

	City Fans United	
	2024 AGM Minutes	
	Meeting date:	Thursday 28th November 2024
	Location:	Cestrian Bar, Chester Deva Stadium
Attendees:	<p>Chair: Kieron Shiel</p> <p>Directors: Adrian Rattenbury Neil Berry William Lamb Nick Phillipson Oliver Hill Mike Day Jim Green Steve Jones</p> <p>In Attendance: Albert Davies James Hargreaves</p> <p>Independent Scrutineer: Mark Williams Secretary: Christine Robson</p> <p>52 CFU members attended in person. 42 CFU members registered online and 12 CFU members voted through proxy</p>	
Apologies:	<p>Directors: Mike Vickers Members: Richard Lynes</p>	
	MINUTES	
24/1	<p><u>Resolution 1 – Adoption of the minutes of the AGM held in 2024.</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the AGM 2023 were distributed to members with the AGM papers. There were no matters arising. Resolved that 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room approved the minutes.</p>	
24/2	<p><u>Resolution 2(i), 2(ii) and 2(iii) – Affirmative vote that Neil Berry, Nick Phillipson and Adrian Rattenbury be elected to the board.</u></p> <p>Christine Robson thanked Mark Williams from Wrexham Supporters Trust (Chair and Independent Scrutineer), Chris Robertson and Richard Lynes for the work they had undertaken as members of the Election Management Group to ensure that the process had complied with the Election Policy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 24/2 continued</i></p>	

	<p><i>Item 24/2 continued</i></p> <p>Christine Robson also thanked Mike Day for the preparation of the AGM mail shots. Members were reminded that if they had already used a proxy vote, that they could not vote again. For election 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 results were as follows: Neil Berry be elected and received 100% support of the 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room. Nick Phillipson be re-elected and received 100% support of the 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room. Adrian Rattenbury be elected and received 100% of the 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room.</p> <p>Resolved that Neil Berry, Nick Phillipson and Adrian Rattenbury be elected to the Board.</p>
	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Kieron Shiel thanked the three members who were stepping down, (Charlotte Walker, Matt Dickenson and Jeff Banks). Kieron especially wanted to thank Jeff who had worked tirelessly for the club even though he was under great pressure due to personal circumstances.</p> <p>Georgina Slawinski had left the club as General Manager and we have since successfully appointed Albert Davies as Full-time General Manager following his successful secondment to the role.</p> <p>We had recruited a Commercial Manager (Darren Court), who then left the club to move nearer to where he lived.</p> <p>Our values remain unchanged – Respect, Integrity, Visionary, Passion, Fans First, Belief, Reliability.</p> <p>Tickets and Membership</p> <p>We had a full tender process in February 2024, which was narrowed down to seven viable ticketing service providers. Fanbase scored high in all areas including current functionality, cost to the club, future proofing and technical support. Recommendation was made to the Board April 2024.</p> <p>Season Tickets and membership successfully integrated into new platform. WE have almost 20,000 sales now completed through Fanbase “box office” and an overall value of circa £500,000.</p> <p>Our current membership is 1,120 (773 via Fanbase). We have a new tier system for payment:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair's Report continued</i></p>

