



# OXVOX

THE OXFORD UNITED SUPPORTERS' TRUST

## **The 17<sup>th</sup> OxVox AGM – SOCIETY REGISTRATION No. IP29368R**

**Date:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Held in the Maurice Evans Lounge at the Kassam Stadium.

**Start:** 12.30pm. **Finish.** 13.45pm

### **Minutes**

34 full voting members were in attendance. Apologies were received from Matt Cavill, Dave Thornton, Jemma Hayward, Wes Harrison, Michael North, Matt Derbyshire, Stewart Pether and John Gould.

#### **1. Welcome**

The meeting opened with Paul Peros (**PP**) welcoming members to the meeting and explaining to those present the order of business for the meeting:

1. Welcome
2. Result of election of Board members
3. Resolution for Independent Examination of accounts for 2018-19
4. Treasurer's report and accounts
5. Performance report
6. Close of AGM

Q&A Session

#### **2. Result of election of Board members**

Three posts were made available this year, with Matt Cavill and Michael North standing down and Colin Barson having resigned. Matt and Michael stood again and no other nominations were received. Their reappointments were therefore confirmed without any election being required.

#### **3. Resolution for Independent Examination of accounts for 2018-19**

Trevor Lambert (**TL**) explained that in order to undertake independent examination of accounts for the coming year, the AGM needed to pass a motion to use this process, which avoided a much more expensive full audit. The motion was passed unanimously on a show of hands.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

The financial accounts were issued to all members at the meeting in hard copy format.

Trevor Lambert (**TL**) presented the accounts, which had been independently examined by **Nicola Bateman FCCA**. The accounts had been deemed as an accurate representation of the financial activities of The Trust over the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**TL** reported that the year had seen overspend of £715, occasioned largely by financial support for the Sensory Room.

Cash in the bank stood at £12,711 at the time of the accounts.

There were no questions on the accounts from those members present.

Members approved the Accounts.

The Accounts will be sent to all members shortly.

## **5. Performance Report**

The annual performance report and annual accounts were issued to all members present. **PP** presented the performance report which summarised the Trust's activities since the last AGM. He described key activities with reference to the report. The report will be sent to members shortly.

The Trust had worked hard to further develop and maintain a positive dialogue with the club owners and senior staff over a challenging period, which had seen a change of club ownership and two changes of Trust Chair as well as several committee changes.

Positive project achievements included the renewal of the Right to Bid / Asset of Community Value nomination for the Kassam Stadium for a further five years; funding and project support for the Sensory Room at the stadium; involvement in Food Bank collection day; involvement with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary walk and celebrations; and involvement in the Safety Advisory Group.

Trust membership numbers continued to grow and now stood at 1053. Greater efforts had been made to communicate with members and with the whole fanbase via email, web and social media.

Fan representation on the Board of OUFC remained a target.

Work on a better stadium situation for OUFC and the community was still ongoing.

Simon Hathaway (**SH**) and Ali Wolfe (**AW**) described work undertaken on the East Stand Mural project, and circulated artists' impressions. **SH** confirmed that a gallery of possible pictures was assembled and a fans' vote would be held on the final images to be used, organised in such a way that the outcome would represent many years of the club's history and achievements. The material used would be a graffiti-resistant board which would be removable to another stadium location as and when required. **AW** confirmed that final written permission for the installation was being sought from Firoka. A crowdfunding approach would be followed which would allow fans to make donations towards the installation costs, expected to be of the order of £6,000. The finished product would incorporate rings to permit banners to be displayed if required. The aim was to have the mural completed in time for the new season.

## **6. Close of AGM**

**PP** formally closed the AGM and invited questions. A summary of questions and responses is given below.

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### **Q&A**

Q. Can you look into approaching the authorities regarding reinstating James Constable's 3 goals which were 'struck off' his scoring record?

A. We will certainly make enquiries.

Q. Are the new stadium sites being considered all within the City boundary?

A. We can't reveal any knowledge of specific sites, but yes, all sites of which we are aware are within or close to the City boundary.

Q. Were trees cut down to improve CCTV coverage, and if so, why was this not done sooner?

A. Yes, we believe trees were removed for that reason, the Man City incident report, which is in the public domain, has some details.

Q. The club's response to the Trust's questions has been less than helpful, what more can be done?

A. We can ask questions, and we'll continue to do so, but we can't force answers. Ultimately we think better, more formal, representation will lead to better answers. It seems unlikely that recent money issues have been solely due to money transfer delays. The club runs at a loss and questions should be asked about how available budgets can be used better. Continuing regular dialogue with Niall McWilliams, Tiger and Zaki Nuseibeh will help, we hope.

Q. Why does the club not provide information about issues earlier and head off some of the speculation?

A. We agree, it is something we continually press for.

Q. Has Tiger got sufficient funds to run the club?

A. There have no doubt been some unexpected costs and the arbitration dispute settlement is one factor. There is little doubt large amounts have been spent, the issue is how well.

Q. It is unlikely that sufficient due diligence was done at the time of the takeover. Delays in funding transfers is an implausible explanation for the financial issues. It could be avoided with some forward planning.

A. Tiger has stated that he does not need to establish a fund in the UK to meet unexpected costs. We are not so sure!

Q. Do fans' criticism of the owner help or hinder?

A. **PP's** personal opinion was neither. Tiger was a supporter of the Ultras and their impact on the atmosphere and never mentioned being upset by their protests. As a Trust we aim to pass on a sense of what fans are thinking to the club. Tiger and the board have been made well aware of supporters' concerns.

Q. Who owns the Priory and who's responsible for its repair?

A. The City Council own it and it's on a 99 year lease to Firoka. The precise responsibility for the different aspects of upkeep and repair is unclear. We are working on finding out more. We have inspected it and it would take a huge investment to bring it back into use.

Q. Not a question, just a thank you to the committee for the meeting and its work.

**END OF Q&A**