

Meeting	Billericay Town Supporters Society Ltd Annual General Meeting		
Date/Time	21st February 2019 7.30pm	Recorder	Chrissy Street
Location	Billericay Town Football Club	Attendees	42 Members 3 Guests (2 x Leyton Orient Fans Trust & Dan Groves BTFC Chair)

1. Apologies for absence

Keith Riley / Margaret Wittich

2. Chairman Report - James Blower (JB)

JB opened with a review of past 12 months and update on actions taken on key issues

Four key areas raised at 2018 AGM by members

- 1) Communications with the Club
 - Continues to be an area of frustration and a priority for improvement.
 - Issues raised about the lack of communication from the Club on key issues. E.g. potential takeover, player/managerial departures, budget changes etc.
 - Promised joint fans forums have not materialised. Hope that the forum on 8 March will take place and that BTSS will be engaged on the next one.
 - Urged the club to improve their communication.

- 2) Away travel
 - Thanked Caroline and Ryan Connell (CC, RC) on their phenomenal work in arranging coach travel to almost every away game.
 - Thanked a Nick Morgan of Morgan Signs for sponsoring a number of these trips.

- 3) Promotion of the Club locally
 - Significant 400% increase in attendance at games.
 - Significant work in the local community by BTSS and the Club to promote the Club.
 - BTSS has taken stands at Summerfest and the Christmas Market to engage the local community with the Club.
 - Strong social media presence to promote events and fixtures.
 - Notice Board in place - thanks to Chris Jennings & his friends for funding

- 4) Family Season Tickets
 - Excellent value for money season tickets offered by Club. JB thanked BTFC for listening to member feedback and delivering this. Also commended Club for their continued work with local schools and youth football clubs.

Additional activities to report in addition, the Board delivered the following significant pieces of work

- Registering the ground as an "Asset of Community Value" - thank you to Rob Street (RS) for his tenacity in achieving this.
- Player of the Month and Player of the Season trophies introduced.
- BTSS website established - thanks to Paul Alexander of Billericay Web Services for providing this to the Society free of charge
- Memorial Wall will be in place shortly. Thanks to Izzy Unite (IU) and Paul Jennings (PJ) for their efforts in arranging this. Thanks also to Mayflower Rotary for their generous donation of £420 following a charity raffle that helped fund this.
- Match day presence - a member of the BTSS Board is available at every home game to enable fans to speak to us about any issues.
- BTSS have representation on the new National Council of the merged Supporters Direct/Football Supporters Federation in the form of Rob Street.

The report finished with a thank you to all Board members for their hard work this year. JB commented that they really are a credit to BTSS and that the Society is fortunate to have them working on our behalf

3. Treasurer Report - Jon Walsh (JW)

- Financial statements and FCA return completed to a year end of 31 May 2018.
- Current balance: £816.
- Upcoming costs of £443 for the memorial wall to be deducted.
- Balance of £373, which is adequate.
- A £200 buffer should be maintained to cover regulatory costs.

4. Membership Report - Karen Lewis (KL)

- 97 current members; however with 7 people joining on the night total stands at 104.
- A number of members still to renew.
- Membership cards introduced following feedback.
- Asked membership for feedback on appetite for a standing order and online payment facilities for future membership renewals.

5. Election of Officers - Rob Street (RS)

Board changes:

- Standing down and not seeking re-election as Treasurer - Jon Walsh.
- Standing down and seeking re-election as Chair - James Blower.
- Seeking election as Treasurer - Chrissy Street.
- Seeking election as Board Member - Aaron Hayhoe (AH).

RS explained process and that as this was an uncontested election this would require a show of hands to affirm the elections. JB, CS and AH affirmed by overwhelming majority.

