

## **SHRIMPS TRUST AGM MINUTES**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 7pm**

**Location: Mazuma Stadium Morecambe FC and Zoom**

**Introduction: Meeting was opened by the chairman Andrew Baines who began by welcoming those at the Mazuma and everyone on Zoom. The meeting was then handed over to Jack Steer to officiate the meeting.**

**Acceptance of minutes from last meeting: Accepted by attendees. Proposed John Taylor seconded Ian Lyon.**

**Financial Review and approval of the accounts.**

**Jack began by reviewing the 2022/23 year. This is the 6th full year of the trust and this year has been quite a challenge. Being a trustee is a voluntary position and most of us have full time jobs.**

**We were grateful to members stepping up and volunteering to join the trustees which enabled us to continue.**

**Lack of resources led to a drop in membership and we didn't have time to push for more which led to a drop by 121 leaving 586.**

**This year post May the memberships were looking good. This is the highest number we have had join; it is great that you are getting behind the trust. We are here for the Morecambe community and our annual toy appeal had a great response once again and these were gratefully received by the beneficiaries. Thank you to the members that gave their time to do this.**

**We have quite a few overseas members who have visited the club over the past year and we welcome them to show what the trust is about.**

**Events: A few events have taken place over the past year and we are looking to put on more events in the future. We are looking for volunteers to help with these so if you can help, please let us know.**

**The trustees meet once a month with Ben, Martin and Anya from Morecambe FC and these are to recommence after the AGM and we are happy to take members' questions to them. We are aiming to be a unified voice with the board of directors to take fans questions to the board.**

**The podcast is run weekly by Joel and you can catch up with this on Fridays.**

**What are the benefits of being a member?**

**We have run a monthly prize draw which is orchestrated by Jimmy who liaises with the parties who provide the prizes.**

**Each member receives a membership pack which has a membership card which allows them discounts from retailers a full list can be seen on the website and a pin badge.**

**We would like to thank our litter pickers who are there after matches doing a sterling job.**

**Away Travel: Morecambe Football Club initially took over the away travel arrangements last year but unfortunately the club made a significant loss and therefore they will not be running away coach travel this year. The trust ran the coach to our last game of the season to Exeter. We do not have enough people to run the away**

**travel, this is not an easy job but if anyone would like to volunteer then approach the trustees. We will need a number of volunteers as this is a challenging job.**

**If you would like to become a trustee - you can be co-opted on if you are put off by the election process.**

**The accounts are available electronically and these have been put together by Jack Steer, they have been independently checked and verified. These will be formally approved and passed to the FSA.**

**Jack then went through the accounts via slides for members to see.**

**Appointment and Resignation of Trustees:**

**Resignations were Jack Steer, Joel Shooter Ian Lyon**

**Up for Election Jack Steer, Joel Shooter, Ian Lyon, Karen Baines, Richard Allan, James Main, Mathew Newsham. Jimmy Goulding, Jason Townson.**

**All elected.**

**Ian Lyon raised a question re raising the number on the trustees but this was decided not to but members could be co-opted on after the AGM. 5 members can be co-opted. 12 is the maximum number trustees that can be elected.**

**Garden:**

**Jimmy gave an overview of what the garden is going to look like, where it is going to and answered questions from members. The cost of doing the garden was originally £8,000 but due to rising**

costs in materials and having to get an alternative landscape gardener the costs have now risen to £12,000. This was put to the members to vote as to whether to proceed at the new costs.

#### **Motions:**

**Approval of the accounts - carried**

**Luke Baldwin appointed independent examiner for the accounts carried**

**Audit – members voted to display audit for 31 May 2024 financial period.**

**Garden: Approval of new costings -carried**

#### **Update on ownership**

**No reply from letter to Sarbjot.**

**EFL the reply from them was shown on screen**

**Bond Group - no reply**

**Board of Directors - are transparent as possible and a good article was posted on 25/08/2023. Rod and Ben who attended the meeting gave feedback to questions raised. Rod identifies with what the Shrimps Trust do and this is a difficult time for everyone. The club has had two years of difficult times and the board were not involved in the previous sale. Sale of the club is controlled by Bond Group Investment, the board of directors cannot influence this. Hopefully this episode in history will be resolved.**

**Ben gave feedback re: match day experiences. The club has received the family excellence scheme reward and the EFL have recognised the club as the most improved for two consecutive years from bottom of the EFL League. The club works with the Armed forces, Toy Appeal, Membership packs. Can we aim to get the gold award?**

**The door is always open for fans to come and voice their concerns.**

**Rod paid tribute to fans that have been part of the board/board room in past years all have been an asset to the club. We also welcome former players to match days and hope to have more.**

**AOB**

**Away travel needs to be resolved. Jonathan raised the need for coaches to be accessible to all fans including being wheelchair friendly and to be able to include everyone with disabilities. Richard to liaise with Jonathan on this.**

**Richard Allen gave closing remarks**

**Meeting Closed**

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