# EXETER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED Financial Statements 31 May 2024

## **Financial Statements**

# Year ended 31 May 2024

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## ("THE TRUST")

## The Report of the Trust Board Year ended 31 May 2024

The Trust Board has pleasure in presenting its report and the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 May 2024.

#### Status

The Trust is registered as a Co-operative and Community Benefit Society. It was incorporated on 21 January 2002 and took over the activities of the previously unincorporated Supporters Trust on that date

#### **Principal Activity and Objectives**

The aims of the Trust on incorporation were to strengthen the bonds between Exeter City Football Club and the community which it serves, to represent the interests of the community in the running of the Club in all aspects of the game and to provide and maintain facilities for the enjoyment of professional football in the area. These remain the key objectives.

On 22 March 2003, the Trust adopted as its prime objective 'To prepare itself for shared or full ownership of Exeter City Football Club'. This objective was achieved on 4 September 2003 when the Trust acquired a majority shareholding in Exeter City A.F.C Limited.

#### **Trust Board**

The membership of the Trust Board as at 31 May 2024 was as follows:-

Elected members: Nick Hawker (Chair), Clive Harrison, Doug Gillard, Will Barrett, Debra Noble, Nick Edwards, Richard Knight, Julen Beer Ayo, Peter Ferlie, Steven Chown, Jamie Pelmear, and Neil Le Milliere.

Officers: Steven Chudley (Finance Officer), Dean Mathews (Secretary), Ryan Ilott (Membership Secretary) and Jed Penberthy (Media Secretary).

#### Review of the Year

This year the Trust celebrated its 20th year of Supporter Ownership of the Club.

The 2023/24 season was the 122<sup>nd</sup> year in the history of Exeter City Football Club. City finished 13th in League 1, were eliminated in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the FA Cup, bowed out in 4<sup>th</sup> round of the EFL Cup and the group stage of the EFL Trophy.

Remaining in League 1 on a sustainable basis remains a primary focus for the Club and Trust.

The bulk of the regular work is carried out within four standing working groups:

- Finance and Governance
- Ownership and Membership
- Community
- Communication and Engagement Group

These Groups comprise of Trust Board members and Trust members, some of whom might have specialised knowledge and skills, to help achieve the objectives of the Trust.

The Trust Board has appointed four representatives to the Club Board. The Club approved new Articles of Association in 2021 which gave the Trust the majority of votes and effective control of the Club Board.

The Trust has continued to be represented in all areas of the Club.

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# The Report of the Trust Board (continued) Year ended 31 May 2024

As at 31 May 2024, Trust membership stood at 4,837 (2023: 4,181).

Total funds raised in the year were £253,944, (2023: £212,945). Administration Expenses totalled £64,047, (2023: £39,808), after excluding donations to and items purchased for the Club of £143,552 (2023: £176,068), other donations of £9,270 (2023: £3,250) and donation to the 1931 Fund of £17,000. Overheads accounted for 25.22% of total funds received (2023: 18.69%).

#### Statement of the responsibilities of the Trust Board

The Trust Board is responsible for preparing the Report of the Trust Board and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trust Board to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under Company Law the Trust Board must not approve the financial statements unless it is satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and the surplus or deficit of the Trust for that period.

In pr	reparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
	select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
	make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
	prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Statement as to disclosure of information to the Auditor

So far as the Trust Board is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Trust's auditor is unaware and Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditor is aware of that information.

#### **Auditor**

The auditor, Sumer Auditco Limited, has expressed their willingness to continue in office and a resolution for their reappointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Trust Board on October 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trust by:

Mr N Hawker Chair Mr D Mathews Trust Secretary

Registered Office: St. James Park Stadium Way Exeter EX4 6PT

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EXETER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED ("The Trust")

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of EXETER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED for the year ended 31 May 2024 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 May 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

#### Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

As explained in note 3(b) to the financial statements the Society has not prepared Accounts incorporating the affairs of its subsidiary company as required by Section 98 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Approval for this course of action has been received by the Financial Conduct authority in accordance with the provisions of Section 99(3) of that Act.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EXETER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED (continued)

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### **Emphasis of matter**

As explained in note 3(b) to the financial statements the Society has not prepared Accounts incorporating the affairs of its subsidiary company as required by Section 98 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Approval for this course of action has been received by the Financial Conduct authority in accordance with the provisions of Section 99(3) of that Act.

#### Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trust Board but does not include the financial statements themselves and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Co-Operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- · a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained; or
- the trust has not kept proper accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the books of account; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trust Board Responsibilities, the Trust Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

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# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EXETER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED (continued)

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Company through discussions with the trustees, and from our commercial knowledge and experience;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the Company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, reviewing correspondence with industry regulators, and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EXETER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED (continued)

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing relevant correspondence with HMRC, regulators and the Company's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of the report

This report is made solely to the trust in accordance with Section 87 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trust those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trust, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sumer Auditco Limited
Statutory Auditor
5 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

..... October 2024

## **Statement of Comprehensive Income**

## Year ended 31 May 2024

Income	Note 4	2024 £ 253,944	2023 £ 212,945
Cost of sales		1,904	2,230
Gross surplus		252,040	210,715
Administrative expenses		233,869	219,126
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		18,171	(8,411)
Other interest receivable and similar income		14,821	3,005
Surplus/ (Deficit) before taxation		32,992	(5,406)
Tax on surplus		2,815	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year and total comprehensive income		30,177	(5,406)

All the activities of the Trust are from continuing operations.

The Trust has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the year as set out above.

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

#### 31 May 2024

		202	2023	
Fixed exects	Note	£	£	£
Fixed assets Investments	7		20,380	20,380
Current assets Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	8	1,061 104,739 895,779 1,001,579		2,098 655 1,013,820 1,016,573
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	33,943		79,776
Net current assets			967,636	936,797
Total assets less current liabilities			988,016	957,177
Net assets			988,016	957,177
Capital and reserves Called up share capital General Reserve			4,142 983,874	3,480 953,697
Members' funds			988,016	957,177

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the Trust Board and authorised for issue on October 2024, and are signed on behalf of the Trust Board by:

D Mathews Secretary

N Hawker Chair

N Edwards Trustee

Company registration number: IP29339R

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

# **Statement of Changes in Equity**

# Year ended 31 May 2024

	Called up share capital £	General Reserve £	Total £
At 1 June 2022	3,338	959,103	962,441
Deficit for the year		(5,406)	(5,406)
Issue of shares	142		142
At 31 May 2023	3,480	953,697	957,177
Surplus for the year		30,177	30,177
Issue of shares	662	_	662
At 31 May 2024	4,142	983,874	988,016

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### 1. General information

The Trust is a private company limited by shares, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is St. James Park, Stadium Way, Exeter, EX4 6PT.

#### 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Section 1A of FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

#### 3. Accounting policies

#### (a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### (b) Basis of consolidation

The Trust has one active subsidiary undertaking (See note 7), and these financial statements comprise only the results of the parent undertaking, Exeter City AFC Supporters' Society Limited, ('the Trust').

In the opinion of the Trustees, the businesses of the Trust and that of the subsidiary are so different that they cannot reasonably be treated as a single undertaking and therefore, Group accounts have not been prepared. Approval has been obtained from the Financial Conduct Authority in this respect.

#### (c) Revenue recognition

Subscription income including associated donations is accounted for on receipt.

Voluntary income received by way of monetary donations is included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when received. Gifts in kind are valued and brought in as income at the date of receipt together with any related expenditure.

Fund raising income from events organised by the Trust is included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when received. Fundraising proceeds which have not been received by the year end are included in income at the Trustees' estimate of their likely receivable amount.

#### (d) Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### 3. Accounting policies (continued)

#### (e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

#### (f) Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition.

#### (g) Grants received

Grants received are credited to income over the period during which the expenditure to which the grant relates is incurred. Any unexpended grants at the Balance Sheet date are carried forward in the accounts as deferred income.

#### (h) Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangement entered into.

#### 4. Income

The entire income is derived from activities in the United Kingdom and is made up as follows:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Membership subscriptions	101,142	86,754
Appeals and donations	150,331	125,527
Trading activities	2,471	664
	<u>253,944</u>	<u>212,945</u>

#### 5. Auditor's remuneration

	2024	2023
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	£ 3.780	£ 1.980
i ees payable for the adult of the illiancial statements	3,700	1,900

#### 6. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the trust during the year, amounted to 4 (2023: 3).

Employees were paid £30,762 (2023: £19,702) during the year. Of this, £30,762 (2023: £19,702) was paid to Officers. No salaries or wages were paid to Trustees.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### 7. Investments

	Shares in group undertakings £
Cost At 1 June 2023	20,380
Additions	
At 31 May 2024	20,380
Impairment At 1 June 2023 and 31 May 2024	
Carrying amount At 31 May 2024	20,380
•	
At 31 May 2023	20,380

The Trust holds 20,804 (2023:20,804) £1 Ordinary Shares and 599 Non-Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each in Exeter City A.F.C Limited which is registered in England and Wales and whose principal activity is that of a professional football club. This comprises 57.9% of the issued share capital of the company.

