

# BFCSA AGM Minutes 2007

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July

19:30

Underhill Stadium, Barnet

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**Meeting called by:** Keith Doe

**Type of meeting:** Annual General Meeting

**Note taker:** Peter Williamson

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## *Minutes*

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Welcome and Introduction was presented by Peter Williamson, and included an apology for absence of Chairman Keith Doe due to personal matters.

### **1) Chairman for the Meeting.**

Proposed: Alex Jones

Proposed by: Peter Williamson

Seconded: Daren West

Carried by all.

Alex Jones announced that BFCSA President Eric Herbert was absent from the meeting due to ill health.

Further to this the SA committee was pleased to announce that it had invited two BFCSA members to become Life presidents, Valerie Finch and Ken Springett, who the committee were pleased to confirm had accepted the offer and take up positions as Life Presidents.

### **2) Read Notice convening the AGM**

Alex Jones open the meeting.

### **3) Apologies for Absence**

Keith Doe (Chairman), Oliver Deed (Committee member), Michael Wiffen, Graham Cranfield, Margaret Cranfield, Stephen Cranfield, Mark Cripps, Sue Cripps. Phil Brown.

### **4) Read and Adopt minutes of 2006 AGM.**

It had been made known of an error in the spelling of Brian of Mr Brian Phipps.

No other errors were noted

Adoption;

Proposed: John Adkins

Seconded: Mark Ashfield

Carried by all.

### **5) Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

## 6) Chairman's Address.

In light of Keith's absence from the meeting, the address was read by Peter Williamson.

Good evening ladies and gentleman,

First of all I would like to apologise for my absence this evening, due to a unforeseen family commitment I am unable to be with you for tonight's AGM. I would like to thank Pete for reading my Chairman's address to you all.

Now with all the early formalities out of the way it my chance to comment on the season we have just had both on and off the pitch.

In my opinion the BFCSA has come on leaps and bounds in the last year. Creating a closer working relationship between the Football Club and the Association has been one of the many highlights from a season where I believe both parties have learnt a lot.

We started last season by launching the New Associate Membership, this provided members of the association a number of promotions through out the season, the idea being the scheme was to give supporters something back on a regular basis. The special offers and price draws were well received and not only enhanced the work that the Association was doing but also promoted different areas of the Football Club.

The scheme was unexpectedly difficult to administer and therefore we have had to completely revamp this years membership. Pete will be detailing the changes for this year and I hope you will again see the benefit in being a member of the BFCSA.

We held a number of events throughout the year of which all of them were really well attended. From the quizzes and race night to the Player of the Year Dinner and Disco, all events were produced in a very professional manner and I am confident that this years events will be even better.

This years Player of the Year Dinner and Dance will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May (check date) and we hope to completely sell the seats for the dinner.

Congratulations obvious goes to Simon King and the rest of the winners for their awards. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Simon King and the rest of the players that have moved on to new clubs for their hard work and dedication shown to Barnet FC.

Lets face it, every year we remain a football league club the more and more we are over achieving, what Paul Fairclough has achieved on such a understandably tight budget is almost miraculous. Year after year bigger clubs are falling by the weigh side and we are still standing tall. I know Paul has received a lot of criticism this year and in my opinion it is completely unjust.

My personal highlight of the season was reaching the forth round of the FA cup for the first time, I'm not sure if describing it as a dream come true is a little bit strong but it certainly isn't far off the mark. I was also a momentous year for supporters off the pitch, the real Barnet community spirit was there for everyone to see as one of our very own fought for his life in hospital. The stories and tails of Donny Gaz's battle back to Underhill is well versed and so it should be, but one of the main things that drove him on was his love for this football club and the love and affection he received from hundreds of Barnet fans during his darkest hours.

Gaz's stories symbolises this club for me, against all odds fighting through and achieving the impossible. Defying what so called experts predict and come out stronger the other end.

As a club our biggest battle still continues, having a suitable and financially sustainable venue to play our home games in still seems many years away. The latest plans for developing parts of the ground means that our short term future would be more secure and comfortable but what concerns me is where will the club be in 3 years. By this I don't mean geographically but in the league status. How long can we expect our limited playing budget to produce the Kings, Baileys and Kandols that move on and create well need revenue for the club. Lets not forget that the money for these players cant feasibly all go back in to the player budgets and has to be used to pay for the basic infrastructure of the club.

I do not believe that Barnet can continue to maintain its league status unless a more permanent future is created and as supporters we have to decide what is the most important thing for us. Moving away from Underhill and possibly increasing the likelihood of maintaining our league status or remain at Underhill and if we don't continue to over achieve settle for a long term future of non-league football. And what about generations to come, the decisions that are being made now will directly affect our families and children.

I applaud Tony and his Chairmanship of this football club, sticking by us when many would or could have walked away, but I believe that now is the time for this club to throw caution to the wind.

What have we got to lose, the KBA started over 10 years ago, campaigning to Keep Barnet Alive and with Tony's commitment it has achieved this but in those ten years or so many clubs have expanded, taken the plunged and succeeded.

Remember playing Wigan and Fulham in a league match, it wasn't really that long ago.

Regardless if the planning permission for the redevelopments is passed by Barnet Council we must start of secure our longer term future. There still seems to be no possible sites in the Borough for a new ground so are we really left with any other option then to formally announce that we will be looking outside of Barnet for a new location to develop a suitable stadium for our home matches.

I understand that many Barnet fans are keen to remain at Underhill but at the end of the day is it really about what we want our about the bigger issue and the future of this Football Club.

