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# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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**Bolton Wanderers Supporters Society Limited & Football Ventures (Whites) Limited**

**30 JULY 2021**



## Memorandum of Understanding

### 1.0 Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") are:

1. BOLTON WANDERERS SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED (also known as Bolton Wanderers Supporters' Trust or BWFCST) a community benefit society registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with number 7270 whose registered address is BWFCST, c/o The University of Bolton Stadium, Burnden Way, Bolton BL6 6JW ("the Trust, party or parties").
2. FOOTBALL VENTURES (WHITES) LIMITED (also known as Bolton Wanderers Football Club, BWFC or the Club) a company limited by shares with registration number 11761052 whose registered address is Football Ventures (Whites) Limited, The University of Bolton Stadium, Burnden Way, Bolton BL6 6JW ("the Club, party or parties").

### 2.0 Introduction & Background

- a) As part of the Government Expert Working Group on Football Supporter Ownership and Engagement from the start of the 2016/17 season it is a requirement for all EPL and EFL clubs to meet structured dialogue commitments.
- b) The minimum level of commitment is for senior Club representatives (owners, directors, senior executive management) to meet with a representative group of supporters, that must include the Supporters Trust, at least twice a year.
- c) The matters for discussion will often be of a strategic nature and may relate to the management and day to day running of the club
- d) Where meetings are not open to all supporters wishing to attend, the supporter representatives must be elected, selected or invited in line with basic democratic principles; and individuals cannot be excluded by the Club without good reason (the Club acting reasonably).

This is not a legally binding document or contract, but it is a statement of the principles that the trust and the club subscribe to, to create an effective, mutually beneficial, structured communication channel.



**3.0 The BWFCST will:**

1. Be properly incorporated and constituted with a democratic 'one member one vote' governance structure, filing annual returns with the FCA, and offering an open and affordable membership to any supporter of the club.
2. Consult with its membership regularly on issues of importance particularly ahead of structured dialogue meetings with the club.
3. Liaise with other supporters' groups and stakeholders on suitable topics for discussion ahead of structured dialogue meetings, respecting other existing communication and supporter dialogue structures that exist between supporters and the club.
4. Put forward suitable non-conflicted people to attend structured dialogue meetings who understand their role as representatives for supporters, not just to voice their own views.

**4.0 The Club will:**

1. Use the structured dialogue format to consult about significant decisions such as any permanent ground move, change of club badge or substantial change to club colours.
2. Use the meetings to discuss wider league/national consultation that will affect supporters.
3. Take the opportunity to discuss any potential ownership changes including future opportunities for supporters to invest in their club.
4. Not exclude individuals without good reason.
5. Send suitable senior club representatives who have the appropriate knowledge of the club and decision-making authority.

**5.0 Both parties will:**

1. Agree agenda items in a timely manner, circulating sufficient supporting information to be read ahead of the meeting.
2. Respect that some items may be sensitive and deemed confidential, with an agreed protocol about how they should be reported.
3. Publish minutes agreed by both parties in a timely coordinated manner.
4. Share key contact information including roles and decision-making powers.
5. Ensure the meeting is 'structured' so that any topics that either party wants to discuss can be done so in an appropriate environment.

Each party hereby confirms its agreement to the terms contained in this memorandum of understanding.

**Signed on behalf of the BWFCST:**

Name: IAN BRIDGE

Position: SECRETARY

Date: 03 AUGUST 2021

**Signed on behalf of the Club:**

Name: NEIL HART

Position: CEO

Date: 03 AUGUST 2021