

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

c/o 10 Golden Square
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland
TD15 1BG

Telephone: 01289 333100
E-mail: trust@berwickrangers.co.uk
Website: www.berwicktrust.co.uk



MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

Date: 06/12/08

Time: 12:00

Place The Pilot Inn, Berwick upon Tweed

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Rowett, Michael Smyth, Ian Patterson, Alan, Phoebe and Edward Dunsire, Arthur Skingley, Ian Scobie, Chris Sanderson, David Blackburn, Duncan Plummer, Sir Alan Beith and David Buckle.

Chairman John Bell welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Steven Scott for hosting it and providing lunch.

He introduced the speakers; Brian Porteous (Acting Chairman, Berwick Ranger Football Club) James Proctor (Supporters Direct) and Eric Tait (longest serving player/past manager)

2. GUEST SPEAKERS

(i) Brian Porteous – Acting Chairman, Berwick Rangers Football Club

- New Board will have 7 members.
- Board makeup will now be as per constitution!
- Guarantors being put in place, and takeover should go through shortly.
- Hope to have manager in place before the January transfer window.
- Team undergoing more training to increase fitness levels.
- Atmosphere behind the scenes has changed and can see more enthusiasm.
- Working to get Youth Teams more involved, and hope to see 1 or 2 local players on the Team.
- Reminded everyone that there is no magic wand and everyone would have to work together to build the Team/Club.
- Keen for people to talk to him and come forward if they have any questions.

(ii) Eric Tait – Past Player/ Manager

- Delighted to be asked to speak to the Trust, which he has kept in touch with over the years.
- 18 years with the club was best part of his football life.
- Spoke about past player and management and told those present how he came about playing for Berwick.
- Pleased to see the way things are going and that people were getting together to work for the Club.
- Wished those involved all the best.

(iii) James Proctor – Development Manager, Supporters Direct

- Explained that the Trust is about to step into something new.
- Success of Manager is down to how Club is set up.
- Of course, even if all 42 Scottish Clubs are functioning well there are always winners and losers.
- Clubs need a level of support from local community
- 8 – 10 Clubs in the country solely owned by supporters.
- First Team is important, but youth and women's sides have to be supported.
- Doors should always be open to talk to fans.
- Financial circumstances changing after 10 or 20 years of stability.
- Clubs falling back on their support base and community but have to in turn give something back.
- Financial pressures will bring change in league.
- Groups like ourselves can influence change.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

John's report was presented in the annual accounts, but what struck him was how much things can change in a short time. Since submitting his report to the auditors, when he stated that the Trust has no seats on the board, the position has completely changed with the Trust having representation by entitlement not invitation.

He said that the work of the Trust over the last five years has brought significant dividends, and more now by a number of parties on equal terms. He thanked the huge amount of people who give freely of their time.

He mentioned the hard work that had gone into the production of the Trust book, which he described as a fabulous piece of work, chronicling two seasons in the 125 year history of the Club. He also thanked Gordon Dickson for producing the calendar.

He thanked James Proctor and Elaine Miller of Supporters Direct for their help and guidance, and to those Trust members that have been involved with SD. He then thanked Bill Purvis for his work on membership, reminding those present that the Trust cracked the 200 mark last year, even when gates are low at matches. Lastly, he thanked Paul Smith and Colin Pike for keeping people in touch with what the Trust does.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Last season was quiet, however subscriptions were up. The final figure of £4,506 was due to the book, our main burden and effort for the year. There is still significant stock of this to turn into cash.

A contribution of £5,000 is lodged with a solicitor as the Trust contribution to the takeover.

Once the takeover is complete the Trust will step up its efforts and organise a programme of events.

Bill Parkin said that the Supporters Club was looking forward to joint ventures and pulling together to bring in decent money.

5. SECRETARIES REPORT

Since the last Annual General Meeting the Trust Board has met 8 times.

Secretary, Karen Thorburn confirmed that the Trust Board has conducted its meetings, election arrangements and Annual Meeting Arrangements in accordance with the model rules of the Trust Constitution.

She also confirmed that she wished to remain Trust Secretary should it be the will of the Board Committee.

6. RESOLUTION (i)

The membership approved a resolution enabling the Society Board to instruct an independent examination of future Annual Accounts, in place of a full audit, this possible because the turnover is less than £25,000. This resolution to take effect from 1st June 2009.

Proposed by John Bell, seconded by David Cook.

7. RESOLUTION (ii)

The membership approved a resolution to instruct an Independent Examination for the current financial year ending May 31st 2009.

Proposed by John Bell, seconded by David Cook.

8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT

At the last AGM in March, a membership figure of 204 was reported.

A downturn in number was expected after a dismal 2007/2008 season, and hit had indeed dropped slightly by the end of the financial year (31st May) to 201.

Annual reminders were sent out and 11 failed to renew their membership.

Overall since the last AGM the Trust lost 19 members.

Since then we have had 19 new full members, 2 Corporate and 5 Junior members making the total membership at December 2008 stand at 212.

With our involvement in the proposed takeover of the Club it is to be hoped that new members will be attracted and some of those who have let their membership lapse will be persuaded to come back to the fold.

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Gordon Dickson proposed the appointment of Grieves, West and Ayre as independent examiners, seconded by Colin Pike.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOCIETY BOARD

Eric Deighton was co-opted onto the Board to March 2010.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

A joint press release is to be issued informing of the progress with the Club takeover.

12. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

There followed an informal question and answer session.

Karen Thorburn
Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust