



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

WE ARE THE ROVERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

ON SUNDAY 12th October 2025

Present:

Peter Ridehalgh PR, Duncan Miller, DM, Adam Deshmukh AD,
Linda Chelton LC, Tony Webster TW, Jakob Ward JW,
Jamie Hoyles JH2, James Hamill JH1, Roger Langford RL

1. Apologies:

Peter Bolton PB, Marc O'Neil MON, Dan Worden DW, Andy Young AY, Glen Mullan GM,

AY passed on the message that he had been in contact with the FSA with respect to arranging a meeting with the EFL to discuss our MOU situation and the attitude of the club towards the agreement.

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**.

DM/GM/AY – Prepare for meeting with Martyn Henderson – Action Complete

JH1 to provide Zoom link for the meeting with Martyn Henderson – Action complete. All worked well

LC/AY – Finalise the letter to the owners and forward to board members for review – Action Complete. Review process underway.

PR – To Progress access to website / email facilities and progress bios on the website. Investigate member only pages on the website. Ongoing – Only 3 bios now missing. Need to arrange a meeting with MON regarding the other website issues.

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

The meeting with Martyn Henderson on 6th October went extremely well and after presenting an overview of his role and that of the IFR in general, MH listened to our specific concerns but did state that it would be a while until the full functionality of the IFR would be in operation in order to take individual clubs to task.

MH explained that each club will require a licence to operate in the future and some of our concerns, fan engagement for example, were pertinent to the issuing of a licence. Overall, the meeting was encouraging with the caveat that things will not change overnight.

The meeting occurred on the same day that David Kogan was officially named as the new Chair of the IFR and as such, WATR were the first set of fans to be consulted with the Chair in position.

DM has already started the process of making our concerns official by drafting a letter to the EFL and pointing out the difference between the current, minimal, Fan Engagement Plan recently issued by the club and the previous version which included the MoU.

5. Fans Forum

A discussion was had with respect to the Fans Forum. It was decided that there were arguments for and against attendance after the cancellation of the MoU and the problems with obtaining accurate minutes from the FF meetings.

Any boycott may be ineffective if the other groups represented on the FF don't take the same action. The FF is made up of many individuals who represent no particular group and are unlikely to boycott the meetings.

It is WATR belief that the FF is maintained as an easy route for the club to pay lip service to the EFL regulations regarding fan engagement. It was decided that WATR would attend the October FF meeting but make it clear that it could be the last attendance. It is believed that a FF constitution is being drafted by the current FF

Chair. It could be important to attend the FF meeting in order to get full details and be in a position to oppose anything the WATR do not agree with.

JW to attend if PB is unavailable. DM confirmed his attendance.

6. Letter to the owners

This is ongoing. A draft of the letter is in review.

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

The new format newsletter is still seen as the way forward but with the lack of any significant news at the moment due to the club's refusal to communicate, it was decided to distribute a members' survey instead. The idea is to try and gauge the feelings of the membership before determining the next steps to be taken by WATR. If dialogue with the club is not possible, what is our best plan of action?

A survey will be developed via Google Forms and distributed to the membership.

It is hoped that we can hold a fan 'drop in' opportunity on Saturday 25th October before the Southampton match in order to discuss the survey results and other matters. The drop in will be open to members and non- (with the opportunity to join). The drop in is dependant on finding a venue at short notice.

It was agreed that the drop in idea is one that we will endeavour to complete soon even if the Southampton match is too early to get arrangements in place. We hope to make it a regular event and could be held at different venues to allow people to stick to their regular pre match routines. This will allow us to catch up with as many people as possible.

ACTIONS – JH1 to create the survey form and distribute to the board for testing

DM – Get some leaflets printed for distribution at the drop in.

9. 150th celebrations

Sadly, nothing much to report. A match against Old Etonians has been arranged to take place after the Derby County fixture in November.

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

11. 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

TW has been in touch with Sheffield Wednesday's Trust and held discussions regarding joint activities around the time of the league match between our two clubs.