



MINUTES OF THE FSSB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 18 December 2025, 7.00 PM

Venue: Starkie's (In-person) and via Zoom (Hybrid meeting)

Welcome and Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:00pm.

Rod Peters chaired the meeting, having been delegated responsibility by John Woodhead FSSB Chair. The Chair welcomed members attending both in person and online and confirmed the meeting was quorate and held in accordance with the Society's Standing Orders, amended to allow for a hybrid AGM.

Members attending online were reminded to ensure their full names were displayed on Zoom for governance and legal purposes.

Introductions and Apologies

Board Members Present:

1. Rod Peters (Chair for the meeting)
2. John Woodhead (Chair of the FSSB)
3. Mike Howarth
4. John Wiggins
5. John Raftery
6. Mike Goodier

Apologies:

Ian Pearson and Gareth Castick (Attended online)

In Attendance:

Ryan Denner (Horsfield & Smith – Auditors)

Thanks, and Acknowledgements

The Chair formally thanked Mike Goodier for his service as a director over the past five years, noting that he would step down at the conclusion of the AGM. Thanks, were also recorded to Jon Newby for his contribution to the Board and football operations.

The Chair recorded thanks to Andrew Madaras and the Election Committee, Adam, Clark and Jonny Greenhalgh for technical setup, John Waddington for assistance with AGM preparation and standing orders and Nicola Cave (Football Supporters' Association) for policy guidance

Meeting Format and Voting Procedure

Members were reminded that the AGM was being held as a hybrid meeting for the first time. Online members were muted but could submit questions via the chat function. Questions would be monitored by John Waddington throughout the AGM and questions not covered would be answered subsequently

The chair then formally announced the appointed tellers: Casey Lynchey, Stuart Wright, and Ben McConnell

Agenda

The Chair run through the agenda and hoped the Q&A session would be conducted in an orderly and constructive manner and for the focus to be on issues not individuals and be respectful at all times.

Voting Process

The Chair then ran through the voting process noting that the Board had taken advice from the FSA on the hybrid voting process.

ElectionBuddy (the online voting platform) has safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the vote while it is ongoing. Specifically, the system masks the last three votes cast and temporarily displays them with a “Not Voted**” status until the election concludes. The results below reflect those announced at the AGM and the final tally. A copy of the final ElectionBuddy tally report is attached to the foot of these minutes for transparency.*

Resolutions

The Chair confirmed that no resolutions had been received from members and that all five resolutions were Board resolutions.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM dated 24 March 2025

No discussion took place

Vote Result

For: 280 (*Adjusted 284)

Against: 3

Abstentions: 13

Resolution carried.

2. To receive and adopt the Bury Football Club 2009 Ltd accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025

A written question was raised:

Why has there been an increase from £47,223 to £178,593 in wages and salaries since 2024 in the BFC (2019) accounts?

What makes up 'other operating income' of £266,814 in the BFC (2019) accounts?

Mike Howarth explained:

- Staffing costs increased due to the transition from limited staffing to several full-time and part-time staff, with the current accounts reflecting a fuller year of employment.
- Other operating income primarily related to food and beverage sales, hospitality, kiosk commissions, and smaller income streams such as car parking and events.

Vote Result:

For: 276 (*Adjusted 279)

Against: 7 (*Adjusted 8)

Abstentions: 14

Resolution carried.

3. To receive and adopt the Football Supporters' Society Bury Ltd accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025

A question was raised from the floor regarding ticketing commission costs (TicketCo), noting concerns about the overall cost given per-ticket charges. The Board acknowledged the concern and confirmed it would be reviewed later.

Vote Result:

For: 279 (*Adjusted 283)

Against: 6

Abstentions: 11

Resolution carried.

4. To receive and adopt the Bury Football Club Company Ltd accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025

No discussion.

Vote Result:

For: 276 (*Adjusted 279)

Against: 7 (*Adjusted 8)

Abstentions: 13

Resolution carried.

5. Reappointment of Horsfield & Smith as Auditors, subject to fair value assessment of costs

No discussion.

Vote Result:

For: 282 (*Adjusted 286)

Against: 5

Abstentions: 9

Resolution carried.

Declaration of FSSB Board Election Results

The Chair invited Andrew Madaras, Chair of Dunstable Football Club, to declare the result of the election in his capacity as the independent scrutineer.

Andrew addressed the meeting and confirmed the following:

- **Ballots issued:** 1,801
- **Ballots returned:** 776
- **Overall turnout:** 43.1%

Votes received:

- Mike Howarth– 603 votes
- Tina Newall – 567 votes
- Brad Seymour – 275 votes
- Jeremy Keeble – 255 votes

Mike Howarth, Tina Newall, and Brad Seymour were duly **elected to the FSSB Board of Directors**.

