



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

WE ARE THE ROVERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

ON SUNDAY 21st September 2025

Present:

Peter Ridehalgh PR, Duncan Miller, DM, Adam Deshmukh AD,
Linda Chelton LC, Tony Webster TW, Jakob Ward JW,
Jamie Hoyles JH2,

1. Apologies:

Peter Bolton PB, Marc O'Neil MON, Dan Worden DW, Andy Young AY, Roger
Langford RL, Glen Mullan GM, James Hamill JH1

2. Actions

Actions from previous meeting(s)

PR - to request update of WATR registered address with respect to BRFC share certificate – I have contacted Bret Baker again by email but there is a high probability that he didn't receive it – Will try again when @WATR email addresses available
Ongoing PR

DM – to provide process map for membership recruitment drive – this action will need **to be revisited**.

JH1 to provide Zoom link for the meeting with Martyn Henderson – James can not attend the meeting so is unable to provide the Zoom link. LC and TW to create a test

link tomorrow (Monday 22nd September) to check feasibility of using this while LC on holiday. WATR could buy a licence to allow Zoom meetings over 40 minutes in length. **Action - LC/TW/DM**

PR/LC/AY PR to forward a copy of the previous letter to the owners to LC and AY who will draft a new letter for circulation to the board. – PR forwarded the letter. LC and AY had a meeting from which a new letter will be drafted – hopefully later this week. – **ONGOING LC/AY**

3. Accounts

No reports on accounts this month but all believed to be up to date and no outstanding issues with the bank account access. Money in the bank is around £12000 with very little movement in membership numbers/ income recently.

4. Meeting with the interim COO for the Independent Football Regulator

WATR will be meeting with Martyn Henderson on 6th October at 6pm. MH has requested that he is allowed to open the meeting before we present our concerns regarding the running of the club.

WATR to prepare a presentation including details of how the club have cut off all meaningful fan engagement and unilaterally cancelled the MoU agreement which was the basis of EFL awards received by the club last year. The new Fan Engagement Plan barely covers the EFL minimum requirements and open Fan Consultation meetings have not been held for many years.

Investment in the club infrastructure is also at a minimum. A discussion took place regarding the abandonment of this weekend's match against Ipswich. Although there are geographical factors that have historically hindered drainage from the Ewood Park pitch, the current owners have made no recent attempts to take advantage of technical advancements of recent years in order to improve the situation.

WATR are disturbed by the number of long serving staff leaving the club recently. This situation seems to be reflected across all departments and reports of an unhappy work environment are commonplace. The lack of a CEO at the club is having a negative impact on the whole club which is now being run by two very inexperienced individuals who have no interaction with the fans or the wider community. There is a genuine fear for the future of the club.

WATR will prepare some information that can be provided to MH in advance of the meeting. It was proposed that AY will deliver the WATR presentation on the night.

Preparation meeting and draft information / questions required – **ACTION DM/GM/AY**. Zoom link also required **ACTION TW/DM**

5. Fans Forum

A discussion was had with respect to the Fans Forum. WATR have two representatives and it was agreed that if either or both of the named reps (DM and PB) are unavailable, then other board members should step in to ensure our attendance. Although the FF is not seen as a suitable vehicle for WATR discussions with the club, it was agreed that attendance is a necessity as it represents the only opportunity to engage with the club at the present time. Suggestions of boycotting the FF have been floated but we only see that as giving the club the opportunity to claim a lack of willingness from the fans and a vindication of their non-engagement approach. It was suggested that extensive notes should be taken at the FF after the disagreement between attendees and club officials at the last meeting.

Subjects that would have been raised at the next MoU meeting such as bringing the training ground back under club ownership and the 5 year business plan that WATR have been constantly requesting should be added to the FF agenda if possible.

6. Letter to the owners

LC and AY had a constructive meeting and after studying the previous letter to the owners, it was believed that very little needs changing as all the same issues exist and have, in most cases, become even more concerning. Mention of the match abandonment yesterday could possibly be added in order to make the owners aware of the possible repercussions – especially if the match is replayed and the team loses.

Doubts exist as to whether previous letters were actually delivered to the owners by the club COO. A different method of delivery will be employed this time.

Despite the obvious antagonism by the club hierarchy towards the fans, there is a possibility that the owners are unaware of how bad the situation is so every avenue will be followed in order to make our voices heard.

7. Patrons

Discussion was held with respect to enrolling more patrons for the WATR cause. A number of high profile people have already agreed to become patrons and we will continue to contact more. Announcements will be made when the time is right – possibly in conjunction with the upcoming newsletter.

8. Next Newsletter

It was hoped that the next newsletter would be at the end of the transfer window but it was decided to hold back for a while. The template for a new e-newsletter has been developed and looks exciting. The decision was made to go with this approach instead of a traditional text only newsletter. Website links will be included. It is hoped to progress this before the next board meeting. **ACTION DM to progress**

9. 150th celebrations

Official club organised celebrations seem to be very half hearted and insincere. Commemorative caps are being issued to ex players and staff without any consultation with fans groups. There are no more 150th committee meetings scheduled. It was reported by DM that letters to FIFA and King Charles were drafted by committee members from the fan base in order to create a wider audience for this significant year in the club's history. The letters were not forwarded by the club.

At this late stage, there seems to be little opportunity for WATR to contribute to any official celebrations despite pushing the club on the matter for the last 2 years.

10. Membership

We still need to get to grips with the complicated legacy membership systems that exist and get all our data and payments into one system. This should prevent membership cancellations due to credit card expiry and email address changes on PayPal.

It was suggested by LC, and agreed by all, that WATR should issue a membership charter as to how we can best serve the members. This will include increased membership consultation, surveys and polls in conjunction with newsletters. We would also like to get more active and regular member activity via the website.

ACTION PR to follow up

11. Sub-committee activity

There has been ongoing work on podcasts and WATR TV but it is thought to be desirable to have a few recordings completed to enable regular releases in the next few months rather than one off activities on an ad-hoc basis. Some great ideas are being progressed and guests lined up. These activities are time consuming and it is important to present quality rather than quantity.

12. AOB

No update from the club on the appointment of a new CEO. This is a worrying situation.

Arrangements for an open supporters meeting with Blackburn MP Adnan Hussain are still ongoing