



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

DATE: FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2020
TIME: 6.30pm to 8.25pm
LOCATION: Online via Zoom

Present: A quorum of members and members of the board of the Football Supporters' Association

Chair: Malcolm Clarke (MC)

Vice Chair: Tom Greatrex (TG)

Officers in Attendance: Kevin Miles (KM) – Chief Executive Officer
Richard Irving (RI) – Secretary

Malcolm Clarke welcomed the members present and thanked them for their attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from FSA National Council members Chris Paouros, Steven Powell and Geoff Bielby and members Stuart Earl (London Wolves), Nick Hawker (Exeter City FC) and Chris Tymkow (Clapton CFC).

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, MC informed the meeting of several items:

Awards

It is intended that the Richard Lilicrap and Jacqui Forster awards will be held over until next year.

New member

MC then introduced the FSA's first England and Wales based overseas supporters' club - Asociatia Steaua 1947 for UK based fans of Steaua Bucharest and Mihai Dinca who is representing them at the AGM.

Thanks

MC then extended his thanks to a number of individuals who are stepping down from roles at this AGM. Firstly, he thanked Fiona McGee, who stepped down from the Board and Council in August, for her long service to both the FSF and the FSA.



MC also extended thanks to the Council members who stepped down at this AGM: Geoff Bielby, Dave Kelly, Steven Powell, Teddy Bellamy, Manny Dominguez and Simon Cope. [Post meeting note: Rick Duniec was inadvertently omitted from the list presented to the meeting].

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 29th June 2019

A copy of the minutes from the above meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and these were adopted as an accurate record

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Board Report on FSA activities since the last AGM

The meeting received and adopted the Annual Review as a record of the organisation's work since the June 2019 AGM. There were no questions.

4. Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ending December 31st 2019

The meeting received the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2019. Dave Rose (DR), the FSA's Deputy CEO, then gave a further explanation about the financial status of the organisation, thanking both Tim Hillyer and Nina Bond for their assistance in producing the report and statements and informing the meeting that the organisation was in a very strong financial position.

In response to a question from Neil Le Milliere, DR informed the meeting that money received for Fan Embassies is only claimed when it is actually spent.

DR also informed the meeting that the organisation had invested extensively in IT during 2019.

In response to a question from Michael Green about the sustainability of the FSA's income, DR informed the meeting that the organisation was increasing funding from other sources in a similar fashion to previous agreements with Virgin Money and, now GambleAware in order not to be too dependent on one source of funding.



The Annual Report and Financial Statements were adopted by an overwhelming majority of those attending with one vote against and two abstentions.

5. Auditors

The meeting agreed unanimously to the re-appointment of TTR Barnes Ltd. as the FSA Auditors to report on the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020.

6. Resolution - Name Change

The meeting was asked to approve the change of name for the organisation from The Unified Football Supporters' Organisation Limited to The Football Supporters' Association Limited and to make the relevant amendment with Companies House.

On a show of hands, the resolution was passed unanimously.

7. Special Resolution – Constitutional amendments

The meeting was asked to approve the amendments to the Articles as per the documents provided in the AGM pack circulated in advance of the Annual General Meeting. The proposal was made by Roger Ellis on behalf of the FSA Board and seconded by Dave Pennington, also of the FSA Board.

An amendment to the election policies in clauses 13.4 and 14.1.1. was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Neil Le Milliere. This was accepted by the proposer and therefore became part of the substantive resolution.

Pam Wilkins, on behalf of the Southern Region Division asked if they could now become an associate member of the organisation and it was confirmed that they could.

On a show of hands, the majority of 75% required for a special resolution was reached and the resolution as amended, was therefore passed. The approved Articles as amended are attached as Appendix 1.



8. Special Resolution – Women’s Game Network

The meeting was asked to approve the creation of a new network covering the women’s game.

On a show of hands, the resolution was passed unanimously.

9. Motions

Motion 1 – Sustain the Game

The AGM reaffirms its support for the detailed reform proposals approved at the last AGM, and the principles of our "Sustain the Game" campaign, but believes that we must now go further, looking at both short term issues to address the impact of COVID along with a more holistic review of football governance.

To that end the AGM believes:

(i) that our clubs must be protected and to enable this there must be a fundamental reform of football governance and the creation of a regulator with wide-ranging responsibilities and powers which is fully independent of clubs.

(ii) that broadcasting revenues should be shared fairly in a way which both strengthens the pyramid and allows for fair competition, allowing promotion and relegation opportunities for all clubs throughout the pyramid.

(iii) that there should be tougher financial controls, to include regular monitoring and appropriate sanctions

(iv) that transparency must apply throughout the game, including, but not restricted to, ownership and financial reporting and sanctioning.