The Chair and members thanked Andrew and the Election Committee for their work and oversight of the election process. Andrew also expressed his thanks to the Election Committee.

The Chair congratulated the newly elected Board members and thanked all candidates who had put themselves forward for election.

John Waddington relayed a comment from **Nick Metcalf (online)** thanking and congratulating all candidates who stood for election.

Additional thanks were expressed:

- To the Board for facilitating an **in-person AGM**, which was widely appreciated by members.
- To long-serving volunteers **Jon Newby** and **Mike Goodyear**, recognising their contribution and service to the club, reflecting the club's long volunteer tradition since 1885.

The Chair acknowledged and thanked members for these comments.

Statement Regarding Managerial Appointment

Prior to opening general questions, the Chair advised that the Board wished to address concerns surrounding the recent appointment and subsequent departure of Michael Jolley as First Team Manager.

The Chair acknowledged that there are strong feelings related to appointment of Michael Jolley as our manager the previous week. It was also acknowledged that many people connected to Bury Football Club had felt upset or disappointed and the Board did not wish to avoid or minimise these concerns.

John Woodhead outlined the following key points:

That an exhaustive recruitment and selection process had been undertaken, involving a number of Board members and independent advisers.

Forensic due diligence, background checks, and references were completed.

In terms of experience, qualifications, previous track record and reputation within the game, Michael Jolley was the outstanding candidate in a field with a number of highly experienced coaches.

This review was shared with the wider Board who agreed that Michael should become the new manager of Bury FC.

Michael has worked at a number of football clubs since. He had not been banned from working with women or young people, and the conviction referenced related to deception rather than grooming.

John Woodhead said the Board recognised its duty of care to all individuals involved, including Michael Jolley and his family.

The Chair further stated that what we all want for this football club is to be back in the Football League and competing at a full-time professional level and Michael Jolley's experience looked to give us a solid chance of achieving that.

Given the nature of football, the selection process and the final decision was kept quiet until we were ready to announce Michael Jolley as our new manager. Naively on our part, given that Michael Jolley had worked for a number of EFL clubs and was the stand-out candidate in a competitive field, we initially felt that it was a coup to attract him to the Club.

Where the Board made a mistake, however, was to not discuss our decision with the key staff and interest groups related to the Club in good time and enough detail, to explain the context of his conviction and the reasons why he was appointed.

We have since listened to supporters, volunteers, staff, partners, and players. We have listened to concerns about culture, decision-making, due diligence and whether the Club acted in line with its values as a fan-owned, community organisation.

Listening, however, is only the first step. Leadership requires learning and that is why the Board took the decision it did over the (previous) weekend, which was taken because the welfare of people, the reputation of the Club and the long-term stability of Bury FC must come first.

John Woodhead continued to say that it was important to note that we have to get the balance right between acting by committee of every stakeholder connected to the club and taking decisions that we will stand by. The decision to remove Michael Jolley from his managerial duties was not due to chants or online abuse but reflected widespread concern across stakeholders including sponsors, staff, and players about our decision. Rightly or wrongly, the mood was overwhelmingly negative.

The Board recognised that this episode affected far more than the men's first team. Bury FC is a workplace, a community space and a shared environment for families, women and girls, volunteers and supporters.

The Board acknowledged that some female colleagues, volunteers and supporters felt uncomfortable or unheard. That matters. A family- and female-friendly club must live those values consistently.

John Woodhead said the Board was committed to strengthening due diligence, safeguarding, and engagement processes so decisions reflect the full impact on our community. Trust would not be rebuilt overnight.

John Woodhead said that the Board will now proceed with the review and the recruitment process and ensure that the best interests of Bury Football Club, both on and off the pitch, are our main focus. Advice had been taken from the Manchester FA and other professional bodies and that we have a duty of care to those affected by the past week, including Michael Jolley.

The statement was deemed to address the issues raised, and it was confirmed that no further questions would be taken on this matter.

Introduction to Q&A

The Chair opened the session for questions raised by members. It was clarified that questions relating to specific individuals were not being addressed, and the meeting would proceed with the formal Q&A agenda.

Question (Brian Rigby): Was the 1978 membership total the highest the Society has achieved?

The Chair confirmed that this was not the highest membership figure. At the AGM on 25 March 2025, membership stood at 2,013, which was higher due to the inclusion of Lifetime Members and members from the Bury Football Club Supporters' Society following the merger.

