

Draft dated 17<sup>th</sup> December '21– for further discussion and then formal ratification before end January 2022.

DRAFT FOLLOWING INITIAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BOTH CLUBS

SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION FROM NORTHUMBERLAND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION THAT THIS AGREEMENT SHALL SATISFY THE TERMS OF RELEVANT ACCREDITATION CRITERIA.

## **Gosforth Bohemians Partnership**

### **Purpose**

This is the (draft) of Gosforth Bohemians Partnership Agreement which controls and manages how the partnership is governed and operates.

### **Members of Gosforth Bohemians Partnership**

The Partnership is agreed between independent sporting clubs who are affiliated individually and maintain relevant accreditation criteria of their respective national governing body.

The founding members of the Partnership are:

Gosforth Bohemians Football Club

Kingston Park Community Association Football Club

*(Note. It is intended that the name of KPCAFC shall change on 1/7/22 and the new name shall be inserted instead at that time into this Agreement.)*

Members commit on joining the Partnership to using their best reasonable endeavours to work positively and proactively towards ever-closer collaboration towards a single organisation.

New members may be accepted into membership only with the unanimous support of all other extant member clubs.

### **Date**

The Partnership will form on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 but members commit to working together closely so that the new Partnership is ready for a full operational launch on that date.

### **Vision**

The overall and long-term vision of Gosforth Bohemians Partnership is to continue to build a sporting organisation that is successful and sustainable both on and off the pitch. It is a vision steeped in the grass roots traditions and values of a local community club that has operated continuously and successfully ever since 1894 with a strong reputation and high visibility in Gosforth and in neighbouring communities.

## **Values**

Our club expects all members, players and volunteers to embrace our values which are the embodiment of our club. We expect members, players, and volunteers to embody these values on and off the field of play and in their daily lives.

**Sport as an amateur activity** - no sporting participant or club official shall receive any reward of any kind in return for their voluntary service.

**Promoting equalities, diversity and inclusion** – our club will work always and positively to promote greater equalities of opportunity and to include all communities of identity and interest.

**Integrity** – all our members understand that the concept of honesty is much more than telling the truth. Integrity means always upholding and applying in practise what members know is the right thing to do based on strong moral principles.

**Humility** – all our members demonstrate that we are not a collection of individuals where the relative importance of one member outweighs another. We are an association where all members understand and apply the principle of collective responsibility.

**Commitment** - all our members willingly commit to volunteer their time, effort, and resources to deliver the promises and actions to which they have committed themselves to the best of their efforts.

**Community**- all our members appreciate their internal role as a participant within the club but also their external role representing the club in the wider community, providing support to others where it is needed.

**Learning** – all our members understand that making a mistake is not a deliberate error. It is instead an opportunity to learn, to grow and to manage expectations.

**Appreciation** – all our members appreciate the hard work that necessarily needs to take place behind the scenes to ensure we have sports and facilities to enjoy. Our members appreciate the luxuries and facilities we enjoy and the sporting opportunities which are made available.

**Virtue** - all our members act at all times with class and dignity, and display a high standard of behaviour that is expected of anyone who represents the good name of Gosforth Bohemians in the wider community.

### **Codes of Conduct**

Member clubs shall develop and apply appropriate Codes of Conduct to promote and to ensure the practical application of these values within their own club. These Code of Conduct shall satisfy the requirements of accreditation of appropriate national governing bodies.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Partnership Agreement is to support its members to act collaboratively to sustain and grow their own membership of participating sports people. It includes especially coordinating collaborative actions which facilitate or promote the transfer of sporting participants from one member club to another member club.

### **Functions**

The Partners may if it agrees with consensus to do so to coordinate and facilitate collaboration amongst its members only on the following activities:

- Providing pathways of forward progression for both players and coaches
- Recruitment and retention of sporting participants, coaches and club officials
- Developing standards and quality of play by participants and coaches
- Branding. All member clubs shall name themselves with an agreed brand, including club names. Sporting participants and coaches shall wear standardised strips and clothing. Branding, naming and clothing shall respect the long-established traditions of Gosforth Bohemians

- Marketing and social media, including standardised websites and any e-commerce solutions etc.
- Administration including registration of players with member clubs and collection of player contributions
- Events organisation and management, including fund raising events where net proceeds are distributed in accordance with previously agreed criteria.
- Purchasing and sales on agreed range of facilities, clothing and equipment where any net proceeds are distributed in accordance with previously agreed criteria.

### **Direct Activity**

The Partnership may act directly in its own right where it makes practical and operational sense and where there is a consensus agreement made in advance.

This ability to act directly in its own right is necessarily limited by the informal nature of this Agreement and the unincorporated nature of its member clubs.

### **Governance**

The Partnership shall be governed in line with this Agreement by a joint Management Committee comprised of an agreed but limited number of representatives of its member clubs.

Each member club shall nominate its representatives in line with its own constitution and internal procedures for the making of decisions.

Every reasonable effort shall be made to secure a gender balance.

The Management Committee shall meet on a regular basis as agreed by members. Meetings of the Management Committee shall be open for observation to all sporting participants who are bona fide individual members. Meetings may be held virtually.

The Management Committee shall elect a Chair who commands and maintains wide support. The Chair shall be chosen from within those members nominated by the partners. The Chair shall be elected for an agreed maximum period.

Decisions of the management committee shall be taken by consensus. The Chair does not therefore have a casting vote. All members of the

Management Committee understand and agree to apply at all times the principle of collective responsibility which bind it together.

The Management Committee may if it wishes appoint ex-officio (non-voting) volunteer advisors to provide specialist services on behalf of the whole partnership.

### **Planning and Performance Review**

The Management Committee shall consult and then shall develop and maintain on a regular basis an agreed forward plan of operations designed to lead to an ever-closer collaboration and progress towards a single organisation.

The Management Committee shall review and report widely on at least an annual basis what real progress has been made towards an ever-closer collaboration towards the creation of a single organisation. The report shall be based on a previously agreed framework for monitoring and evaluation.

### **Changes**

No changes shall be made to the Partnership Agreement without wide and full consensus of its member clubs.

### **Dissolution**

The Partnership Agreement shall end if one of its founding member clubs gives to other members in line with its own constitution at least 3 months (or to the end of the current playing season whichever is longer) written notice to that effect.

The Partnership Agreement shall also end if either founder member loses its affiliation or fails to maintain accreditation to its respective national governing body.

Ends