

Minutes of the Special General meeting of the Dons Trust, Held at the Cherry Red Records Stadium, Kingsmeadow on Thursday 2 May 2012

Matthew Breach opened the meeting at 19.30. There were over 120 members in attendance. Apologies were received from DTB members Kate Terriere and Simon Bath and from a number of DT members.

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM, held on 8 December 2011 were unanimously adopted without amendment. There were no matters arising.

2. Club Update

a) Plans for Current and Future Development at The Cherry Red Records Stadium

A Presentation was given by AFC Wimbledon Chief Executive, Erik Samuelson, in which he updated members of the Dons Trust on developing our current stadium, including work being done on the Kingston Road End. Supporters were also told that the East Stand needed to be redeveloped in the future. Erik mentioned possible options for funding the work. There was also an update on the club's desire to move back to the borough of Merton.

b) Questions and answers

An opportunity was provided to ask questions on the presentation and any other issues of interest to members.

3. Resolutions Proposed by Members

2 Resolutions proposed by Members had been received for discussion at the SGM; these were introduced by Matthew Breach (the DT Chair) and sequentially debated.

Resolution 1. *"Instructs the Dons Trust Board to instruct the Football Club Board to rethink its price increases for the 2012/13 season, with a view to making the increases more equitable (in particular ensuring that U16, Young Adult and Concession prices do not increase by more than the average overall percentage increase)"*

Dons Trust member Kris Stewart introduced his resolution by pointing out that U16s season ticket prices for the Tempest Road End had gone up by 100 per cent, while pricing for those in the President's Lounge had gone up by just eight per cent. Matthew Breach suggested that the price increases needed to be viewed over a longer period; for example Kids prices had not changed in nine years. This led to a flurry of questions from Dons Trust members. One member

said that adults should bear the brunt of price increases, not children who could not afford to pay. This view was countered by a member who suggested that the new pricing levels still represented incredibly good value for a family day out. Another member said that he would pay more for his season ticket if it meant that prices for U16s stayed the same. Matthew said in response that the board had aimed to keep season ticket prices for U16s as competitive as possible with the current budget available. He added that U16s season ticket prices were still lower at AFC Wimbledon than at most other League 2 clubs.

One member said that Dons Trust members should be kept better informed in the decision-making process, rather than season ticket prices being thrust upon them by the DTB. This was accepted by Matthew and he said the Dons Trust membership should be consulted better in the future. At the conclusion of the debate the resolution was defeated by a significant majority.

Resolution 2. *"Instructs the Dons Trust Board to ensure that any future proposals for admission price increases are presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Dons Trust for discussion, debate and amendment before coming back to an SGM for final approval."*

Following on from the debate over the first resolution, Jane Lonsdale introduced a second resolution that would require the DTB to get future prices agreed by the membership. Matthew said this would be tough to achieve due to timescales, for example budgets for next season were not drawn up until January when the club knows where it stands on income from cup competitions, etc. A number of members then expressed a wide range of opinions from fully supporting the resolution to stating that the DTB was elected to make these decisions and should be left to it. A common theme that was picked up by several members during the debate was that as a minimum there should be more consultation about pricing, before final decisions are made by the DTB. The need for more consultation was again agreed by Matthew, on both this specific issue and in a wider context. The example of the (then) current online Membership survey was used as an indication of how the DTB wished to improve on this aspect of their communications. The resolution was defeated by a significant majority.

[The Chair then called for a short comfort break]

4. Trust Update and Reports

a) Actions Update

After the break attendees were able to collect handouts of the updated DTB Action Plan. Due to the late hour Matthew Breach gave a brief summary of the contents and invited questions rather than asking individual DTB members to go through their reports.

b) Questions and answers

An open question and answer session with DTB and FCB members was then held. One member asked Erik Samuelson about the coaching set-up at AFC Wimbledon and why all the first-team coaches are not full-time. Erik said it would be great to make Simon Basseby full-time, but it had not been possible to date due to the club budget. Another member asked about the youth section and Youth and Community Director, Nigel Higgs, updated on us on the progress made, including our progress as a Centre of Excellence set-up.

5. Any Other Business

The evening was then closed out without any further AoB raised.

The meeting closed at 22:30.