Question (Brian Rigby): Why does the Board believe that only around 30% of members are using the new payment portal?

The Chair explained that following the merger, there are multiple payment streams and bank accounts linked to membership, including:

- Bury FC Supporters' Society (GoCardless)
- Old Shaker Society (Stripe and GoCardless)
- FSSB (Stripe)
- Lifetime Members

This results in approximately five separate inputs contributing to the membership database. Moving all members to the new portal would require around 1,300 members to cancel existing payment arrangements and reapply via the website. The Board considers this a significant financial and operational risk and is therefore not prepared to do this at present. The issue will be reviewed in the New Year, with work ongoing to maximise use of the website and improve integration where possible.

Question (Andrea Allcock): How does the Board plan to develop member engagement and improve dialogue between the Board and supporters?

The Chair explained that a recent Football Supporters' Association (FSA) audit identified that member engagement is currently largely limited to the AGM. The Board acknowledged this finding and agreed that engagement needs to be more frequent and consistent. Strategic Plan Forums have begun and are seen as a positive step, but further initiatives are required. The Board confirmed its intention to improve communication with members throughout the year, better explain the purpose and benefits of membership and reinforce that membership fees directly support club operations and the maintenance of Gigg Lane

The Chair also advised that discussions have taken place with the Club regarding additional member benefits, similar to those available to season ticket holders (e.g. discounts and membership cards). Proposals will be presented to the Board in January 2026.

The Society website will be refreshed to highlight tangible benefits of membership, share good news stories, case studies, and videos, and clearly demonstrate how membership subscriptions are used. The overarching aim is to improve transparency and understanding of how member contributions support the Club's financial stability and stadium maintenance.

Question: (Brian Rigby) Has a long-term lease been granted to Bury FC by the Gigg Lane stadium owners. If the answer is no, does this have any serious implications for the football club's future?

John Woodhead explained that the Club does not hold a long-term lease at Gigg Lane. The stadium freehold is owned by Bury Football Club Company Limited (the Stadium Company). The Stadium Company's Articles of Association contain an asset lock, preventing the transfer of the stadium asset, including via a long-term

lease. Any change to the Articles would require unanimous approval from all seven Stadium Company board members, which has not been agreed.

John Woodhead explained that the current arrangement is that the Club occupies the stadium on a 12-month licence, renewed on a season-by-season basis. This licence must be in place by 31 March each year to meet football authority requirements. Four FSSB representatives sit on the Stadium Company board and will ensure the licence is granted annually. The Board confirmed there is no risk to the Club's ability to continue playing at Gig Lane.

John Woodhead acknowledged that many funding bodies require long-term security (e.g. 10–25 years). While a long-term lease cannot be granted, the Board plans to identify suitable projects eligible for grant funding and submit applications jointly with benefactors. The intention is to demonstrate stability through successive annual licences (e.g. effectively covering 10 seasons). Whether funders will accept this arrangement will be determined through applications in the New Year. Members will be kept informed as plans develop.

Jon Wiggins added that discussions with benefactors will resume in the New Year. Areas for potential improvement include community changing rooms, accessibility enhancements and general supporter experience improvements. These priorities will be identified, costed, and taken to the Stadium Board. A joint approach between the Club, FSSB, and benefactors will be taken to secure funding and deliver improvements.

The Chair addressed comments received online indicating that some members felt they were not being given sufficient opportunity to ask questions during the meeting. It was stated that the format of the meeting, including the management of questions, was a decision of the Chair.

A member raised a point regarding a previous Board appointment and its consequences. The Chair clarified that statements rather than questions were being made and reiterated the need for questions to be clearly framed.

Jeremy Clegg thanked the society Secretary and helpers for arranging a hybrid (remote and in-person) AGM, noting that this had been requested at the previous AGM and was expected to improve transparency and democracy.

The same member expressed strong disagreement with the Chair's refusal to answer certain questions that, in their view, affected the whole football club. Concerns were raised regarding transparency, democracy, and the handling of a past issue involving a former player. The member stated that no apology had been heard from the Board and argued that an apology would help address ongoing criticism.

Another member summarised the point as a question, asking how the Board intended to apologise or acknowledge wrongdoing.

The Chair responded that the Board had explained where it believed mistakes had been made but stated that it would not re-open discussion on the specific individual case referenced. The Chair indicated that the meeting needed to move on to other agenda items.

Question: (Terry Gorman) With the new football management structure, could the Board please explain the authorisation procedure for issuing player contracts, and whether there is a difference for contracts that commit the club to expenditure beyond the current season? This question relates to cost control procedures and not judgments on player ability.

