

20260912 FGR SC AGM Draft Minutes

Annual General Meeting of Forest Green Rovers Supporters Club

Held on Saturday 12 September 2026 at 5.15 pm (after the Gateshead game) in the Gym Bar of The New Lawn, Another Way, Forest Green, Nailsworth. GL6 0FG

Trading Name: Forest Green Rovers Supporters Club. Registered Name: Forest Green Rovers Supporters Society Limited. Registered Number: 30509R

Agenda

1. Apologies. Eric Harris; **Those also providing a proxy vote to the Chair:** Paul Pettipher, Stephen Thatcher, Dick Finch, Richard Fry, Myles Robinson, Les Richards, Julia Stannard, Steve Hoskins.

2. Present: Tony Anhoury, Allen Beard, Kenny Borthwick, Michael Burnidge, Andrew Budd, Jenny Butterworth, Phil Butterworth, Martin Dedman, Pam Dedman, David Drew, John Fisher, Chris Gardner, Jenny Chappell, Ian Crawley, Allen Grant, Kath Gray, Richard Gray, Simon Hacker, Andy Kennedy, Viv Kennedy, Richard Miller, Rev. Stewart Radford, Penny Smith,

3. Welcome and Introduction by FGR Supporters Club Chair – Phil Butterworth.

Welcome to the Supporters' Club Annual General Meeting. Great to have it back at the stadium, in the Gym Bar. Thank you for your attendance. It's a special year - 80 years since our formation in 1946: a long time but it's 81 years since Allen Grant, the FGR President and former Director started watching FGR. The first match was FGR v Brimscombe - we've come a long way in 81 years! Allen Grant has seen it all. We have excellent membership numbers for the size of the football Club, and the SC is active, committed and determined to do the best for our supporters. There are highlights and disappointments, I will cover these in my report and would be grateful for your questions/feedback after that part of the meeting. Also, you are invited with all SC members and FGR supporters to use the SC website to ask questions, to which we will respond.

4. Confirmation of a quorum – with 22 attending plus 8 proxy votes the meeting was quorate.

5. Decision to approve 2025 AGM Minutes. Agreed unanimously.

6. Matters Arising. There were none.

7. Annual Report – presented by Phil Butterworth, Chair of the Board.

Let's examine the past year and receive your feedback. I'm happy to report, I believe a very successful 25/26 for your SC. The SC is independent of the club, supportive of its values, yet always ready to challenge when necessary. We endeavour to get the balance

right in all communications with the club. We aim to champion the voice of FGR fans. Without us there would be no Club.

Following the 67th minute respectful applause for past Director Martin Anns this afternoon, I also wish to note the SC lost one of its longest serving Board Members during the year, Ron Oswell. He was a member of the old SC committee for a decade and a member of our Board since it took over about 15 years ago. He masterminded the raffle and was ever present at events. Also, in our minds of great characters lost last season, Phil Doble and Neil Newport stand out as highly committed members of the SC who had FGR in their DNA. Before I continue can we just have a minute's quiet to remember and pay our respects to the three particularly active fans who have passed away.

My Eight Highlights of the Year - aspects of the SC that I feel are real strengths - others may think differently. All can be better, so we're not complacent. Your suggested improvements are important.

- Effective two-way liaison with the club - regular meetings with open agendas and honest discussion about what goes well and what can be improved. I had a conversation with the Head of the FSA (Football Supporters' Association) about the imminent involvement of the Football Regulator in assessing individual club's fan engagement. He was impressed with the Fan Advisory Board and the imminent recruitment of a Fan Director. All National League clubs were contacted and FGR were up there with the best. Thanks to Ian Crawley & Viv Kennedy for joining me at the monthly meetings with Dane and colleagues at the Club. We do debate controversial issues – yesterday at the Fan Advisory Board, the exclusion zone behind the South Stand.
- Running coaches to every match at reasonable prices. The downside was the subsidy of £9000, but that is equally shared between the club and the SC. The discount for SC members is appreciated and will continue and hopefully less in 26/27. Very good numbers travelled to Worthing, Fylde and Hornchurch. We are running a coach to Carlisle. Thank you to all, especially Travel Club members.
- The REFLO competition (photos of fans in FGR kit) was well run by Chris Gardner and given lots of publicity by Martin Dedman on the FGRSC website. This was especially popular with our overseas fans in over 20 countries. Excellent photos every month.
- Regular monthly newsletters - variety of content and well-presented and now with a regular feature on overseas members. Thanks to Ian Crawley for providing most of the content.
- An attractive website kept upto date by Martin Dedman, a recruit to the Board whose work, since we lost Phil Doble, has been brilliant.