Next season is a massive season in all aspects, a new team will take the field against Morecombe on the first weekend of the season. I'm sure that the experience of Ian Hendon in the coaching team will a massive asset to Paul. It is also at this time that I would just like to say a couple of 'thank you's to a number of people. Firstly members of the BFCSA that have stepped down this year, especially Jeff Searle for his hard work as secretary for last season. We must also to remember John Harding how passed away last month. I know John played a big part in the coaching team at Barnet and will be sorely missed by staff and players alike, and also condolences to the family of BFCSA member and long time Barnet fan Roger Betts, who had battled back to health after falling ill at this years Herts Senior Cup Final, but has sadly lost his life during the past week.

That just leaves me to thank Ian Hendon and Paul Fairclough who will be coming along this evening to answer your questions following the formal part of this AGM.

Thank you.

No Comments were made from the floor regarding this address.

## **7) Adoption of accounts**

Accounts were explained by Treasurer Henry Strevens.

Points to note:

- Membership was again approximately 1,000, this year due to the Associate membership in conjunction with the Football Club, likely to be significantly less this year unless Barnet get a 'big tie' cup draw.
- 3 Newsletters were produced on this years accounts, in future years this should only be 2.
- Accounts remain healthy.
- Accounts will be sent for audit.

Adoption;

Proposed: Eddie Thompson

Seconded: Ben Kentish

Carried by all.

Before the Election of the Committee, there were 3 notices from the committee

### **a) New BFCSA Membership**

Peter outlined the new membership and the reason for the price increase.

New Prices: Adults £10 U16/Over 60's (as of 1/08/07) £5.

The increase is following consultation on membership with a number of other league club Supporter associations, the prices they charge for membership, coach travel, and the benefits to members. It was felt that this increase brought the SA in line with other clubs and would allow the membership to offer the members further benefits.

These include

- Membership to the Official Independent fans body
- Membership card
- New and improved coach travel package
- Free monthly draws
- Free access to the Player of the year awards
- Plus other offers to be announced throughout the season.

## **b) Coach Travel**

Steve Percy was asked to discuss the new coach travel arrangement.

Fargo will again be used as the providers, due to their excellent service level and ability to be flexible.

Pricing will be banded in to Categories A, B and C dependent on journey distance, Prices will be £10/£15/£20 (£5 discount for concessions).

Banding being confirmed as Fixtures have only just been released, these will be announced shortly following the meeting.

The Committee also thanked Ann and Steve Percy for their continued hard work in arranging and running coaches to all away games.

## **c) Beehive Draw.**

Quarterly Draw numbers as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - 13

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - 40

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - 5

## **8) Election of Committee**

Alex began by thanking Jeff Searle, Ian Dalziel, Nik Myles and John Cosgrove, who had all stood on the committee during the past year but had now resigned their positions.

Outlined that "As of 1<sup>st</sup> June, the committee received no new requests or nominations for new personnel to join the committee. All current members will re-stand.

Adoption;

Proposed: Steve Percy

Seconded: Colin Gibbens.

Carried by all.

## **9) Election of Officers**

No new officers were needed.

## **10) Election of Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer**

### **Election of Chairman**

Proposed: Keith Doe

Adoption;

Proposed: Mark Ashfield

Seconded: Steve Percy

Carried by all.

### **Election of Secretary**

This post gained no applications of proposed nominees.

This Post remains vacant at current time

Peter Williamson will remain as Temporary Secretary.

### **Election of Treasurer**

Proposed: Henry Strevens

Adoption;

Proposed: James Harrison

Seconded: Mark Ashfield

Carried by all.

## **11) Questions from the floor regarding Association matters**

David Davies asked on the current strength of committee's relationship with Tony Kleanthous.

The relationship remains very good, Chairman Keith Doe speaks with Tony on a regular basis on a number of issues.

The committee had only that Monday met with Tony regarding the new Underhill Ground upgrade proposals.

The committee will continue to engage with Tony regarding both Ground and other issues, and will happily pass on comments or concerns to Tony on behalf of its members.

## **12) Any other Business**

### **a) 20Twenty Community Day**

Janet Matthewson, Barnet Football in the Community Officer, was invited to advertise the 20twenty Community day on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> July, to request Volunteers to help and to explain the work that Barnet Football in the Community undertakes.

### **b) The Ground Issue.**

The committee asked for its members to give comment on the recent announcement from the club regarding the plans to upgrade Underhill as a short to medium term fix to the clubs plight to find a suitable stadium for league football.

- in general there was support from all members
- The question was raised about the need for covered 2,000 seats for the beginning of 2008/9 season. The committee confirmed that following talks with Tony Kleanthous that this was being addressed.
- A question was raised regarding the cost of £7m, and is there assurances that the money can be raised. The committee confirmed that following talks with Tony Kleanthous that the money would be able to be raised.
- The committee announced that following talks with Tony Kleanthous that the relationship with the council is greatly improved from that with the previous council administration.
- The committee thanked the KBA for the tireless work it had put in in the past and that last years local election efforts had not gone in vain as the council have realised that Barnet FC is an important issue to the borough and electorate.

Alex Jones concluded the meeting and thanked those who had turned up.

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Following the meeting the management team of Paul Fairclough and Ian Hendon turned up to answer member's questions. The committee would like to extend their thanks to both Paul and Ian for giving up their time to attend the AGM. New signing Neil Bishop and Chairman Tony Kleanthous were also in attendance and answered a few questions.