With Chair approval, Dave McNabb responded on behalf of the football management:

Decisions on player contracts are made by the First Team Manager within an agreed budget. Responsibility for this decision-making now rests solely with the current manager, whereas it was previously shared. Factors considered when agreeing contracts include player age, current playing level, future potential, and potential resale value.

FA regulations regarding development fees for players under 24 were explained. These fees apply when such players move clubs and can influence the structure and length of contracts. The Club uses mechanisms such as multi-year contracts and option years to protect its investment where appropriate. At the time of the meeting, approximately nine players had option years included in their contracts. Budget-setting determines whether options are exercised at the end of a season.

Further clarification was provided on governance and financial controls. Player recruitment and contract costs are tracked weekly against budget. Monthly financial reports are presented to the Board, including projections for the end of the financial year. Payments to players are processed monthly through established financial controls. Previous governance arrangements included oversight by the football board and named board members.

Dave McNabb outlined the role of the Football Secretary, which is to prepare and process player contracts, submit documentation to the FA, liaise with other clubs regarding contractual matters and coordinate media announcements in conjunction with the media team to ensure simultaneous releases where possible.

Question (Ryan Hampson): Whether published attendance figures could reflect actual numbers present in the ground, rather than including season tickets not used, to improve transparency.

It was explained that attendance figures are calculated based on tickets sold, not physical attendance. This is standard practice across football clubs, as the club has received revenue regardless of whether the ticket holder attends. No immediate change to this approach was confirmed.

Question (Julie Wilson): Why the club does not offer concession prices for supporters aged over 60?

With Chair approval, Chris Watts explained that members previously voted against the introduction of over-60s concessions following consultation. Reducing ticket prices would reduce club revenue. The current ticket price (£12) was noted as broadly comparable to historic concession prices. The issue remains under review and may be reconsidered in future.

Additional comments from the floor noted other clubs in the league do offer concessions, Mike Howarth explained that the club's operating costs, including stadium expenses and ambitions regarding league level, were factors. It was reiterated that the policy reflects member voting.

Question (Andrea Allcock): Whether the board would consider publishing redacted board minutes (alongside summaries) to improve transparency, including attendance and contributions of board members?

The Chair explained that the board had previously chosen to publish summaries, as producing full minutes would require extensive redaction. The board noted the suggestion and agreed to revisit the possibility of publishing both summaries and redacted minutes in the future.

Question: (Andrea Allcock) Whether a structured governance chart detailing roles, responsibilities, and subcommittees exists?

With Chair approval . Casey Lynchey confirmed that a governance chart is currently being developed. Responsibilities across board and staff roles are under ongoing review.

Question from the Floor: Explanation sought regarding Dave McNab's change from management duties to a different role?

Dave McNabb explained that the decision followed reflection on workload, competing responsibilities, and ensuring the club receives full commitment. The role evolved toward revenue generation, strategic planning, and long-term financial sustainability. The change was discussed with the board and formally agreed. The timing was earlier than anticipated but felt appropriate.

Question from the Floor Whether Dave McNabb would have input into the recruitment of the next manager?

Dave McNabb explained that a full review of recent appointment processes is planned. Governance and decision-making structures will be clarified before recruitment. Dave McNabb expected to have input into agreeing the recruitment process, subject to governance arrangements.

Question (Brian Wolstenholme – online): Clarification on outsourcing food and drink, revenue share, and whether services could be brought in-house?

With Chair approval, Chris Watts explained that the club currently receives 17% revenue under a six-year contract (now in year two). Outsourcing reduces financial risk related to staffing, wastage, and abandoned fixtures. In-house provision remains difficult but is under ongoing review, particularly as the club progresses up the leagues. Alternative models (e.g. pop-ups, space rental) are being explored.

Additional concerns came from the Floor that kiosks selling out before half-time, leading to lost sales opportunities. Issues with kiosks not accepting cash, particularly problematic for children.

Chris Watts acknowledged the feedback and would be e raised with the catering provider. It was confirmed that kiosks should be able to accept cash.

Question from the Floor: What happened to the fan zone and what future plans exist?

Chris Watts explained that previous trials were limited due to licensing restrictions, location, lack of cover, and poor footfall. Multiple locations have been explored. A permanent and weatherproof solution would require significant funding. The concept remains a long-term aspiration, subject to funding availability.

Question from the Floor: The Chair returned to an earlier question regarding ticketing commission costs (TicketCo), noting concerns about the overall cost given per-ticket charges.

Chris Watts explained that the club will be moving away from its current ticketing platform in the summer. A full pricing strategy review will take place, including concessions. Introducing over-60s concessions previously would have cost approximately £25,000 per season. Concessions are not ruled out but must be financially sustainable.

