



**BLACKBURN ROVERS FSA AFFILIATED
SUPPORTERS TRUST**

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS

WE ARE THE ROVERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

ON SUNDAY 19th April 2026

Present Sunday

Peter Ridehalgh PR, Andy Young AY, Jamie Hoyles JH2, Roger Langford RL, Linda Chelton LC, Duncan Miller DM, Adam Deshmukh AD, James Hamill JH1,

1. Apologies:

Peter Bolton PB

2. Actions

Actions from previous meeting(s)

PR - to request update of WATR registered address with respect to BRFC share certificate – Club secretary Brett Baker has been contacted again – no response. The intention was to use a new email address (secretary@WATR or similar) but the new addresses are not yet available. Ongoing but not urgent.

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

DM/JH2/PR – Need to arrange a meeting with MON regarding website / membership system completion and handover. A meeting was arranged but cancelled at short notice. JH2 now has access to Memberstack and the web site but it appears to be restricted access. It is very important that we have the necessary access to control the website within the group.
Ongoing.

GM - Contact MP, Mr Hussain with respect to the open meeting. This action is cancelled for now but may be revisited. No progress was achieved after the initial meeting with Mr Hussain. Cancelled

AY/DM - Edit / amend the letter to the owners and circulate to board members. This has been ongoing for a long time but the intention is still to contact the owners at some point without going via the club which has proved ineffective in the past. Ongoing

PR – Contact Blackburn library and enquire on availability for AGM –
Action Complete

PB/PR – Arrange for the completion and signing of the accounts to year ending 30/05/2025 – Action Complete

3. Accounts

Accounts for year ending 30/05/2025 are complete and signed. These can now be uploaded to the FCA website.

4. FSA correspondence and audit

As detailed in the minutes from the board meetings in March, WATR have recently undergone a full governance audit by the FSA. The audit was initiated after an FSA representative attended the most recent Fans Forum meeting and being unhappy that it was the only means of communication between the club and WATR. The FSA wanted to make sure that WATR, as the officially affiliated fan group, were in a good position to take advantage of their offer of help with respect to re-engagement with the club.

LC, as governance lead, and AY, as FSA liaison, have been in contact with the FSA throughout the process and a lot of hard work has been undertaken to complete the audit successfully.

Although some improvements have been suggested, the FSA were happy with WATR documented rules and code of conduct which were already in existence. All board members attended a refresher course with respect to the code of conduct and the role of a board member.

As a result of the successful audit, the FSA have offered to facilitate a reconnection with the club which has been absent over the last 12 months. The idea is that communication will be re-established with the long term goal being the formation of a fan advisory board which will be open for all fans to become involved.

The FSA has offered to attend future meetings between WATR and the club. The club have been approached and Lynsey Talbot, Head of Operations, has responded positively to the proposal.

5. Communication with members

It has been clear that communication with members has been lacking this year as a result of the complete lack of engagement from the club and the stagnation of the MoU. We hope this will change.

Once the club's fate this season is known and we know which league we will be playing in next season, we may be in a position to have dialogue with the club and update the membership.

Once the details of the re-engagement have been discussed in more detail with the club, a full update will be provided to members in the form of a newsletter. It should also be noted that the newsletter will detail the current board set up with 5 board members, including the Co-Chair having left recently.

ACTION DM

6. Membership system / numbers

The £1.00 membership offer was very well received and the membership numbers have increased encouragingly. However, anyone renewing automatically via PayPal is still paying £10. We need to ensure this is put right and also ensure anyone renewing

via Stripe is also charged £1 to align with the cost to new members. We need to rearrange the meeting with Marc O'Neill as a matter of urgency – **Action PR/DM**

One suggestion is to cancel all PayPal memberships and ask members to re-join via the website at the £1 rate. The difficulty is obtaining an accurate list of members still paying via PayPal

7. AGM

The AGM has been pencilled in for Tuesday 16th June at Blackburn Library. 7pm for a 7.30 start. The library was deemed a good venue after the success of last year's AGM which was held there.

An AGM calling notice will be prepared in the next few days. LC, AY, PB were re-elected last year, JH1 and JH2 have not served the 2 year period yet so need not apply for re-election. DM, RL and AD are required to stand for re-election. PR will be standing down as the Secretary.

Members will be invited to stand for positions on the board. Anyone with a legal background or experience in Social Media would be encouraged to apply.

It has been decided to keep the AGM very focused this year, keeping the proposed re-engagement with the club at the forefront of discussions. There will be no guest speaker or club representative, although we hope to have an FSA representative present who may be able to explain how they can help facilitate an upturn in the Trust's effectiveness. The meeting will not be streamed live but we hope to have members of the press present to report on events.

8. AOB

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

Proposed date for the next board meeting : Sunday 17th May 2026