6. Open Forum - Q&A

- What are the Society's objectives for the year?
 - Continue to build on the good work done so far.
 - Potentially conduct another fans survey towards the end of the season.
 - Improve communications with Club.
 - Draft memorandum of understanding between BTSS and the Club to help facilitate and formalise communication.
 - Additional objectives to be decided based on further feedback from the membership.
- Why are we only hearing about the memorial wall tonight?
 - The memorial wall was covered in issue 2 of the Newsletter which was sent by email to all members and handed out in the Club.
 - There are 10 names for the memorial wall so far and this will be situated by the turnstiles.
- How can the membership donate funds towards initiatives such as the memorial wall in future? Suggestion to have some sort of donation option on the BTSS website.
 - The Board agreed to take away the action to look into this.
- What fundraising events are planned for the year? Will there be another quiz night?
 - Events to bring the membership together are being planned. Feedback from the membership as to what events to hold are very welcome.
- Would the Board consider having a standard renewal date for membership?
 - The Board agreed to take this away as an action to discuss.
- One member suggested that a better description on the website of what the benefits of membership are would be useful.
 - The Board agreed to take this away as an action to discuss.

AOB

- The Board has resurrected the Len Dewson Trophy which was last presented to Keith Riley in 2017. On the night the Trophy was awarded to the very deserving Caroline Connell in recognition of her work behind the scenes and immense efforts in getting you to away games. Congratulations Caroline!

AGM CLOSED

Q&A with Dan Groves (DG)

- Supporters Society
 - DG had Initial concerns about the motives of the Supporters Society but now supportive. They are willing to meet and work with the society
- New Board / Takeover / Investment
 - Talks have been ongoing but nothing firm. The club is not up for sale. Glenn Tamplin is staying.
 - Current directors of the club are Glenn Tamplin, Ian Ansell and Dan Groves
- Player Departures
 - These were made with the aim of making the club sustainable
- Communication
 - JB stated communication of changes at BTFC had not been handled in the most efficient manner and this leads to supporters worrying about the future of the club
 - DG said sometime the club is “damned if they do or damned if they don’t” on a lot of communication but accepted that this needs to improve and consider how such communications may be perceived by supporters
- Training Pitch
 - Planning permission received for a 9 a side 3G practice pitch
 - This is unlikely to happen in the near future due to costs and if promotion is achieved required expansion of the stand that adjoins this land
- Youth Pathway to First Team
 - It is acknowledged that after the age of 16 there is currently no clear pathway to senior football at BTFC. Discussions are ongoing to address this issue with age group teams being introduced to fill the gap from U16 to U23 with this years U16s moving up to U17
- Stewarding & Safety
 - Club attends meeting with Safety Action Group (SAG)
 - DG willing to ask SAG if BTSS involvement in these meetings. on behalf of fans, is possible
 - Concerns raised regarding communication between stewards. DG will raise this as a training issue with club safety officer
 - Kim Coster (KC) to ensure gate between food outlet and stand at Blunts Wall Road end is opened after games to ease congestion
 - DG and KC to investigate funding for an accessible defibrillator as current one is situated in club medical room
 - It was discussed and agreed that assigning Blunts Wall Road end terrace of the ground to away fans during segregated matches is preferable to splitting the terrace between home and away fans

- Ground Lease
 - RS asked if any progress had been made with the ground lease which expires on 1st May 2020.
 - DG confirmed no further progress had been made but there is no reason to believe this would be a problem and Basildon Council would need to offer facilities of at least equal standard if a move were required
 - RS stated New Lodge is not within the Local Plan and agreed Basildon Council has no intention of changing the use of the land at New Lodge. He also offered the assistance of the Society to the Club in attaining security of tenure
- Memorandum Of Understanding
 - RS asked if the club would be willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would formalise dialogue between the Club and Society
 - DG agreed that the club would be willing to sign such an agreement
- Colts
 - A member asked if more could be made of the involvement of the colts teams and why photos of those teams had been removed from the clubhouse
 - KC stated she is in constant contact with the colts sections
 - DG stated the photos that were in place were out of date and despite persistent attempts to renew them with the relevant colts teams no up to date photos had been received. If new team photos were received they would be installed
 - DG/KC stated that the colts teams would not be able to play matches on the main pitch due maintenance schedules at the end of the season
- 12th Man Scheme
 - DG asked supporters to consider the possibility of a 12th man scheme to help fund player acquisition
- New Kit
 - DG offered supporters the choice of 2 possible kits for next season and provided their designs. Puma v Macron as suppliers. Puma won the vote

Meeting closed.