Question: (Terry Gorman). Can the Board please give any indication of when they think that Gigg Lane will be sufficiently safe and secure for the trophies to be returned to the spiritual home?

Board members were unable to confirm whether *all* trophies had now been returned to Gigg Lane. It was acknowledged that security, rather than safety, was the key consideration. No definitive timeline was provided for when Gigg Lane would be sufficiently secure for all trophies to be returned permanently.

Question from the Floor: A member asked whether, when Dave McNabb moved into the Technical Director role, it had been stated that this would be at no additional cost to the club?

Dave McNabb explained that sponsorship arrangements were in place to ensure that any additional salary costs related to the appointment of a new manager would be covered. The board would ensure ongoing oversight of sponsorship contributions to offset staffing costs.

Question: A member asked whether the club could publicly announce the length of player contracts when signings are made.

It was explained that while the club is not seeking to hide information, announcing contract lengths selectively could unintentionally identify which players are on non-contract terms. The board explained that this could expose non-contract players to unwanted attention and potential loss on short notice. The matter was noted, with the balance between transparency and player protection explained.

Question from the Floor: A question was raised regarding enhanced security checks, following an incident where two flares were thrown from the away end at a recent match.

With Chair approval, Casey Lynchey confirmed that the individual involved was under the age of 16. It was explained that there are legal limitations on the level of searching permitted for under-16s. Hand searches are not permitted, and security wands do not detect pyrotechnics. The individual responsible has been identified and has existing banning orders at other grounds. The Club confirmed its support for banning the individual from the stadium.

Further explanation was provided regarding increased security: The introduction of enhanced checks aligns with upcoming legislation (including *Martyn's Law*) and aims to improve safety at large venues. Security wands are intended to prevent dangerous items, such as knives, being brought into the stadium. Stewards have been instructed to request permission before conducting wand searches.

Some members expressed concern that pensioners were being subject to security wandering and, in one case, a supporter left after refusing a search.

It was explained that applying different standards based on age would be discriminatory. There is need for a consistent, non-judgmental approach to stadium security. The differing views were noted, and the Chair acknowledged the concerns raised.

Question from the Floor: A member asked what information from the upcoming governance and operational review would be shared with members?

It was confirmed that the purpose of the review is transparency. It was stated that findings, recommendations, and changes arising from the review will be shared with members and supporters.

Closing of the Meeting

No further questions were received from the floor or online.

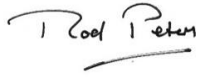
The Chair thanked attendees present in person and online supporters, volunteers, bar staff and venue staff

The Chair formally closed the meeting and declared the AGM 2025 concluded

Attendance: 152 members of the Football Supporters' Society of Bury Ltd. (Online 107 In-Person 45)

Minutes approved by the FSSB Board 6th January 2026

Rod Peters

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Peters", with a horizontal line underneath.

FSSB Secretary

Election Results for FSSB AGM 18 December 2025

Started at: December 4, 2025 at 9:00am
Finished at: December 18, 2025 at 8:00pm
Time zone: GMT +00:00, London

276 of 1801 ballots cast.

Option: Approve the Bury Football Club (2019) Ltd accounts

Yes - I approve the accounts: 255 votes 96.96%

No - I reject the accounts: 8 votes 3.04%

Yes - I approve the accounts wins

Votes tallied: 263

Abstentions: 13

Option: Approve the Football Supporters' Society of Bury Ltd Accounts

Yes- I approve the accounts: 259 votes 97.74%

No- I reject the accounts: 6 votes 2.26%

Yes- I approve the accounts wins

Votes tallied: 265

Abstentions: 11

Option: Approve The Bury Football Club Company Limited Accounts

Yes - I approve the accounts: 255 votes 96.96%

No - I reject the accounts: 8 votes 3.04%

Yes - I approve the accounts wins

Votes tallied: 263

Abstentions: 13

Option: Approve the Football Supporters' Society of Bury 2024 AGM Minutes

Yes- I approve the minutes: 260 votes 98.86%

No- I reject the minutes: 3 votes 1.14%

Yes- I approve the minutes wins

Votes tallied: 263

Abstentions: 13

Option: Approve the re-appointment of our auditors, Horsfield & Smith, subject to a fair value assessment of costs

Yes- I approve the re-appointment subject to costs: 262 votes 98.13%
No- I reject the re-appointment: 5 votes 1.87%

Yes- I approve the re-appointment subject to costs wins
Votes tallied: 267
Abstentions: 9