



Brentford Independent Association of Supporters

2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Date: 15th July 2026 at 18:00

Venue: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Welcome

Dave Minckley (DM) opened the meeting and welcomed those online. He thanked everyone for taking time to join the call, particularly noting that there was a significant World Cup semi-final later that evening involving England and Argentina, and assured members that everything would be done to finish the meeting as promptly as possible while still allowing time for questions.

As a fully democratic Association, the AGM is a key meeting in the BIAS calendar and ensures our members have a say in how BIAS operates and who represents them in discussions with Brentford Football Club.

DM advised that the 2026 AGM pack had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting and was available on the BIAS website for full details. He noted that all votes from members had now been cast, and the results would be announced at the end of the meeting.

Following presentations by the Chair and Finance Officer, there would be an opportunity for a Q&A session. Members were encouraged to submit questions via the chat or by raising their hands.

DM also announced an exclusive addition to the agenda – a pre-recorded interview with Nathan Collins and Caoimhín Kelleher, filmed on Friday, which would be shown immediately after the Q&A session.

Chair's Report – Presented by Angelo Basu (AB)

Full details of the Chair's annual report are included in the 2026 AGM pack.

AB added his thanks to those attending and spoke to highlight key issues from the report.

He noted that this year's AGM was being held much earlier than in previous years, aligned to July/August as signaled at the 2025 AGM. This change was made to allow new committee members to work for a full season rather than coming in part-way through. As a result, the report covers the period from November 2025 through to May 2026.

Key highlights and activities:

- **Premier League Match Day Fan Experience and Engagement Survey:** The club has been found to have the highest rating of all Premier League clubs. AB noted that this recognition would not be possible without the input and work of BIAS and Bees United in engaging with the club and representing the fan base.
- **Ticket Pricing for Next Season:** The committee's approach was heavily informed by the BIAS membership end-of-season survey. The general position was that substantial price increases were not justified given the club's financial position and the cost-of-living pressures on fans. Following detailed discussions through the ticketing working group and Fan Advisory Board (FAB), a 5% increase was agreed – the first increase in two years. Meaningful concessions were secured, including:
 - A range of payment options to spread costs
 - Guaranteed return for season ticket holders who list unused tickets on the exchange
 - A full freeze on junior pricing
 - Continuation of the Gen 10 initiative for junior away tickets, which is making a real difference in attracting younger fans and families to away games
 - Increases to premium season ticket prices – the first since the club's promotion to the Premier League – bringing them in line with the overall increases applied to general admission over five years
- **Every Seat Counts (ESC):** AB acknowledged ongoing dissatisfaction with the "yellow card" terminology but confirmed the policy itself continues to be successful. Season ticket holders received £450,000 in credits from exchange seats last season. The club benefited from resold tickets being used, and fans benefited from fewer empty seats and greater ticket availability.
- **Digital Ticketing:** After some early teething troubles, the system is now operating well. Members were encouraged to report any ongoing issues so BIAS could help resolve them.
- **In-Stadium Wi-Fi:** After years of lobbying, in-stadium Wi-Fi was introduced last season, significantly improving mobile connectivity in the ground.
- **Fan Advisory Board (FAB):** AB emphasised that the club takes the FAB seriously, unlike many other Premier League clubs. FAB meets quarterly, with working groups handling detailed operational matters (e.g., ticketing) between meetings. The FAB has expanded to include representatives from Her Game Too, LGBees, and the Disabled Supporters Association (DSA), providing a broader range of supporter perspectives. AB confirmed that senior club executives,

including CEO Jon Varney, regularly attend FAB meetings. A key ongoing issue is ensuring FAB papers are shared sufficiently in advance to allow more discussion time at the meetings. AB also confirmed that BIAS will be more actively sharing FAB outputs with members going forward.

- **Football Supporters Association (FSA):** BIAS remains active in the FSA, particularly on ticket affordability and kick-off times. AB acknowledged concerns about the Leeds game being scheduled on a day with no trains and confirmed BIAS has already approached the club in this regard. AB has also attended Premier League meetings where it was acknowledged that while broadcast contracts limit flexibility, the Premier League understands the value that match-attending fans bring to the product.
- **Other Initiatives:** Work continues on the Bike to Brentford scheme for next season, maintaining the Gtech Memorial Garden, launching the car share pilot, providing bag drop facilities, improving queuing to Kew Gardens Station, and improving food and beverage offerings.

