



The Constitution of the A BEE C Party

PREAMBLE

The A BEE C Party is a collective society of Brentford Football Club supporters who are concerned at the lack of constructive action on the part of the local authority in the London Borough of Hounslow to enable the retention and development of a valuable community asset – the said Brentford Football Club.

Supporters of the Club who attended a meeting, open to all, on 3rd October 2001 approved the formation of a political party to stand in the council elections in Hounslow on 2nd May 2002.

The intent of the party is set out below, the nature of the campaign is essentially focussed on the future location and development of a professional football club and its benefit to the residents of Hounslow.

1. NAME

The name of the Party shall be the “A BEE C” Party, hereinafter referred to as the Party.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Party shall be :

- a) To lobby the local council to work in partnership with the supporters and management of Brentford Football Club, hereinafter referred to as the Club, so that it can continue to fulfil a community role in the leisure, educational and civic life of the Borough.
- b) To recruit and support candidates in the forthcoming local elections in Hounslow to achieve the purpose described above at a).

3. RULES

The Party is empowered to make, rescind or amend Party Rules as appropriate to achieve its purpose and assist in its operation.

The procedure for making, rescinding or amending Party Rules shall be as described in paragraph for amendments to this constitution.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Persons who are supporters of the Club, or are interested in the retention and development of the Club as a community asset shall be eligible to become

members of the Party.

A person shall become a member when his/her application is accepted by the Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Membership Committee, and they have paid the annual membership fees.

An application for membership to the Party shall be delivered or posted to the Secretary and accompanied by the payment of the entrance fee and the annual subscription fee. These payments shall be refunded if the applicant is not admitted to membership of the Party. Each application for membership received after the inaugural meeting shall be referred by the Secretary to the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee shall consider an application for membership of the Party referred to it as soon as practicable and determine whether the applicant is qualified to be eligible for membership of the Party and whether or not he or she is a fit and proper person to be admitted. The Membership Committee may make such enquiries and investigations concerning an applicant for membership of the Party as it deems fit.

The Chairman of the Membership Committee shall notify the Executive Committee forthwith of the recommendation as to admission as a member of the Party of any application referred by the Secretary.

The power of the Executive Committee to grant admission as a member of the Party may be exercised by the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

When an application for membership has been granted he or she shall be notified by the Secretary.

There shall be payable to the Party by each member an entrance fee and an annual subscription. The entrance fee and annual subscription shall be determined by the inaugural meeting and thereafter the Annual Meeting.

5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member may resign from the Party on giving one month's notice of intention to resign to the Secretary and their resignation shall take effect at the expiration of such notice.

The membership of a member of the Party may be terminated

- i) on death
- ii) if they are in arrears of annual subscription for 12 months and if after that period fail to pay such arrears within one calendar month of being requested in writing by the Secretary to pay the same.
- iii) if they are expelled from the Party in accordance with this constitution

Any member whose membership of the Party shall be terminated shall cease to be entitled to any of the rights and privileges of a member and shall have no right to nor claim upon the property or funds of the Party.

No person who was a member of the Party and ceased to be such shall be eligible for re-admission as a member until they have paid any arrears of

subscription or any other monies (if any) due to the Party at the date when their former membership ceased.

6. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

There shall be a register of members kept by the Party and there shall be entered in such register the full name and address of each member and such further particulars as the Executive Committee shall from time to time prescribe

7. EXPULSION

The Party may by its resolution as hereafter provided expel any member

- a) whose conduct is detrimental to the Party or the interest of the Party or
- b) brings the Party into disrepute or contempt or
- c) who wilfully and persistently refuses to comply with this constitution or any of the Rules of the Party or
- d) has committed a wilful breach of this constitution or any of the Rules of the Party

8. MANAGEMENT

The affairs of the Party shall be managed and conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the following office bearers and members:

- a) Party Leader
- b) Nominating Officer (if different to Party Leader)
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer
- e) Campaigns Officer
- f) Publicity/Press Officer
- g) Strategy/Policy Officer
- h) Other elected members of the Executive Committee

The responsibility of the Executive Committee shall be to the members of the Party

The Executive Committee shall have the right to raise funds, appoint sub-committees and employ Chairman's action for the proper execution of its duties.

The Party Leader shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee and may appoint a fellow member of the Executive Committee to act as Chairman in his/her absence.

The Party Leader and other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the inaugural meeting by those persons present and thereafter at the Annual General Meeting after nomination by two members of the Party. They shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election for two consecutive terms. No member of the Executive Committee shall receive any remuneration for their services in the capacity as a member of the Executive Committee, other than out-of-pocket expenses and other costs incurred in conducting the affairs of the Party.

9. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall meet for the transaction of business at least annually.

