

Trust Board Meeting Agenda

19:30 – 11th August 2014, St James Park – Tribute Room

Trustees Present:

Laurence Overend (LO); Peter Holding (PH); Bernadette Coates (BC); Neil Le Milliere (NLM); Martin Weiler (MW); Andy Bratt (AB); Richard Clutterbuck (RC); Paul Farley (PF)

Officers Present:

Andy Beer (AB1); Alice Cooke (AC); Nick Hawker (NH)

Officers Absent:

Anthony Smith

Members Present:

John Kanefsky

A/01 Apologies

An apology was received from Elaine Davis (holiday)

A/02 Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Acceptance of the previous meetings minutes:

Proposed by: Richard Clutterbuck

Seconded by: Andy Bratt

Proposal carried unanimously.

A/03 Actions Arising from the Previous Meeting

LO explained that the situation with regard to Roger Conway's dismissal was that letters had been exchanged between Roger's solicitor and the Trust and that we were waiting to hear back. He noted that Roger had been offered the opportunity for an appeal but his solicitor's letter had arrived before any agreement was made.

A/04 Reports from Sub-Boards & Working Groups

i. Finance & Governance Working Group

There had been no meeting since the last TB. PH had been appointed lead and noted that the next meeting (scheduled for 26th August) required real focus. LO commented that the two significant issues were the Club Articles and a 'Shareholders Agreement'.

ii. Trust Ownership & Membership Working Group

AB reported the following ...

a. **Volunteers Party** (Cost to the Trust was £176)

b. **Brazil Day** (Profit of £334)

c. Membership Drive

Badges had been designed but were currently stalled due to the busy period. However, it was reported that membership now exceeded 3,000.

MW would draft a note to members for inclusion in a match-day programme, newsletter, and possibly AGM election papers requesting that members increase their subscriptions.

d. Under 18's Membership

Arrangements were being made for Red Army Members to automatically join the Trust when their Red Army membership expires upon age.

e. Light up the Park

A total of circa £11k had been raised.

iii. Trust Community Working Group

PF spoke of the successful summer. He noted that Geoff Gearing was no longer the 'Grecian Groups Chairman and that Andy Gillard had taken the role. PF also mentioned the setting up of a 'History' group to cover and amalgamate a variety of initiatives.

MW spoke of the 'One Game One Community' designated match being on 1st November against Luton Town. The occasion would focus on race equality. Luton Town had a

particularly successful campaign with their local Muslim neighbours – an effort currently being made by ECFC.

iv. **Trust Communications**

LO noted that he had met with Richard Dorman and requested that the Trust 'bombard' him with programme articles. MW added that the Trust segment of the programme should include details of how to join and how to increase subscriptions. LO also felt that membership numbers should be included.

AC explained that this information had been provided but not always used.

It was agreed that all 'articles' should be submitted via AC.

A/05 Items for Discussion & Decision

i. **Annual General Meeting**

NH noted that the initial notices had been dispatched and recorded his thanks to John Street who had arranged for the postage via the City Council.

ii. **Election of Trustees**

NH noted that the relevant forms had been dispatched and requested that existing Trustees encourage, wherever possible, potential candidates. There were two significant changes this year to the process:

- a. That returning officer John Street was handling all of the candidate applications;
- b. That candidate nominations may be supported by e-mail providing the electronic address is the same as recorded against the member's database entry.

PF commented that it was 'undemocratic' to disallow Trustees and Club Directors from making nominations. NH explained that this had not been disallowed but discouraged.

iii. **Meeting Agenda Alteration**

NH suggested that the 'Working Group' updates on the agenda should be in written format only (unless there was a specific request that required approval). This would allow more time to discuss issues over and above 'normal business'.

There was some debate for and against this and LO proposed that the items remain on the agenda but would reference written submissions to gauge 'how it went'.

iv. **Sponsorship of 3 Exeter Ladies Players**

This was a repeat of last year's sponsorship.

Proposed by: Martin Weiler

Seconded by: Paul Farley

For: 6

Against: 3

The proposal was successful.

v. **Loans, Disciplinary and Rules**

Neil Le Milliere informed the meeting that he had been the subject of a complaint by Roger Conway to Supporters Direct alleging he had breached the SD Elect Member Code of Conduct.

The SD Governance Committee considered the complaint and concluded that **"There was no evidence that you had breached the SD Elected Member Code of Code. Further that no evidence has been supplied to suggest that you in anyway acted in an unfair or prejudicial way. Based on the evidence provided the Committee now consider the match closed"**.

NH expressed concern that he had failed to divulge his knowledge of Roger Conway's loan. Significantly because it was likely that, were his confidence to be requested in the future, he would likely keep it. NH attempted to express the view that rules should guide behaviour and not dictate it. This would always be his approach and suggested that the TB (and perhaps the membership) consider if this was appropriate. If not then he would happily stand down.

Trustees expressed their confidence in the Secretary.

A/06 Any other Business

LO raised the departure of the ECFC CEO. A financial settlement had been agreed that was to the benefit of the Club. The Club had requested that the Trust cover 50% of the cost of this which amounted to £3.5k.

Proposal to gift the Club £3.5k in relation to the CEO settlement:

Proposed by: Andy Bratt

Seconded by: Neil Le Milliere

The proposal was carried unanimously.

A/07 Date of Next Meeting

9th September 2014