

20250927 FGR Supporters Club AGM Draft minutes

Held at 4pm in the Arkell Centre, Nympsfield Rd, Nailsworth, Stroud GL6 0BG

Present: Viv Kennedy (Chair), Ian Crawley (Secretary), Richard Gray (Treasurer), Cath Gray, Jennie Chappell, Cath Anderton, Richard Anderton, Peter Gould, Allen Grant, Andrew Budd, Adrian Sibley, Diane Williams, Andrew Kennedy, Dick Finch, Steven Thatcher.

Although the meeting was not quorate, it was agreed to proceed.

Items

1.Apologies: Tony Anhoury, David Drew, Phil Butterworth, Pat Whiffen, John Whiffen, Pete Tubbs, Paul Pettipher.

2. Welcome & Introduction by Board member and meeting Chair, Viv Kennedy.

3. Approve 2024 AGM Minutes. Proposed Allen Grant, seconded Richard Anderton. **Agreed.**

4. Matters Arising, not covered on the agenda. The Secretary noted that the resolution to increase the annual affiliation fee at the 2024 AGM was considered by the board, who decided the priority was to maximise membership rather than raise income and that an increase in the annual fee was likely to reduce the membership number. The fee was therefore maintained at the current level for a further year.

5. Annual Report on Activities to be presented by Ian Crawley in the absence of Phil Butterworth, Acting Chair. See annex1. Approved.

6. Motion to dispense with an audit of accounts in favour of an Independent External Examination by qualified accountants. Proposed Allen Grant, seconded Andrew Budd. **Agreed.**

7. Approval of the 2024 accounts. The Treasurer noted that there was a surplus in the year of £12,200 and a balance sheet of £97K, the raffle had contributed £5,500 and the two quiz nights £1,900; whilst the coach had been subsidized with £3,500. Proposed Richard Anderton, seconded Allen Grant. **Agreed.**

8. Election of Board Members

8.1. Election of new board members. There were no new members proposed.

8.2. Re-election following three-year term: Kath Gray, Steve Thatcher, Rachel Twining. Decision required.

8.3. Remaining on Board: Re-elected 2023 - Phil Butterworth. Re-elected 2024 - Ian Crawley, Richard Gray

9. Election of Officers.

Chair: There were no nominations. Phil Butterworth will continue as Acting Chair.

Secretary: Nomination - Ian Crawley Agreed.

Treasurer: Nomination -Richard Gray. Agreed

10. Any Other Business. There was none.

Meeting closed 4.30pm

Annex 1. Annual Report for June 2024 to May 2025.

Your Supporters Club exists to support the Club, staff and players (men's, women's and youth teams); maximise support in the UK and abroad; and improve the matchday experience home (at The New Lawn and the new stadium) and away.

Following the double relegation from League One in May 2023 and League Two in May 2025, we approached the 24/25 **season** with some trepidation. Manager, Steve Cotterill had come in too late to deliver escape from relegation, but there was positive evidence of a new beginning. Sadly, he could not deliver, and whilst we arguably deserved to beat Southend United and get to Wembley, I am not confident we would have overcome Oldham. We seemed to lack the energy, the drive and enthusiasm to turn draws into wins. Many performances were lacking in entertainment; it was a boring style of football to watch.

What can I say that you do not already know about this season.

Robbie, with Mark Bowen, the Director of Football who has recruited 18 new players, his coaching team led by John McMahon and the players have provided that energy, drive and enthusiasm on and off the pitch, and most importantly wins and a top of the table position. Long may it last.

Thanks to all those supporters who followed the team home and away through our revival season, back in the National League.

Whilst SC membership inevitably declined from 420 in 23/24 our highest ever, to 360 in 24/25, we are already at over 300 as of today

in 23 countries. We have our first Supporters' Club members in El Salvador and South Korea.

At the same time the SC Board has continued to modernise the ways we engage with you and how you can contact us. This has involved developing a social media presence; and expanding the content of the monthly newsletter.

We are continually looking at new ways to promote new membership and reward existing members. We launched our first merchandising offer in conjunction with the Club but take up was low. In conjunction with Reflo, the new kit manufacturer, we have a competition running this month.

Many of you will have purchased a Rovers Raffle ticket as part of completing the matchday experience. Along with the quiz nights, this is the main fundraiser to support what the Club is seeking to achieve on and off the field. We maintained a top prize of £200, but income was down due to the smaller home gates.

Your Board held regular meetings with the Club's CEO, Dane Vince, to explore ways in which we help build support for FGR and improve the matchday experience at The New Lawn for both home and away fans. The Fans Zone has been a very positive improvement. We are helping fund a canopy over the South Stand refreshment servery.

We continued our partnership with the Club in providing away travel, which includes a 50/50 sharing of the loss or surplus in costs. Thanks to Paul Pettifer for his excellent match day management of the away coach.

We are always seeking volunteers - to provide content for the SC website; to sell Rovers Raffle tickets, which we will relaunch in January; and to help expand and improve the services the Supporters

Club provides to members. You are welcome to come to one of our monthly SC Board meetings and participate. (Village Inn, first Tuesday of each month 6:30)

Every year the Supporters Club has sponsored at least one player. Last season the Board chose Ben Tozer who played 29 times in what proved to be his final professional season.

I am proud to be part of this Supporters Club; and a part of the very active and committed Board that manage and oversee all that we do. I am equally proud to support a team working hard to re-establish ourselves in League Two; and a Football Club which has rightly gained world renown for its values, sustainability agenda and actions. Most of the new international and UK supporters say they are attracted by the Football Club's values and actions. Long may that continue.

Thank you to those who have served on the SC Board and make the SC a success in other ways, through giving time and expertise to support our activities.

This Supporters Club would not exist without Phil Doble's significant roles over the years:

- * the website, which he organised and maintained.
- * handling correspondence to the SC email address.
- * providing well-researched and amusing match previews.
- * providing Nailsworth News with match reports.
- * acting as the SC representative on the FGR Football Board.
- * establishing and maintaining the flag waving before home games.

He is a great loss to us all. Thanks to the Club for agreeing the 67th minute applause this afternoon. Phil Rest in peace.