(v) that supporters must be considered as key stakeholders both nationally and locally and involved in both operational and strategic decision making at all levels of the game.

(vi) that the Government's promised "fan led review" should be wide-ranging and established very early in 2021.



Proposed by the Tom Greatrex on behalf of the FSA Board

Seconded by Roger Ellis on behalf of the FSA Board

After a contribution in favour of the motion from Michel Thomas (Torquay United ST), who passed on his thanks to the FSA Board and staff, the motion was put to the vote.

On a show of hands, the motion was passed with one vote against and one abstention.

Motion 2 – VAR (1)

The AGM notes a range of concerns about the operation of VAR at Premier League and cup games in English Football, particularly the negative effect on the experience of supporters present at the games.

It therefore resolves to establish a working group with terms of reference to identify specific actions and changes to improve the experience of match-going supporters in this regard, following consultation, through the Premier League network group, with FSA affiliates, associates and individual members. The target date to deliver this action plan is no later than Easter 2021.

Proposed by Neil Dady on behalf of Wolverhampton Wanderers Fans Parliament

Seconded by Tony Scholes of Burnley FC Supporters Groups

After a short debate, on a show of hands, the motion was passed nem con with two abstentions.

Motion 3 – VAR (2)

An opening up of regular two-way communication for the FSA with the Professional Game Match Officials Board (PGMOL) in terms of VAR application and in-stadia communication to match-going football supporters.

This will provide a chance - on, ideally a monthly basis - to ask for and receive feedback from PGMOL, unfiltered by the media, to help clarify and address specific fan concerns and point to best practice.

Proposed by David Michael - My Old Man Said (Aston Villa)

Seconded by Ricky Cheema of Punjabi Villans

MC informed the meeting that Mike Riley and Adam Gale-Watts of PGMOL had attended a meeting of the National Council and had agreed to attend future FSA



meetings if required. MC offered to facilitate such a meeting with the PL network which was welcomed by the proposer.

On a show of hands, the motion was passed with one against and four abstentions.

10. Election of Vice Chair

RI informed the meeting that nominations had been sought for the position of Vice Chair of the organisation and that Tom Greatrex, the present incumbent, had been the only nomination received.

RI asked the meeting to affirm the appointment of Tom Greatrex until AGM 2023. On a show of hands, this was passed with one against and one abstention.

11. Any Other Business

Emily Fawcus asked progress on the motion passed at the 2019 AGM on environmental impact. MC apologised for its absence from the AGM agenda and assured the questioner that it will be discussed at the next FSA Council meeting. James Chisem from Football Supporters Europe informed the meeting that his organisation had set up an environmental working group and that members were welcome to contact him for further details.

12. Affiliate, Associate and Individual Tier National Council Election Results

The Retiring Officer announced the following results:

Associate Membership Tier

Thomas Concannon	Wor Hyem 1892 (Newcastle United)	8 votes
David Michael	My Old Man Said (Aston Villa)	7 votes
Glenn Aston	Wolves Fans Parliament	4 votes

Therefore, **Thomas Concannon** was elected to serve on behalf of the Associate Member Tier on the FSA National Council until the AGM in 2022.

Individual Membership Tier

Christine Seddon	89 Votes
Sarah Stelling	65 Votes



Malcolm Hirst	51 votes
Martin O'Hara	47 votes
Nilesh Chauhan	47 votes
Thomas Concannon	40 votes
Robert Whittaker	28 votes
Glenn Aston	28 votes
Gerry Pimm	25 votes
Michael Green	19 votes
Glen Murray	18 votes
Ian Bridge	17 votes

Therefore, **Christine Seddon, Sarah Stelling and Malcolm Hirst** were elected to serve on behalf of the Individual Member Tier until AGM 2022.

Since there was a tie for fourth place, lots were drawn and **Martin O'Hara** was elected to serve until AGM 2021.

In elections held in the weeks before the AGM, the following were appointed to serve until AGM 2022:

Steve Moulds	Foxes Trust (Leicester City)	PL Representative
Roger Titford	STAR (Reading)	Championship Representative
Paul Corkrey	Cardiff City SC	Championship Representative
Peter Leatham	Accrington Stanley ST	L1 / L2 Representative
Richard Tomkins	Hereford FC	National Game Representative
Simon Cope	Scarborough Athletic	National Game Representative
Nick Duckett	FC United of Manchester	Community Owned Clubs Rep
Rodney Cyrus	Love Football Hate Racism	Fans For Diversity Representative
Shin Aujla	Apna Albion	Fans For Diversity Representative

The following were elected to serve until AGM 2021:

Roger Ellis	Sky Blue Trust (Coventry C)	Championship Representative
James Young	Robins Trust (Cheltenham)	L1 / L2 Representative

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Richard Irving
Secretary
18th December 2020

FSA.