

The meeting was chaired by Andy Roberts and attended by 23 current members of NTFC Supporters Ltd to make the meeting quorate.

1. Forms of Proxy

Forms of proxy had been received from Donald Collins

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Barry Collins

3. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Copies had been provided for those present and Bob Clarke proposed that these be adopted, the proposed was seconded by Robert Souster and carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were none.

5. Chairman's Report

Andy Roberts gave the following report as chairman of Northampton Town Supporters Trust:

We have just signed off on a busy year and 2022 looks as if it will be just as busy and probably even more eventful. Not least in that it marks 30 years of the Supporters Trust, the first in the country formed in January 1992.

The Trust started life asking questions of the club's ownership and seeking information with one primary goal - the preservation of a professional League football club in Northampton.

That mission has not changed, and we will continue that challenge if we feel the club's best interests are not being represented.

It is shaping up to be an important year for the club and for football in general.

- *Locally, the club is set to reach an agreement on a deal with West Northamptonshire Council which will, at long last, see the East Stand completed. Like all Cobblers fans, we are desperate to see the stand completed after many years of prevarication between the negotiating parties. But we will be urging the council to retain the club's historic land footprint which is covered by an Asset of Community Value (ACV) as part of any deal - at present, half of the old athletics track land under the ACV will be sold off for development.*
- *And we will be bringing forward plans for a partnership infrastructure foundation - club, council, and fans together - to explore ways of building the club's asset base in a way which yields future and continuing investment benefit for the club beyond the stand completion.*
- *Football reform is packaged and ready to go and the Trust is broadly supportive of a review which aims to make English club football more sustainable, accountable, and transparent.*

Towards the end of last year, we were delighted that former Cobblers manager agreed to accept an invitation to become a Trust director. The formal appointment will be confirmed at the AGM. Ian's wealth of experience in all aspects of the football industry will stand us in good stead as we move forward.

I would like to sign off by thanking you for your continuing support. Our relationship with the club's owners remains tense and we wish it could be better. But we are not prepared to sacrifice the questioning principles upon which this Trust was founded in 1992 just for the sake of a harmonious relationship. It doesn't work like that; it has never worked like that!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank board secretary Helen Hickman, who is stepping down from the role at the AGM after 12 years of service. I have known Helen for many years and have always valued the commitment and support that she has given to myself and the other directors. It is often a thankless task so a big thanks to Helen!

Finally, if you haven't already done so, please email the enclosed GDPR form to us at ntfctrust1992@gmail.com to give your consent in respect of us contacting you by email. We do need this, so if you are a member and do not receive email updates, it is almost certainly because you have not given us your consent. Any other updates to contact information would also be gratefully appreciated.

Remember you can continue to support the Trust financially by signing yourself and family members up to our fantastic Club 500 lottery, by travelling on the Trust's Cobblers Travel coaches to away games or by donating.

6. Secretary's report

Helen Hickman gave the following report as secretary to Northampton Town Supporters Trust:

Since the last AGM, there have been 14 board meetings.

All the Board's meetings have been held on Zoom. This has allowed members to attend board meeting who do not live in the county.

Attendance at Board meetings was steady throughout the year, with the average attendance being 75%. The Board has welcomed 43 visitors over the course of our 14 meetings. We have had 5 resignations and one Board member died. The resignations were offset by 4 board members being co-opted on following the last AGM.

Following the last AGM, the Trust Board has been made up of an average of 11 members. Cathy Armstrong, Stefan Krywawych & Kevin Simons were co-opted on the Board at our first meeting, in March 2021. In September 2021, Derek Krajewski & Chris Payne were also co-opted onto the board.

Since our last AGM, the Board received 5 resignations from board members. These were from Cathy Armstrong, Garry Harris, Chris Payne, Kevin Simons, and Shane Webster. Sadly, in July 2021 Mick Ford passed away. Mick had served on the board for many years and had been a good servant to the Trust.

In November 2021, West Northamptonshire Council asked if we would be able to welcome 2 councillors to our board meetings. We welcomed councillors Bignell (con) and Barratt (lab) to our discussions.

A variety of subjects have been discussed in our meetings such as the Crouch Report, to help progress the redevelopment of the East stand and the Trust's 30th Anniversary. We also had a series of meetings with our trusts from up and down the country

Finally, this is my last report as I am standing down as secretary after 12 years. I wish the new board well as they carry on ensuring the NTFC survives for another 125 years.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Stuart Taylor reported that the Trusts membership stands at 744 members as of 30th August 2021.

8. Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts

Bob Clarke reported: -

For continuity it should be noted that Barry Collins was appointed Trust Treasurer in September 2020. Barry wrote the report for the financial year ended 31st August 2020 which was presented at the last AGM on 25th February 2021. Barry

continued in the Treasurer role until December 2021 when with the agreement of the board he handed over the books to Bob Clarke then Assistant Treasurer.

