stay on top of things and keep in touch.

INFRASTRUCTURE

May – Sept ’21 – Collaborated with Vinci Construction (UK) Ltd whereby they occupied and stored the concrete car park pieces for the Grosvenor project being built in the city centre on the hard-core part of our car park. In exchange, we received significant maintenance work on repairing the car park damage and potholes, new front doors to the building and shop, and a cash sum.

August ’21 – created a backlog maintenance schedule for the site (seat repairs, painting, electrics, toilets etc.), which is regularly updated to reflect work done, and new issues as identified.

Sept ’21 – completed with contractors’ support updating most of the emergency lights to LEDs and installing alarms in the disabled toilets.

March ’22 – was successful in September 2021 in gaining a FSIF grant for 70% of the cost of replacing our ageing floodlights with upgraded LED ones and installed in Spring 2022. After a couple of re-visits, the lights are now producing good coverage, increased lux levels and will provide noticeable energy savings for the club.

April ’22 - trialled mobile catering vans outside the East stand (which have been confirmed for season 2022-23).

Item 22/2 continued

	<p><i>Item 22/2 continued</i></p> <p>May '22 - Been through a process of tendering for new kiosk and hospitality providers, which were successfully let in June to GWG Catering (Fanzfood), and Olive Tree Catering respectively.</p> <p>With two other directors, created a Facilities Improvement Programme to sit alongside the backlog list with the aim of securing additional partner/grant funding. This is ongoing.</p> <p>With help from MBNA, carried out a scheme of refurbishment and equipment purchase in the Legends' Lounge to make it more attractive on a matchday and to outside hirers during the week.</p> <p>Secured contractor help to start a programme of external painting of the stand areas of the ground. Additionally, a couple of very successful volunteer days were planned (and held In June'22 and August'22) to clean, paint, repair and generally start to spruce up our ageing stadium! Thanks to all who came. This will continue in 2022-23!</p> <p>Kieron had wanted to pass on his personal thanks to Nick Phillipson who had worked tirelessly to achieve all the above, along with help from others, but Nick was not able to attend the meeting due to having an accident earlier on in the day.</p>
<p>22/3</p>	<p><u>Resolution 2 – Receive the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 28th May 2022. Financial Report – Accounts 2021-2022</u></p> <p>Matt Dickenson delivered a power point presentation of the unaudited financial statements for the year ended May 2022, which had been circulated to all CFU members.</p> <p>The Club had entered the reporting period having not played a competitive fixture for 4 months due to the 2019/20 season being curtailed. We were delighted to be able to welcome supporters back to the Deva Stadium after Covid restrictions were lifted for the 2020/21 season.</p> <p>Financially, this resulted in a change in the sources of income with Match Day income increasing by £283k but a reduction in grant income and CJRS income from the prior year of -£313k. Overall income fell by £54k.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 22/3 continued</i></p>

	<p><i>Item 22/3 continued</i></p> <p>Having made a large surplus in the previous period (£214k) the Board took the decision to reinvest part of these funds and approve a one-off large loss-making budget of -£102k for the following season. This enabled the club to provide a competitive playing budget for the season, although results were ultimately disappointing. The net loss for the year was -£89k.</p> <p>Total expenditure was £251k higher than the prior year with payroll costs +£114k, match day costs +£64k and Overheads +£49k. A tax refund is due for the year of £22k.</p> <p>The club ended the year in a strong financial position with reserves of £251k and plans to use the increases in match day income, additional premier league funding and a drive, in commercial income to address the budget position for 2022/23.</p> <p>Resolved that 46 proxy votes and a majority in the room, plus 1 proxy vote abstention approved the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 28th May 2022. These will be submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority.</p>
<p>22/4</p>	<p><u>Resolution 3 - Arrangements for the financial statements for the year ending 28th May 2023</u></p> <p>Matt Dickenson 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>Resolved that 46 proxy votes and a majority in the room, plus 1 proxy vote rejection approve an independent examination of the accounts in place of a full audit for the year ending 31st May 2023 in accordance with rule 89 of the constitution.</p>
<p>22/5</p>	<p><u>Resolution 4- Re-appoint Hargreaves & Wood as Independent Chartered Accountants</u></p> <p>Matt Dickenson put this motion to members</p> <p>Resolved that Hargreaves & Wood of Cholmondeley House, Dee Hills Park, Chester,</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 22/5 continued</i></p>

	<p>Item 22/5 continued</p> <p>be reappointed as Independent Chartered Accountants, to report for the members on the unaudited accounts of the society for the year ending 28th May 2023 by 46 proxy votes and a majority in the room, plus 1 proxy vote abstention.</p>										
<p>22/6</p>	<p><u>Resolution 5 – Election of Candidates to the Board</u></p> <p>Due to five candidates applying to become a member of the CFU Board and only four vacancies available, an election was held in line with the constitution. Ballot papers were sent out to all current members, to be returned by noon on Tuesday 2nd November 2022 to the Returning Officer (Mr Phil Young based at Bury AFC). 90 ballot papers were received.</p> <p>The results of which were as follows: -</p> <table data-bbox="411 770 743 943"> <tr> <td>Oliver HILL</td> <td>62 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matt DICKENSON</td> <td>74 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martin ROBERTS</td> <td>20 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kieron SHIEL</td> <td>86 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike DAY</td> <td>73 votes</td> </tr> </table> <p>The four successful candidates were Kieron SHIEL, Matt DICKENSON, Mike DAY and Oliver HILL.</p> <p>Resolved: Those four members to be elected to the Board who obtain the highest number of votes in the election ballot, these appointments will be subject to clearance from the Football Association. All 47-proxy votes and the majority in the room approved this.</p>	Oliver HILL	62 votes	Matt DICKENSON	74 votes	Martin ROBERTS	20 votes	Kieron SHIEL	86 votes	Mike DAY	73 votes
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The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Minutes agreed as a true record of the AGM held on

Signed Signed