

**Minutes of the Tuffley Rovers AFC 2021 Annual General Meeting,  
held on 12 July 2021 at Glevum Park**

Neil Spiller (NS) opened the meeting at 7:20pm and welcomed all members in attendance. He explained that GM was unwell and would be unable to attend the meeting. As this was at short notice, NS had agreed to Chair the meeting.

**Present:**

Dan Boon	Neil Spiller	Sonia Spiller	Sean Roberts
Josh Roberts	Will Cronshaw	Will Cronshaw Jnr	Dave Griffiths
Rich Cox	Ritchie Warden	Dave Strain	Dave Cornock
Robin Hoffland	Pat Tobin	Coke Craddock	Amy Brinkworth
Keith Wallington	Vaughan Howell	Steven Bevan	Ken Blackburn
Dean Brooks	Kyle Kennedy	Andrew Whiffen	

**Apologies:**

Graham Moody (GM), Mark Patterson (MP), Craig Darkin (CD)

**Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting:**

NS confirmed that notes of the previous AGM had been lost and although he had attempted to generate a note to cover the issues discussed this was in incredibly short form and he apologised to those present. A copy of the brief could be made available to view.

**Chairman's report:**

NS reiterated that GM had been taken ill at short notice and no report had been provided.

In his absence, NS proposed to make a handful of observations but would deal with the business associated to his role as Secretary within a separate report.

NS explained that the club had been through an extremely challenging period, which had affected it financially and in terms of several procedural matters, including holding the AGM. Following the constitutional changes made in 2020 it had been planned to hold the AGM in May, but the continuing impact of the pandemic had made this impossible.

In addition, NS observed that the club's small number of active committee members had been challenged by the workload they had faced due to the resignation and retirement of several long-standing officers and employees. Tony Newport had stood down as the club accountant in November, Dave Macey (DM) and Les Macey had retired/resigned in January and this had been swiftly followed by the unanticipated departure of the longest serving personnel, Allan and Carole Summers. NS acknowledged the contribution of all those named and thanked them for their service to the club.

Following DM's retirement, Nicki Peart (NP) had been employed as the new General Manager of the club. NP had then played an important role in the reopening of the ground and social club for business, following the lifting of restrictions and NS offered his thanks to NP and all bar staff for their efforts.

NS then offered specific thanks to his fellow Executive Committee members but specifically to Sonia Spiller and Dan Boon (DB), who had been integral to the smooth running of the club and the wider business. In particular, NS commented on the huge effort that DB, NS, SS and NP had put into reopening the club's bars and generating much needed revenue, as well as applications for grants and other funding support, alongside all normal club business and the extra requirements required to support Covid legislation compliance.

He asked those present to show their appreciation for the contribution the committee volunteers had offered over the past 11 months and urged anyone who believes they have the capacity to support the club in a similar capacity to speak with one of the officers about lending their support.

NS then proposed that the agenda items were re-ordered, with item 7 (Amendments to Club Constitution) moved to item 5, to facilitate the election of officers. There was no objection to this proposal.

### **Report from Football Chair:**

DB confirmed that he would leave others to summarise the playing season but offered his thanks to everyone involved with the club, whether players, coaches, managers, volunteers or supporters. He specifically thanked Will Cronshaw for his contribution to fund raising.

After the work to erect the outdoor shelter at Glevum Park, bar sales had been fantastic and he referred to a conversation with Stephen Patton, the former fourth team manager, who had returned briefly to the club over the past weekend and had been impressed with the changes introduced in a relatively short period since he had returned to Ireland.

DB felt that the next year would be challenging for the club, after the huge investment made into the facilities at Glevum Park, with most of the work now completed, and the fencing alongside the training pitch nearing completion.

More positively, the links with the youth section were now much improved and the new kit deal, with AthElite Sports was good for the club. The club shop would be due to open shortly and sponsorship income had covered the cost of the kits purchased this season.

### **General Secretary:**

DG reflected on how much work NS, SS and DB put into running the club and said more volunteers were needed to assist them. DG said he had been surprised by the huge responsibility involved in keeping the club going and how, without the efforts of a small group, the club could continue.

### **Head of Football Development:**

KB reiterated the praise for the volunteers responsible for running the club. He acknowledged the difficulties experienced during the past year, both financially and generally. The season had been “up and down” and no side had properly completed a full season. He hoped that there would be more consistent football on offer moving forward and he confirmed his hope for an interruption free season.

KB closed by offering his congratulations to all managers for their work during the season.

### **Treasurer's report:**

NS the club were still without a nominated Treasurer, an issue which had been exacerbated by the unexpected retirement of both Allan and Carole Summers. NS praised their contribution to the club over 40 years and said they were a great loss.

