



AFC Bournemouth Community Mutual



AFC Bournemouth Community Mutual was set up in 2000 as a 'co-operative' for fans and currently has around 2,500 members. The Mutual's vision is:

"To work together in safeguarding a professional football club in Bournemouth, and to give supporters, through the Community Mutual, a greater say in how the club is run. We will strive to support the club to achieve its maximum potential, whilst ensuring that it operates within its means, and will use every opportunity to ensure that AFC Bournemouth is regarded positively by all sections of the community"

I would like to apologise in advance for the rather grim photo now staring back at you, rather than the friendly, smiling face of Derek Borthwick. Your CM has been having a bit of a 'reshuffle'.

It has become clear following weeks of fairly hectic (and very public) activity that the CM Committee have been stretched. The three main Board members (Derek Borthwick, Dave Stone and Ernie Battey) have found themselves attending one meeting after another. After much discussion it was agreed that the role of CM Chair should be held by someone other than those currently serving on the main Board. This will allow all three to fully focus on their role representing the CM at Board level, but has also meant that the CM needed a new Chair.

The CM would like to thank Derek Borthwick for all his hard work whilst serving as Chairman. Derek will continue as a full board member and is currently working tirelessly on projects as he has done in the past.

I am extremely delighted (and not a little proud) to have been asked to take over as temporary chairman for the foreseeable future. I have been an AFC Bournemouth fan since the age of 12, and share your passion and desire to see this football club succeed, both on and off the pitch. I want to build on the solid foundations laid by Derek, and will be focussing on how the CM can best represent its members. I am extremely fortunate to be working with a very strong CM. Look out for their profiles in future programmes!

A strong CM, and a fan base working together, are vital for the future success of this club. Unity cannot just be achieved simply by asking for it. It has to be earned. That is why, over the coming months, the CM will be working hard to earn your trust and support. Hopefully we can do all this **and** have some fun at the same time. That's what football is supposed to be about!

Ownership of AFC Bournemouth is a hot topic right now. CM Members Ernie Battey and David Musker continue talking with the Consortium with a view to safeguarding the club for this and future generations of supporters. The CM will, wherever possible, proactively talk to any person/s expressing an interest in investing in the Football Club.

To end my first programme notes, I would like to thank the CM for giving me this opportunity. It might be a cliché, but I cannot achieve anything without your support.

Rob Trent