Financial Statements for Exeter City A.F.C Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024 are not yet available. The most recent publicly available financial statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 show the following:

Profit for the period £ 325,182 Net Assets £5,935,182

#### 8. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Exeter City A.F.C Limited – loan (see below)	104,056	_
Prepayments	683	655
	104,739	15,646

A loan was made to Exeter City A.F.C Limited in May 2024 to assist with purchasing the Cliff Hill Training Ground. The loan is unsecured, repayable on demand and interest will be charged at the rate equivalent to the UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 2%.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

#### Year ended 31 May 2024

#### 9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditor - (Club donations/sponsorship)	25,000	75,672
Corporation tax	2,815	_
Social security and other taxes	778	454
Accruals	5,350	3,650
	33,943	79,776

#### 10. Related party transactions

As stated in noted 7, the Society holds a majority shareholding in Exeter City A.F.C Limited. During the year, the Society donated and purchased items for the benefit of that company at an aggregate cost of £143,552, (2023: £176,068).

As stated in note 8, the society provided a loan to Exeter City AFC Limited of £104,056 in May 2024.

Expenses paid to Trustees during the year amounted to £462 (2023: £399).

# Management Information Year ended 31 May 2024

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

## **Detailed Income Statement**

# Year ended 31 May 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		
Membership subscriptions	94,842	80,904
Corporate subscriptions	6,300	5,850
Membership donations	105,101	74,855
Gifts and donations (Exeter Exiles)	17,000	-
Canopy fundraising `	25,000	-
Other income - Merchandise	2,471	664
Donations – 'Kit Out the Cliff'	3,230	50,672
	253,944	212,945
Cost of sales		
Books/Car Stickers/Badges/Stall	1,904	2,230
Gross surplus	252,040	210,715
Overheads		
Administrative expenses - (see page 16)	233,869	219,126
Operating surplus/ (deficit)	18,171	(8,411)
Other interest receivable and similar income	14,821	3,005
Surplus/(Deficit)/ on ordinary activities	32,992	(5,406)
Surplus/(Denicit)/ on ordinary activities	32,392	(5,406

# Notes to the Detailed Income Statement Year ended 31 May 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Administrative expenses	_	_
Election/AGM expenses	4,202	833
Insurance	1,139	1,109
Printing postage and stationery	-	_
Trustees' expenses	462	399
Election expenses - Trustees	7 244	- 5 400
Software – Membership administration Telephone/Internet/Zoom	7,344 374	5,400 239
Office equipment/expenses	914	1,074
Sundry expenses	899	718
Heritage Suite (including hospitality)	4,301	3,955
Subscriptions	635	919
Salaries - Membership secretaries/Finance/Media	30,762	19,702
Donations to and items purchased for the Club - (see below)	143,552	176,068
Other donations and sponsorship - (see below)	9,270	3,250
Exeter Exiles - 1931 Fund	17,000	_
20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations	5,344	_
Legal fees	600	_
Advertising and promotion	437	645
Accountancy fees	2,057	1,995
Auditors' remuneration	3,780	1,980
Bank and PayPal charges	797	840
	233,869	219,126
Donations to and items purchased for the Club		
Contribution to general running costs	99,996	99,996
Donation – Kit Out the Cliff	3,230	50,672
Season tickets – City for All	5,554	_
Wall graphics – Club History/Club Crest	2,184	_
Crowd Surf Banner	2,022	_
Canopy fundraising	25,000 5 566	_
Various contributions re Club ground maintenance/signage Sponsorship – Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> Kit	5,566 _	25,000
Donation – Fun Day	_	400
	143,552	176,068
	======	======================================
Other donations and sponsorship		
Exeter City Women F.C.	1,000	1,000
Exeter City Community Trust	1,000	1,000
Exeter Central Youth FC	250	250
Junior Grecians	1,000	1,000
Match day sponsorship (Leyton Orient)	1,920	_
Player sponsorship – Jemma Markham	1,200	-
Torquay United Community Trust	400	-
Devon Ability Counts	500	_
Party in the Park	2,000	
	9,270	3,250