The Board would like to record their thanks to Barry who was our Treasurer when the Trust was formed in January 1992 serving for 5 years until February 1997.

After discussion with Clifford Towers our Accountants, Barry prepared the Annual Financial Statements for year ended 31st August 2021 rather than relying on Clifford Towers preparation. A reduction in fees was negotiated and Barry recommends that Clifford Towers continue to be appointed as our Accountants for the year ending 31st August 2022. Whilst not a legal requirement to have our accounts independently audited the Board considers a report and opinion on the accounts adds credence and transparency.

Our income continued to be boosted by the ever-successful Trust Travel Club and our Club 500 Lottery. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions affected the former with no coaches for most of the season limiting their contribution to £895. Normally we might expect about £4,500 to £5,000 so the shortfall was significant. Club 500 contributed £4,750 slightly down on the £5,000 the previous year the shortfall being the result of a small increase in prize money. We urge all Trust Members to support both worthy causes.

Membership Fees showed an increase to £1,133 from £224 but are limited due to the high proportion of Life Members who made a one-time only payment on joining. Accordingly, the Membership Fee structure has been discussed recently and a new structure has been agreed by the board and will come into effect following this AGM. Other Income came from Christmas cards, the season's quiz, and football programmes. If anyone has any old programmes or memorabilia from previous seasons, they are willing to donate the Trust could offer them for sale to raise funds.

Expenditure remained well controlled. The cost of keeping members informed showed printing, postage, and stationery cost of £822. Accountancy fees were lower at £390 and sundry donations were £212. Meetings of the Trust Board were moved to Zoom which proved successful and the cost was modest at £101. Our major outlay was sponsoring the NTFC Women's Team for £3,000 which covered training tops and travel costs.

The net surplus for the year was £2,205 down from the £7,242 last year. We can say at least we lived within our means in an unprecedented Covid-19 environment.

Our balance sheet remains healthy £127,030 including £71,954 shown as fixed assets investment which is Shares of £1 in NTFC held at cost. Our cash held at the Co-op Bank and PayPal was £55,446. This represents our "Rainy-Day Fund" as voted for by Trust Members. Our fully paid and called up Share Capital was £744.

Looking forward to the current year our Travel Club is once again operating successfully and generating funds providing a "fabulous day out" to away games. Club 500 continues to operate normally, and Board Members have been encouraged to find new participants for both.

Barry handed over the Treasurer role but remains on the Trust Board and will be taking over administration duties for the Travel Club accounts from Helen Hickman.

Please continue to support the team home and or away in what could be a very exciting season's close.

9. Trust Travel Club

Helen Hickman reported that due to the 20-21 Season being played behind closed doors the Trust Travel had been dormant.

10. Appointment of Auditors & vote for shortened accounts

Bob Clarke proposed that Clifford Towers were appointed as auditors for a further 12 months and the proposal was seconded by Chris Payne and carried unanimously.

Helen Hickman asked for adoption of the 2020-21 accounts. Chris Payne proposed the adoption and Derek Krajewski. The accounts were adopted unanimously.

John Morgan reported that the meeting needs to adopt the following: "That pursuant to section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 the requirement for Northampton Town Supporters Limited to have its accounts audited be disappplied in respect of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021." A show of hands passed this unanimously.

11. Appointment of Board Members

Helen Hickman informed the meeting that the Board had been carrying 5 vacancies during the past year. There had 3 resignations and 1 death.

At the AGM, 3 board members who need to stand for re-election, but 2 board members has decided not to stand again.

The means that there are 10 vacancies to fill.

Nominations had been received from the following people.

1. Stefan Krywawych
2. Ian Atkins
3. David Rawlings
4. Keith Buckby

Since the number of members putting themselves forward is less than the vacancies all are voted unopposed.

12. Any Other Business

Andy Roberts opened the floor to a general informal discussion on various issues.

Andrew Little introduced himself as life member since 199 and asked how any changes to the membership would affect members like him. Andy Roberts said nothing would happen to existing life members.

Councillor Phil Bignell reported that Cllr Jonathan Nunn was organised a Zoom call with the Trust Board.

Ian Atkins thanked the Trust for voting him onto the board. He added that he was happy help to anyway he could. He said he had found the meeting useful as he been unaware of the East Stand Issue.

Cllr Phil Bignell asked the chairman, how the Board would be getting more members to stand on the Board. Andy Roberts said this would be one of the things discussed by the new board.

R Rimmington commented that he used the Trust Travel coach to get to away games and asked why Board Members did not use the coach too. He also added that he felt the Trust should encourage younger fans to join as well as more women.

Roger Averill reminded the AGM that joining the Club 500 was Avery good way to raise funds.

Stefan Krywawych said that getting younger people to volunteer and give up their time was always difficult as that had other pressures on their time and possibly other interests.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.