

## **Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Dons Trust, Held at the Cherry Red Records Stadium, Kingsmeadow on Thursday 10 December 2011.**

Matthew Breach opened the meeting at 19.30. There were over 90 members in attendance.

### **1. Minutes of Special General Meeting**

The minutes of the SGM, held on 22 September 2011 were unanimously adopted without amendment. There were no matters arising.

### **2. Results of the elections to the Society Board**

David Boyle, Chair of the Election Steering Committee (ESG), passed on his apologies and there was no formal report on the Election. DT Chair Matthew Breach (MB) and ESG member Geoff Seel answered audience questions and then MB asked the audience to welcome the four new and returning board members and to show their appreciation for the hard work put into the DT by Kris Stewart during his time on the board.

### **3. and 4. Annual report and accounts**

There were no questions from members about the Dons Trust accounts or the AFCW PLC accounts, which were endorsed by their respective auditors.

### **5. Resolutions Proposed by the Board**

Members had received a written explanation of the six Board Proposed Resolutions. Erik Samuelson (ES) further summarised the purpose and limitations of Resolutions 5 and 6.

**Resolution 1.** *To receive and approve the Society's annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2011.*

Sean McLauchlin commended the accounts, which had received a clean audit and showed a healthy profit for the year.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands

**Resolution 2.** *To reappoint BDO LLP as auditors of the Society for the year to 30th June 2012.*

The Resolution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands

**Resolution 3.** *That the Dons Trust Board should be authorised to cast the Dons Trust's vote at this years AGM of AFCW PLC in favour of approving AFCW PLC's accounts and the reports of the directors and auditors for the year ended 30 June 2011.*

The Audit Manager from BDO LLP said that there were in his view no problems with the accounts which properly reflected the PLC's position.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands

**Resolution 4.** *That the Dons Trust Board should be authorised to cast the Dons Trust's vote at this years AGM of AFCW PLC in favour of approving the reappointment of BDO LLP as auditors of the PLC for the year to 30 June 2012.*

The Resolution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands.

**Resolution 5.** *That the Dons Trust Board should be authorised to cast the Dons Trust's vote at the AGM of AFCW PLC in favour of the following special resolution:*

*"That, pursuant to the company's articles of association, and under section 551 of the Companies Act 2006, the directors be hereby authorised to allot further 'A' ordinary shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £14,905 providing that such authority shall expire (unless previously reviewed varied or revoked by the company in general meetings) after the prescribed period which shall be twelve months from the date of this resolution."*

The Resolution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands

**Resolution 6.** *That, subject to the passing of Resolution 5, the Dons Trust Board should be authorised to cast the Dons Trust's vote at the AGM of AFCW PLC in favour of the following special resolution:*

*"That, pursuant to the company's articles of association, the directors be empowered to allot further 'A' ordinary shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £3,500 at any time for the prescribed period of twelve months from the date of this resolution as if the statutory pre-emption rights in section 561(1) of the Companies Act 2006 did not apply to any such allotment."*

The Resolution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands

*[With the agreement of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned for a short period to enable the AGM of AFCW PLC to take place]*

## **6. Debate on whether AFC Wimbledon should take part in partnerships or promotions with the Sun newspaper**

**Resolution 7:** *That the Dons Trust board should instruct AFC Wimbledon to enter into no partnerships or promotions with the Sun newspaper.*

**Resolution 8:** *The members of The Dons Trust instruct The Board of The Dons Trust to work with the Board of AFC Wimbledon to participate fully in the football ticket promotion in The Sun newspaper.*

The next section of the meeting included a lively debate over two resolutions which were for and against taking part in promotional campaigns run by The Sun newspaper. The discussion covered issues such as the way football fans were portrayed in The Sun's reporting of the Hillsborough disaster, whether such decisions should be left to individuals to make for themselves rather than decided at DT level and what constitutes a football issue, an ethical issue or a political issue. At the end of the debate both resolutions failed to achieve enough votes to be passed. Ivor Heller then outlined a “compromise” that proposed to continue with the promotion in the future but to do it in such a way as to avoid providing “free” advertising for the paper; an indicative show of hands was significantly in favour of this approach.

*[With the agreement of the Chair, a comfort break was taken]*

## **7. Strategy Update**

After the break attendees were able to collect handouts of the updated Strategy document, the DTB's Action Plan and a paper raising the issue of "what should we call ourselves?" which are also now available on the OS. The strategy paper was largely similar in content to the strategy review presented at the September SGM but included the next level of detail (the objectives against each of the aims) and addressed a few comments raised at that meeting and subsequently. The action plan was a new document and detailed the actions allocated to each DTB member to help deliver the objectives within the strategy. It was explained that the action plan would be a live document with a new version issued prior to each DT General Meeting showing progress and any new actions; it is hoped that this will make the DTB more accountable to members and that the work we do is more transparent.

## **8. Branding**

The last paper introduced the idea that we should consider whether the Dons Trust should be renamed (both in its formal and informal guises) and more integrated with the Club to form a single entity, AFC Wimbledon. Discussion at the meeting was largely positive around this suggestion but it was clear that many members wanted to ensure our roots as Wimbledon FC, highlighted by the Trust's formal name of "Wimbledon Football Club Supporters' Society Limited", should not be lost. It was agreed that this subject should be raised again in a year or so.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The evening was then closed out by a Q&A session with Erik Samuelson providing updates on the Kingston Road End project and the new Stadium project - the main points of which were summarised in the Accrington

programme and subsequently placed onto the OS.

The meeting closed at 22:30.