- Finance was a worry, but with the raffle resuming in January – thanks to all the sellers - income from this and Subscriptions, this is improving. Praise to our Treasurer Richard and his wife Kath for organising and all the willing helpers Penny, Dave, Viv and Andy.
- We now fund the FGR Forum, so its future is secure in the short term. I asked for volunteers to be moderators, and half a dozen came forward. I appreciate this as no chasing or arm twisting was required. Training for moderators is in a couple of weeks led by Sam Vince at FGR.
- We have offered a donation of £500 to the FGR Community Trust for the Girls' Development Centre - this is an attempt to keep the flag flying for women at FGR.

Finally - bottom line in highlights is 'The Football'. Last season we were at least as good as the previous season and this season has potential. We are now in the play off places. Don't let anyone say to you they have play off fatigue - although we all want 3UP, the top 7 would be an exciting end to every season.

Concerns - I have six - not all the responsibility of the SC.

- Finance - not a limitless pot. We are keeping subs at £10 (Gateshead's Supporters Society charges £10 a month) although those attending last year's AGM voted for a rise. We are adding a donation button on the website, for those willing to pay a little more.
- Women's team disbanded - Very disappointing, at the heart of the decision was Hartpury pulling out of proposals to run an FGR/Hartpury team, funded by the college and FGR.
- Younger Boys' Academy teams withdrawn, as EFL parachute funds from when we were relegated from League Two, have finished.
- Fans stopped from gathering in the players' car park to collect autographs. The club feels this is a 'Health and Safety' issue. We are working with the Club to ensure another area where supporters can request player signatures.
- Fylde coach shambles - I won't go into the details, but KB Coaches did let our coach travellers down. The Club has written, apologised and offered compensation to the 47 who were on the coach.
- Adult quizzes had to be abandoned because of lack of support. We are now having a family quiz on 9th October - your support would be appreciated. You can purchase tickets now on the Club's website.

Questions & Answers

7.1. Allen Grant - the abuse of the manager by some Fylde fans and some FGR fans at Fylde was unacceptable. What action can the SC take? A. Robbie recognises the problem and some of the youngsters. If they are SC members and we have direct

evidence, we could ban them from the SC. It is for the Club to consider banning from the stadium.

7.2. Rev. Stewart Radford – The North stand occupants keep being moved when a low away fan number is expected and the West Stand is not opened. A. not opening the West Stand saves the Club £1000. Ideally the Club should be able to confirm those games at the beginning of the season and provide an upgrade to the East Stand.

7.3. Jenny Chappell – why are fans now banned from meeting the players before and after the game in the players car park? A. This is a delicate issue, it revolves around protection for the players, manager and visiting directors. There have been difficulties reported: moving forward on this is in the hands of the club, but the SC will keep it on the agenda for discussion.

7.4. Allen Grant -the parking bollards on the hill are not there today and previously they have been removed at half-time. A. Both Steve Robinson and the volunteer back up were not available today. The Club say it is not their responsibility.

7.5. John Fisher – there is a problem with the Traffic Regulations not applying on bank holidays. A. Unfortunately there was not sufficient foresight to realise matches would not just be on Tuesday evenings.

8. Decision to approve the new rules. Agreed unanimously.

9. Decision to dispense with an audit of accounts in favour of an Independent External Examination by qualified accountants. **Agreed unanimously.**

10. The 2026 accounts - presented by the Treasurer Richard Gray. Richard reported that half a season of Rovers Raffle receipts had been lost due to a lack of sellers and that the coach loss had been the largest ever at £4500. This season the RR would be operating at every home match on Saturdays and receipts were good to date; plus the coach would only run to the four long distance matches if there were enough seats booked. **Agreed unanimously**

11. Election of Board Members

11.1. Decision to elect Martin Dedman for a three-year term. **Agreed unanimously.**

11.3. Decision to re-elect Phil Butterworth for a three-year term. **Agreed unanimously.**

11.4. To note those remaining on the Board: Elected 2024 - Viv Kennedy. Re-elected 2024 - Ian Crawley, Richard Gray, Chris Gardner. Re-elected 2025 - Kath Gray, Steve Thatcher, Rachel Twining.

11.5. To record our thanks to Tim Barnard who is standing down after serving on the Board since the merger of the Supporters Club and the Supporters Society in. **Agreed Unanimously. Action: Secretary to write to Tim.**

12. Decision to elect Officers – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. All three positions are open for SC members to stand for election.

Chair: Nomination – Phil Butterworth **Agreed unanimously.**

Secretary: Nomination - Ian Crawley **Agreed unanimously.**

Treasurer: Nomination -Richard Gray **Agreed unanimously.**

13. Any Other Business. There was none.

The meeting closed at 6 pm.

Author: Ian Crawley/Secretary/14th September 2026.