Membership:

Membership has grown to 3,684 at the end of May 2026 – an approximate 10% increase on the previous year. BIAS plans to increase its visibility at home games through more face-to-face engagement.

Thanks and Retirements:

AB thanked the Executive Committee and acknowledged the contributions of Andrea Oldfield, Chris Richings, and Richard Nabarro, who were standing down. He was pleased that Richard Nabarro would continue to contribute in a consultancy role informally on governance and constitutional matters outside of the Executive Committee.

AB welcomed new applicants Ben Margolis, Graham Ball, and Caleb Johnstone-Cowan and wished them well in the election.

Finance Report – Presented by Dave Minckley (Finance Officer)

Full details of the Financial Statement are included in the 2026 AGM pack (pages 9–10).

DM provided the meeting with an overview of the financial annual report for the period 1st June 2025 to 31st May 2026.

Key figures:

- Operating profit: **£667.41**
- Total balances at 31st May 2026: **£35,919.50**

Income:

- Income is generated through voluntary donations, which have remained steady – the first time since free membership was introduced in 2018 that this has been the case.
- DM reiterated the committee's gratitude to members who continue to make donations.
- The boat trip to Fulham last September generated a small profit of £43.54.

- A Chelsea boat trip was not possible last season due to kick-off time and tidal constraints, but this is hoped to be reinstated next season (Chelsea away being the last game of the season).

Operating Costs:

- Costs increased by £610 compared to the previous year, largely due to growing membership e.g. increased costs include a £240 per annum charge for membership records hosted on Thrive4 (previously Love Admin), which was previously free.
- One off costs for the new BIAS website and promotional materials (BIAS Kiosk, leaflets, business cards and T shirts) for the "Refer a Friend" initiative have also contributed to costs during this financial period.

Audit:

The accounts have been audited and approved by Independent Auditor Jim Walsh.

Q&A Session with Membership

DM opened the floor to questions. Members were invited to submit questions via the chat or raise their hands.

Question from Paul Steadman (via chat): *"Out of idle curiosity, what was the copyright infringement that resulted in a £250 fine?"*

DM responded: The fine related to a copyrighted image taken from the FSA website in October 2023 used in a post to state that a Christmas eve Chelsea v Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture was unacceptable. The fine was paid in July 2025 and included in the 2025 AGM Report. DM included this again to highlight the increased costs during this reporting period. DM mentioned that the original fine was £500, negotiated down to £250. DM confirmed that BIAS now uses only its own images or club-approved images.

Question from Paul Steadman (follow-up): *"Regarding the FAB, do you normally get any problems getting the CEO or another senior executive to attend meetings?"*

AB responded: No – in three years there has not been a meeting where the club failed to send a senior representative. Jon Varney has attended the first two meetings this year, and others have seen the Marketing Director, Comms Director, Operations Director, or Finance Director attend. Sally Stevens (Fan Engagement Director) is also in regular contact. The only senior level not represented is ownership (Matthew Benham), but the committee has not seen this as a problem, given the trust placed in senior management. If the relationship with club employees were to deteriorate, this could be revisited. AB also noted that the Bees United Chair provides some board-level input through his position on the BFC board.

Question from Paul Steadman (follow-up): *"Do you have meetings that are specific on a certain subject, or are they general?"*

AB explained: The FAB meets quarterly to set strategic direction and review outcomes. Detailed work happens in working groups – for example, the ticketing working group meets over a dozen times per year and can split into subgroups. These groups include club operational staff and representatives from BIAS, Bees United, LGBeeTs, Her Game Too, and the DSA. The FAB publishes summaries of its discussions, though admittedly these can be difficult to find on the Club website. BIAS will be more actively sharing FAB outputs with members going forward.