No business shall be transacted at such a meeting unless a quorum of the members of the Executive Committee is present. One third of the members of the Executive Committee plus one shall constitute a quorum and the quorum must include the Party Leader and Treasurer.

At least seven days notice shall be given to members of the Executive Committee of meetings of the said committee. Such notice may be in writing or given verbally.

Questions arising at any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes and each member present shall have one vote and in the case of an equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

A resolution in writing signed by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee duly convened and held.

10. POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The management and control of the business and affairs of the Party shall be vested in the Executive Committee and the said Committee may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as the Party is by its constitution and rules or otherwise authorised to exercise.

11. MINUTES

The Executive Committee shall cause minutes to be made

- a) of all appointments of officials and servants
- b) of the names of members of the Executive Committee present at all meetings of the Party and the said Committee, and
- c) of all proceedings at all business meetings of the Party and the said Committee

12. BANKING

The Banking account of the Party shall be maintained by the Treasurer

All cheques drawn upon such account shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Party Leader.

13. ACCOUNTS

The Party shall ensure that proper accounting and other records of the Party's affairs are kept in accordance with the financial schemes and statutory provisions for political parties. Accounts shall be audited by a properly qualified auditor and shall be presented in a report to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

14 GENERAL MEETINGS

The first Annual Meeting of the Party shall be held at such time as the Executive Committee may determine.

Subsequent Annual Meetings shall take place at at time and place as the Executive Committee may determine not later than 12 months from the Date of the previous Annual Meeting.

The Executive Committee or the Party Leader may convene an extraordinary meeting.

The Executive Committee shall upon a request made in writing by any six or more members convene an extraordinary meeting within 28 days of receipt of the request. Any such written request shall

State the purpose of the meeting
be signed by the proponents, and be
delivered to the Secretary

The Secretary shall notify in writing at least 28 days before the date of an Annual Meeting, all members entitled to receive the notice specifying

The place, the day and the hour of the meeting, and
in the case of special business, the general nature of such business

The non-receipt of such notice by or the accidental omission to give such notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at any general meeting.

The business of an Annual Meeting shall be:

To receive and consider the report of the Executive Committee
To receive and consider the accounts of the Party for the past year
To elect officers of the Party
To elect members of the Executive Committee
To elect members of the Membership Committee
To determine the amount of the entrance fee payable by persons upon their admission to the Party and the annual subscription fee payable by members as from the first day of January after the date of the Meeting.
To transact all such other business as by Statute, Party Rules or this Constitution is required to be transacted at an Annual Meeting.

15. PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum of members is present. Unless otherwise stated a quorum for a general meeting shall be 25 per cent of the total membership of the Party or 25 members which ever is the less.

The Party Leader shall preside at every meeting of the Party

If the Party Leader is not present and there has been delegated authority from the Leader to a member of the Executive Committee, he or she shall preside.

If the Party Leader is not present and no such delegation has been made the members present shall appoint a Chairman to preside over the meeting

The Party Leader, delegated Officer or Chairman may with the consent of the Meeting or shall, if so directed by the Meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time.

At every general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided by simple majority from a show of hands, unless a secret ballot is demanded by members entitled to vote and present at the meeting.

A member may vote in person or by post.

Subject to the provisions of this constitution,

When the vote is on a show of hands every member personally present shall have one vote, or

when the vote is by postal ballot every member shall have one vote.

No member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting if their annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears at the date of the meeting

16. VOTING

Only members of the Party may vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Party as described in paragraph 5 of this constitution.

17. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

There shall be a Membership Committee which shall consist of three members of the Party, only one of which shall be a member of the Executive Committee and shall chair the Membership Committee. The Party Leader shall not be a member of the Membership Committee.

Members of the Membership Committee shall be elected and hold office for such period as determined by the Annual Meeting

The Membership Committee shall consider applications for membership of the Party and recommend acceptance or otherwise to the Executive Committee.

18. AMENDMENTS

Changes to this constitution may be executed by the membership present at an Annual General Meeting of the Party by a three-fourths majority of the members present at the meeting.

The proposed changes shall be submitted in writing over the signature of three members of the Party, one of whom must be an elected officer of the Party. Members of the Party shall be notified in writing by the Secretary of the proposed changes at least 14 days before the date of the Meeting at which the changes will be considered.

19. DURATION AND DISSOLUTION

The Party shall persist until an amendment for dissolution has been passed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph above, notwithstanding the power of the membership to declare the dissolution of the Party at a general or extraordinary meeting in accordance with Party Rules and this Constitution.

At dissolution, an independent auditor shall be appointed for subsequent settlement of all liabilities incurred by the Party and disbursement of remaining assets to Bees United – the trust set up by supporters of the Brentford Football Club, or to B.I.A.S. – Brentford Independent Association of Supporters, or to Brentford Football Club PLC whichever is in existence in the above order at the time of the said Dissolution.