The impact had been that GM and NS had both taken on a number of the activities associated with the Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer/Payroll Officer duties, with GM dealing with some of the banking requirements, as well as liaison with the accountancy firm instructed following the retirement of TN, and NS taking action around the payment of invoices and processing of payroll.

Due to the change in the accounting year and the transitional arrangements in transferring to a new accountant, no accounts had been prepared in time for the AGM. NS explained that this was largely a consequence of having so few people focusing on running a sizable club as volunteers and it he proposed that a full set of accounts covering the last and current year would be presented to the next AGM in 2022.

Proposed by DG. Seconded by PT.

NS was able to report that the club currently had a bank balance of approximately £70k at the close of business today and approximately £13k due imminently in the form of a

VAT return. Although this was a marked reduction in the club's assets, a number of cost increases (notably payroll and the installation of the new drainage system at Glevum Park) had hit the club finances hard, and income had been significantly reduced, with the club closed for much of the last 12 months.

NS did note that the loan to Molson Coors had been paid off in full, which had facilitated the renewal of the relationship with the brewery and the Executive Committee had been able to secure an improved deal as a consequence. He concluded that the club finances remained in a healthy state, albeit with slightly reduced funds compared to recent years. He invited questions from the floor but there were none.

### **Report from Football Secretary:**

NS thanked the club's committee, their staff, players, coaches and all members for their efforts over the last year. He acknowledged the incredibly challenging circumstances that all football clubs had operated within over the past year.

NS then congratulated Rich Cox on his appointment as the first team manager and hoped he would oversee a successful period ahead.

Following changes introduced over the course of the last season, NS also thanked Will Cronshaw and Amy Brinkworth for taking on duties in relation to the Stroud League and Ladies' sides, respectively.

NS then thanked the club's supporters and sponsors for their commitment to the club and also confirmed that a number of new sponsors had been identified in recent months. He hoped further financial support would be forthcoming in the year ahead.

### **Amendments to Club Constitution:**

NS referred to the proposed amendments to the club constitution. The amendments related to

- Paragraph 9.1 (Ladies Football Secretary added & Football Welfare Officer amended to Welfare Officer)
- Changes to the format of numbers (converted to text)
- 15.1 & 15.2 Change to membership year (clarification at the request of Nigel Buckingham, Social Committee Chairman)
- 23.2 Change from Club Steward to General Manager (due to the change in job title).

NS said the recommendation of the Executive Committee was that the changes were accepted en block but this needed to be proposed and seconded.

Proposed by Dan Boon. Seconded by Dean Brooks. All present voted in favour of the proposed amendments to the constitution.

### **Election of life members:**

There had been no nominations for members to be awarded Life Membership.

### **Election of officers and football committee:**

NS read out the names of the nominations, with no contested posts. All nominees were elected en-block, as follows:

<b><u>Role</u></b>	<b><u>Nomination</u></b>
<b>Executive Chair</b>	<b>Graham Moody</b>
<b>Football Chair</b>	<b>Dan Boon</b>
<b>Vice-Chair of Football Committee</b>	<b>No nomination</b>
<b>General Secretary</b>	<b>Dave Griffiths</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>No nomination</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>No nomination</b>
<b>Compliance Officer</b>	<b>Sonia Spiller</b>
<b>Football Secretary</b>	<b>Neil Spiller</b>
<b>Assistant Football Secretary – Stroud League</b>	<b>Will Cronshaw</b>
<b>Assistant Secretary – Ladies’ Football Secretary</b>	<b>Amy Brinkworth</b>
<b>Head of Football Development</b>	<b>Ken Blackburn</b>
<b>Football Welfare Officer</b>	<b>No nomination</b>
<b>Commercial Manager</b>	<b>No nomination</b>
<b>Players’ Representative</b>	<b>No nomination</b>
<b>Committee volunteers</b>	<b>Jamie Gibbons, Mark Patterson, Dean Brooks</b>

Roy Craddock proposed all the officers were appointed, which was seconded by Dave Strain. All present voted in favour of this resolution.

### **Membership fees 2021/22:**

DB proposed the fees. It was intended to increase the standard membership fee from £40 to £50 per season, but this would now include both the social club membership and the provision of two pairs of socks and shirts (playing kit) which would be kept by players. This fee would also match the cost of first team player sponsorship, so would create consistency and offer the potential for other players to be sponsored (fees would be reimbursed in the event a player who had already paid received sponsorship).

DB confirmed that there would be some exceptions to the standard fees but he would send a notice to managers and coaches outlining the impact for each squad.

There were no objections to the proposed approach to fees.

**Any other business:**

There were no further items and the meeting ended at 7:55pm.