

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society - Trust Board Meeting
26th November 2015

Trust Board Meeting Minutes – Part A

18:30 – 26th November 2015, St James Park – Tribute Room

Trustees Present:

Laurence Overend (LO), Martin Weiler (MW), Elaine Davis (ED), Paul Farley (PF), Richard Clutterbuck (RC), Peter Martin (PM), John Kanefsky (JK), Paul West (PW), Neil Le Milliere (NLM)

Officers Present:

Nick Hawker (NH), Steve Chudley (SC), Andy Beer (AB)

Guests Present:

Clive Lethbridge & Rod Matthews

A/01 Apologies

Apologies were received from –David Hitt and Alice Cooke.

A/02 Minutes from the last meeting – 27th October 2015

Proposed: John Kanefsky

Seconded: Martin Weiler

Carried Unanimously

A/03 Matters Arising

Confidential TB papers had been collected from Roger Conway and now resided with Richard Knight. NH proposed that this might not be appropriate and PF volunteered to obtain these from Richard.

PW was reminded of the need to draft a brief biography for publication on the Trust WEB site.

ED reported that the Exeter pound was now accepted in the bar, reception and Club Shop. Their recent visit to the Trust Stand had been extremely successful.

With regard to updating the WEB site LO, AB, PM and Alice Cooke would meet to discuss.

LO reported definitively that the Club Chair did *not* have a casting vote. NLM added that neither did the Trust Board chair!

A/04 Reports from Sub Boards & Working Groups

i. **Finance & Governance**

Refer to papers submitted.

SC reported that he was pursuing a recommendation made by the Trust auditor, Stephen Bright, in respect of compiling the year end accounts. In addition, he confirmed that a separate account had been created to maintain income from the 'One Game One Community' activities.

RC noted that the Francis Clark invoice (in respect of the compilation of year end accounts) was to be reduced by £500 due to their late delivery.

There were a number of unbudgeted expenditure items known. These were:

- Expenses in relation to visit from representatives of the FIFA museum - £35;
- Academy match sponsorship - £1,000
- A signed shirt – at retail cost, circa £40.00

JK confirmed that an analysis of the gates had been distributed and could be published. MW asked about the financial data relating to this. PF added that at the current time no one was doing this. ED said that she would raise this at the next Club Board meeting.

PH expressed concern at the timeliness of Cash Flow data from the Club. MW confirmed that whilst the TB did not require detailed analysis of this they would like an 'opinion' expressed as to their state. PH agreed that he could do this in around 4-6 weeks.

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SC referred to the matter of opening a deposit account that would earn a small amount of interest. A number of items on the meeting agenda and other unbudgeted expenditure compromised his initial suggestion in terms of the amount that should be set aside. However, a proposal was made that any balance above £20k should be transferred to a deposit account.

Proposal: That any current account balance above £20k should be placed on deposit.

Carried.

ii. **Ownership & Membership**

Refer to papers submitted.

ED said that a membership drive would be pushed at the Trust sponsored game (v Wimbledon). T-Shirts were being produced that players would wear in the warm up. This reflected on the fact that all players had now been signed-up. These would later be sold. PM asked if new players would be signed-up automatically. LO responded that this was not currently the position.

- **Ground Signage Proposal**

A proposal was placed before the Board with the intention to improve signage around the ground. The Signage would make clear that ECFC was a 'Trust owned Club'. A paper was provided that gave details of the signage proposed.

SC asked if the Club would contribute to the cost – ED answered that the might.

Proposal: To agree a budgeted spend of £5k (inclusive of signage design) to refresh signage about the ground.

Carried.

- **Membership Engagement**

NH proposed that the TB dedicate a single meeting to the matter of membership engagement. This should incorporate engagement with existing members, the recruitment of new members, and importantly, their retention. The TB agreed that this would form the agenda for a TB 'away day'. This would take place on a Sunday during January. NH to arrange.

iii. **Community**

Refer to papers submitted.

The matter of disabled access to away match travel was raised. There were significant difficulties in transporting disabled folk to away games in coaches, especially where they needed to remain in wheel chairs. This was due to coach design not being able to accommodate the chairs. There was a firm who provided this facility but they were based a distance away that made them logistically unviable. It was noted that legislation around this provision wasn't due until 2020.

PF expressed his thanks for the efforts of PM around the British Legion work, especially in selling the t-shirts. These had raised £485 for the cause.

- **History Group Report**

MW referred to the paper in relation to the date that ECFC was formed. In order to acknowledge the new, earlier date, the Trust Board needed to agree its validity, as did the Club Board. There would follow a consultation before a final decision to re-date and promote the Club's formation was made.

iv. **PR & Communication**

NLM expressed disappointment that the Santa Dash had been scheduled for a non-match day (although the rearrangement of the FA Cup second round game negated this) and did not finish at SJP. PF explained that there were difficulties in street planning (e.g. closing roads), and the preference of potential runners, was the reason why the quay had been chosen ahead of the High Street. ED added her disappointment and noted that the date of the run fell after the students had ended their term and would likely have returned home, thus not able to take part.

- **Improved Technology Proposal**

Refer to paper.

NH and AB presented a paper on proposed technology that would improve the TB's capability, both internally and externally, to communicate and hold papers and documentation more securely.

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Proposed by: Elaine Davis

Seconded by: Pete Martin

Carried

A/05 Any other business

i. Indemnity Insurance

Proposed renewal of the TB's indemnity insurance at a cost of £167

Proposed by: John Kanefsky

Seconded by: Martin Weiler

Carried

ii. **Trust Rules**

LO explained the difficulties in having the rule changes accepted by the FCA. This was due to a change in legislation around the requirements. NLM noted that even though the Supporters Direct model rules did not include the same requirement, since they had been registered with the FCA, they would be deemed acceptable. The matter of resolving this was ongoing.

iii. **Volunteer Time**

As part of various and necessary submissions SC required the amount and value of volunteer time that the Trust or Club benefits from. PF would provide this.

iv. **Renaming the Football League**

NLM asked for opinions on the proposed renaming of the Football League to the English Football League. The TB indicated that they were not in favour of this.

NLM added that he had been appointed to the FA compliance board.

v. **Marketing the 'Park'**

PM expressed concern that no lights were left on late at night around 'the Park'. This made it difficult to market and potentially dangerous when leaving the venue due to the darkness around the lane running alongside and the general vicinity. ED said she should we raise this with Justin Quick.

vi. **Bucket Collection**

ED reminded everyone, and called for volunteers, that this Saturday's game featured the joint Trust/FITC bucket collection. Buckets would be available from 13:45.

A/06 Date of next meeting

Thursday 21st January 2016