Question/Observation from Ralph Collins:

On Every Seat Counts: Ralph observed that while refunds were given, the club benefited from reselling those tickets and from additional food/merchandise spend. AB responded that no other Premier League or Championship club offers a guaranteed refund, and the policy was driven by fans' frustration with empty seats, not by the club seeking to maximise revenue. The benefit to fans is greater ticket availability and fewer empty seats.

On Ticket Transfers: Ralph noted that friends in general admission areas had difficulty transferring tickets. AB clarified that, except for four Category A* games (where restrictions apply to prevent away fans buying in home ends), ticket transfers are free and simple (a 30-second account creation process). AB offered that fans could contact BIAS to help any members experiencing difficulties with the process.

On a BIAS Badge: Ralph suggested reviving a supporters' badge, similar to one his father bought in the 1960s. AB confirmed this had been discussed within the committee and that he was personally keen on the idea. He agreed to take it back to the committee to explore demand and feasibility.

Question from Shahid Khan(via chat): *"Are we agreeing with the club to continue to reduce TAPs points each year?"*

AB responded: The rolling TAPs system introduced last season is not being changed. TAPs do not reduce automatically – they fall off on a five-year rolling basis. If a member's TAPs decrease, it is because they have attended fewer games in the current season compared to 2021–22. This is the only way TAPs are reduced.

Exclusive Player Interview

DM introduced an exclusive pre-recorded interview with Nathan Collins and Caoimhín Kelleher, filmed on Friday before the England–Norway game.

DM thanked Michael Johnson of the Ealing Road podcast and Sarah Todd from the committee for conducting the interview.

The video was played for attendees. It can be viewed on the BIAS YouTube channel [here](#).

Approval of Motions and Election Results

Sarah Todd (General Secretary) presented the results of the AGM voting. A total of **457 votes** were cast, representing approximately 15% of the membership.

Motion	Outcome
Constitution Changes – Amendments to clauses 7.7 and 7.8 (electronic voting mechanism and authentication/verification of votes)	Approved For 437 Abstain 13 Against 7
Election of New Committee Member – Ben Margolis	Elected (3-year term) For 378 Abstain 58 Against 21
Election of New Committee Member – Caleb Johnstone-Cowan	Elected (3-year term) For 370 Abstain 66 Against 21
Election of New Committee Member – Graham Ball	Elected (3-year term) For 394 Abstain 57 Against 6
Re-election of Existing Committee Member – Angelo Basu	Re-elected (3-year term) For 400 Abstain 42 Against 15
Re-election of Existing Committee Member – Dave Minckley	Re-elected (3-year term) For 407 Abstain 41

	Against 9
Re-election of Existing Committee Member - Sarah Todd	Re-elected (3-year term) For 419 Abstain 26 Against 12
Re-election of Existing Committee Member - Peter Edward	Re-elected (3-year term) For 402 Abstain 41 Against 14
Re-election of Existing Committee Member - Adam Hobbs	Re-elected (3-year term) For 408 Abstain 40 Against 9
Re-election of Existing Committee Member - Matthew White	Re-elected (3-year term) For 395 Abstain 49 Against 13
Re-election of Existing Committee Member - Alison Woyak	Re-elected (3-year term) For 398 Abstain 44 Against 15
Approval of Minutes from AGM meeting held 12th November 2025	Approved For 423 Abstain 28 Against 6
Approval to adopt Chair's Annual Report for the period ending 31st May 2026	Approved For 426

	Abstain 26 Against 5
Approval to continue free membership for further 12 months	Approved For 444 Abstain 7 Against 6
Approval of Financial Accounts for year ending 31st May 2026	Approved For 426 Abstain 26 Against 5
Approval to retain Jim Walsh as Independent Auditor of BIAS Accounts	Approved For 429 Abstain 24 Against 4

Conclusion and End of AGM

AB closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and for the interesting questions and ideas raised during the Q&A session. He particularly noted Ralph's suggestion about a BIAS badge and confirmed he would follow this up with the committee.

AB wished members well for the rest of the summer and, for those supporting England, hoped for a positive result in the World Cup semi-final.

The meeting closed at approximately **19:00**.

Minutes prepared by: Sarah Todd

Date of approval: 16/08/26