	<p><i>Chair's Report continued</i></p> <p>£2 per month £3 per month £1 per week</p> <p>Season Tickets – 1,515, an increase of 100 from 2023. School Season Tickets – 236, over 50 schools have signed up again.</p> <p>Football (report by Jim Green)</p> <p>The First Team performance has been excellent and thanked everybody for all their efforts. Went on to explain that professionalization is the basis to create a professional team within the limits of what we currently have. We are strengthening our coaching team, have taken on a new goal coach. We are fortunate to have the King George Building at our level of football. All our “Away” matches were preceded with an overnight stay, which gave the team a chance to relax and play better on the field.</p> <p>The Club came 10th in the National League North (six points outside play-offs). We lost to York City in the First Round Proper of the FA Cup. We exited on penalties to Nantwich Town in the second round of the FA Trophy. The impact of the Brackley Town play-off match, had consequences for the club, regarding stewarding policing and stakeholder relations. SAG wanted a 50% reduction in fans at games. We had presented an “action” plan to them. The Safety Officer role was enhanced. This came with a cost. We had to increase steward numbers. Had to rely on agency stewards. More stewards were recruited. The cost of policing the fixtures had also cost us financially. The Club also had to use protection dogs against pyrotechnics/drugs. Could not use “pay at stile” and had to remove alcohol from the kiosks, which has caused issues. We have had to implement new policies and procedures throughout the club. We are still under restrictions. Now reduction is 20%.</p> <p>Scholars/Youths (read by Jim Green as Mike Vickers not present)</p> <p>In the FA Youth Cup, the Club was given exemptions from the early rounds, and after beating Chorley and Altrincham, we exited the competition away at AFC Fylde.</p> <p>In the National League Alliance U19 competition, the Scholars finished a creditable fifth place.</p> <p><i>Chair's Report continued</i></p>
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	<p><i>Chair's Report continued</i></p> <p>In the North West Youth Alliance, a rather disappointing Premier League campaign for the U18's was counter-balanced, by winning the Open Cup, by defeating Curzon Ashton.</p> <p>The Colts finished as runners' up in the Development League and defeated Altrincham in the Development Cup Final.</p> <p>Academy/ Volunteering (report by Steve Jones)</p> <p>Changes have been made to the junior section, with qualified and experienced lead coaches appointed to each group. Challenge has now been set to improve standards and create a clear pathway to the first team.</p> <p>Changes have been made to the pitches we use and we have identified the KGV as our home.</p> <p>Academy finances have been reassessed and we are grateful for the assistance of Alan Parry Jones. The aim is to reduce the financial burden carried by the club. Thanks also go to our sponsors:</p> <p>Peter Jones (Exile Supporter), West Wallasey Vehicle Hire, Enrich Financial Services.</p> <p>Very grateful to the continuing support of the volunteers, who without them, we would not be able to function. Mike Alcock had been amazing and wished to thank him for all his work.</p> <p>Continually identifying areas needing support and appointing as available. Improvements have been made from the funds we have raised with "the bricks on the wall". Decorating undertaken, purchased coffee machine and fridge for volunteers use. Window artwork done in Legends Lounge and mural painted in the "Harry Mac".</p> <p>Cleaners, Fundraisers, Maintenance team and Ticket Office team volunteers and match day support are an ongoing requirement.</p> <p>Fundraising (report by Oliver Hill)</p> <p>Boost the Budget very successful again. Huge thanks to everyone. The target was £100,000, but achieved £116,000. We had introduced BTB Raffle for the first time.</p> <p>"Claim Your Turf" was sold out.</p> <p>There was an increase in average 50/50 prize.</p> <p><i>Chair's Report continued</i></p>
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	<p><i>Chair's Report continued</i></p> <p>Seals Lottery – we have very consistent numbers. A question was asked about whether “Boost the Budget” was on a pledge basis. The answer was “yes”. Consideration was given to putting 50/50 online, but we would need someone to do it.</p> <p>Infrastructure (report by Nick Phillipson)</p> <p>Backlog maintenance repairs and additions are ongoing. This includes 80 plus seats repaired, 25 plus toilets repaired, 30 plus lights changed over to LED and ongoing pothole work. Facilities Improvement Programme has been successful with a £23,000 Climate Grant Fund. Installation of 226 handrails, which has improved spectator safety. Cestrian Bar – refurb done in August 23 (CCTV, new TV's, cellar upgrade to allow greater drinks range.) Matchday Hospitality – (Olive Tree) continues to be very popular. Waste & Recycling system – introduced in August 23, produced 32% recycling in the first year. Continuing work on Fan Zone with Oliver Hill, (designs, costs, SAG issues, licence etc.)</p>
24/3	<p><u>Resolution 3 – Receive the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 28th May 2024. Financial Report – Accounts 2023-2024</u></p> <p>Neil Berry delivered a power point presentation of the unaudited financial statements for the year ended May 2024, which had been circulated to all CFU members.</p> <p>The Club had entered 2023/24 with a high degree of optimism following a largely successful previous season, albeit one that had ultimately ended with defeat in the play-offs. High engagement levels drove season ticket sales and a successful Boost the Budget campaign. A new kit launch drove club sales and a number of new sponsorship deals were arranged. The majority of the playing squad were retained, bolstered by a number of additions, intending to go one-step further and achieve promotion.</p> <p>Despite a successful run to the first round proper of the FA Cup, performances were inconsistent and the club finished in mid-table outside the play-offs. The Club also had to manage the consequences of the crowd disorder, which occurred after the play-off defeat to Brackley Town. These comprised restrictions on ticket sales, additional stewarding and policing costs and a Football Association charge. We also had to withdraw alcohol from the kiosks. All of this adversely affected the financial position of the club.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Item 24/3 continued</i></p>

	<p><i>Item 24/3 continued</i></p> <p>A question from the floor - regarding why the full accounts could not be given to all members before the AGM, in order that questions can be asked. Members cannot be expected to approve a financial statement if they have not seen it beforehand. Neil stated that this would be remedied for the AGM 2025.</p> <p>Resolved that 12 proxy votes and a majority in the room approved the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 28th May 2024. These will be submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority.</p>
24/4	<p><u>Resolution 4- Arrangements for financial statements for the year ending 28th May 2025</u></p> <p>Neil Berry 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 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room approve an independent examination of the accounts in place of a full audit for the year ending 28th May 2025 in accordance with rule 89 of the constitution.</p>
24/5	<p><u>Resolution 5 – Re-appoint Hargreaves & Wood as Independent Chartered Accountants</u></p> <p>Neil Berry put this motion to members.</p> <p>Resolved that Hargreaves & Wood of Cholmondeley House, Dee Hills Park, Chester be re-appointed, as Independent Chartered Accountants, to report for the members on the unaudited accounts of the society for the year ending 28th May 2025 by 12 proxy votes and the majority in the room.</p>

KS asked if anyone had questions.

(Q) At a number of games, visiting supporters (West Stand) are not being supervised by the stewards and causing problems, by not sitting down.

(A) It is very hard to make supporters sit throughout a match and the stewards try to do their best.

(Q) Welsh side of the border seems to be losing many fans.

(A) Unfortunately, we cannot do anything about that.

(Q) Concern was given, regarding not seeing many 20-30 year olds attending matches and coming to the club.

(A) There is a good number of younger people in the Harry Mac, but the club does need to do more work to encourage younger people to attend.

Congratulations were expressed, for the handrails in the stadium, but why did they not go completely down to the ground, in the West Stand).

Minutes agreed as a true record of the AGM held on

Signed Signed