



# BRISTOL CITY SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED CHAIR'S REPORT

*FOR THE PERIOD 1st NOVEMBER 2024 TO 31st OCTOBER 2025*

## **Business Review**

This report briefly summarises the activities for the Club & Trust.

The Supporters Club & Trust is a main recognised supporter group involved in all aspects of interest for supporters alongside another specific group for senior supporters and the more recently formed Fan Advisory Board (FAB).

We actively use our website, social media, internet forums and online survey tools. [www.otib.co.uk](http://www.otib.co.uk) has 5,876 members and 559 OTIB Supporters who pay £5 annually to help fund the site.

In addition, our own CRM based membership database has over 9,000 names on it.

We continue to meet regularly with Bristol City Football Club, Bristol City Women's Football Club, Avon & Somerset police representatives, the Supporter Liaison Officer and other community groups.

Following the signing in September 2021 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BCFC, meetings continued to take place throughout the year to discuss all things related to the football club. These meetings take place every 6 to 8 weeks.

We kicked the financial year off in November 2024 with revealing a new logo to celebrate 75 years since the formation of the original Bristol City Supporters Club:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/supporters-club-75-years/>

In December, we held our annual structured dialogue meeting with Bristol City Women FC.

The agenda was packed with discussion around the playing strategy, ticketing, protecting heritage, away travel and merchandise. D-M Withers, Shahan Miah, and Stu Rogers met Gavin Marshall and Romaney Pinnock from the Football Club, with Deborah Dilworth joining from the FSA:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/category/news/page/4/>

In January 2025, former Bristol City player Jacki Dziekanowski was inducted into the most recent class of the Hall of Fame, representing the 1980s/1990s.

On the anniversary of scoring in the FA Cup win against topflight Leicester City at Filbert Street in 1992, Jacki was welcomed back to Ashton Gate ahead of the Sky Bet Championship game with Blackburn Rovers.

The day's events included a presentation that took place in our Supporters Bar, followed by a presentation of his legacy cap from the football club before kick-off:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/jacki-dziekanowski-inducted-into-hall-of-fame/>

Also in January, we made some updates to the Honours Boards in our Supporters Bar at Ashton Gate:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/honours-boards-updates/>

We were devastated to receive the news that our friend, fellow board member & lifelong Bristol City fan Mike Adams had sadly passed away at the age of 84.

A long-time member of the SC&T board and founding board member of the original Supporters Trust formed in 2005. Mike was very well known & popular amongst many of our members & City supporters and kept contact with many people past & present from the football club.

Mike worked on many of our initiatives over the years; including being ever present at our End of Season awards presentations & Hall of Fame inductions:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/rest-in-peace-mike-adams/>

We are firm believers in football being accessible to all.

We therefore funded a brand new sensory room at Ashton Gate to be used for all Bristol City men's & women's home games at the stadium.

The room is a safe space where neurodiverse spectators, particularly younger supporters can enjoy the matchday experience in a controlled setting without experiencing sensory overload.

There is a Sensory Room Supporter Liaison Officer present on every matchday and on hand to assist those in attendance.

The sensory room is restricted to a maximum of six people (including parent/guardian/carer), in order to keep the room safe and avoid overcrowding:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/sensory-room-at-ashton-gate-stadium/>

In the Supporters Bar we hosted the Fans Forum for Bristol City Women in March. The panel were all making their debuts at a Bristol City fans forum, with Head of Women's Football Romaney Pinnock, Head Coach Steve Kirby, and defender Harley Bennett taking questions from supporters in attendance. Hosted by Head of Communications Sheridan Robins, the 60+ minute evening was intimate, informative & featured a range of questions from the largest audience ever seen for a City Women fans forum.

We thank our board member James Nicholls for setting up our PA system so that all questions & answers could be heard by all attendees:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/city-women-fans-forum-2025/>

In April, the football club was pleased to announce details of the new Fan Advisory Board (FAB), which will represent significantly greater fan engagement and wider representation for supporters.

The club worked collaboratively with the Supporters Club & Trust as part of fan engagement to agree on a code of conduct and constitution and this will enable the group to be independent:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/fan-advisory-board-launched/>

D-M Withers had to step down in May from the board due to work commitments.

Over the years, they & Shahan campaigned & lobbied for various activities now seen regularly in the men's game.

Among others, these include: away coach travel for City Women supporters, launching Women's awards in our annual long running End of Season Awards, recognising former City Women players in our Hall of Fame for the first time, and getting the women's team to commit to Fans Forums:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/thank-you-d-m-withers/>

We once again organised all aspects of the Bristol City Supporters Club & Trust End of Season Awards for 2024/25:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/end-of-season-awards-2024-25/>

In August, we were then pleased to announce that our Fans of the Future scheme was returning for the 2025/26 season.

Run since 2018/19, the scheme sees us purchase eight season tickets and encourage young fans from local community groups and football clubs to attend what might be for many their first experience of coming to Ashton Gate.

We give these tickets away for free on a match by match basis and the allocation is nearly always taken up:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/fans-of-the-future-2025-26/>

As the season kicked off, we made a few changes to the way people access the bar. The capacity was often being exceeded with non-members unofficially coming in.

To cater for members wishing on occasion to bring a guest into the bar, we are now trialling the use of 'guest passes'.

Additionally, we are employing a door person to supervise access. So far, it is going well:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/supporters-bar-update/>

In September, our friends at Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Trust reached out to us to encourage Bristol City supporters to take part in the ongoing boycott of food & drink sold at Hillsborough.

It was part of their wider protest against their owner:

<https://www.bristolcitysupporters.org/food-drink-boycott-at-hillsborough/>

Along the way we continued to support other fan-led initiatives like donating to the new mural just outside Ashton Gate

<https://art4fans.uk/our-latest-mural-1>

Similarly, with regular donations to Section 82 to support flag displays and TIFOs (banners).

We are indebted to James Thomas for picking up the day to day accounts management and Mike Adams, who served us so well as Membership Secretary.

Shahan Miah continues to work extremely hard to raise the profile of the Women's game.

Shahan also works hard to keep our external social media presence high.

Katrina Watts, Jon Watts and Marie Day work tirelessly in many aspects, but particularly running the Supporters Bar.

Organisations like this cannot possibly exist without people like this giving their time so generously.

Our banking arrangements allow us to streamline our payment processes for expenses and our online membership system, which produces electronic membership cards for members, ensuring a continuous cycle of renewal of member subscriptions. Jon Darch continues to administer our databases and newsletter communications and setting up surveys and voting mechanisms.

## **Looking forward**

The Football Governance Bill has been passed in the UK Parliament and then in the House of Lords. The bill establishes an independent football regulator (IFR) to ensure the sustainability of English football.

We welcome this legislation as fans, as it will help protect things that we hold dear in football, help football clubs become more sustainable and improve engagement between decision makers and supporters.

Meantime, we will seek to ensure that football is accessible and enjoyable for all fans. We will campaign on initiatives that are important to fans. We will continue to raise money for various initiatives, and we will strive to be a professionally run and solution focussed organisation.

Ultimately, we will do everything possible within the reach of a volunteer organisation to "make your voice heard".