

Dons Trust Board Meeting



Wednesday 12 September 2012

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



DRAFT MINUTES

Members:

Matthew Breach (MB)
David Grown (DG)
Iain McNay (IM)
Simon Bath (SB)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Nicole Hammond (NHa)
Tom Adam (TA)
Sean McLaughlin (SM)
Kate Terriere (KT)

Invited:

Erik Samuelson (ES)
Nigel Higgs (NHi)

David Hall (DH) – Secretariat
David Reeves (DR) - Secretariat

Apologies:

Nicole Hammond (NHa)

David Charles (DC)
Ivor Heller (IH)
Eric Page (EP) - Secretariat

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies/Minutes/Matters Arising	
1.1	Apologies were received from Nicole Hammond, David Charles, Ivor Heller and Eric Page (Secretariat).	
1.2	David Reeves agreed to take the minutes and share with David Hall.	DR / DH
1.3	Draft minutes to the DTB Meeting of 6 August were approved, subject to the receipt of any comments from attendees.	DTB/ES

2.0	Football Club Board Report	
2.1	ES provided an update on the current stadium. Subject to a few minor outstanding issues being resolved, he was confident that the north stand would be open for the Rochdale game on 15 September. There will be a skeleton catering service for the first two games. The awning over the back bar entrance should be completed in time for the SGM on 20 September.	
2.2	ES reported on a recent meeting with the Sports Ground Safety Authority on the east stand, as a consequence of which the SGSA has agreed to re-examine the requirements for any redevelopment of the stand. ES will report back on the SGSA's view when received.	ES
2.3	There was an update by ES on the club's proposed return to Wimbledon. ES has arranged to meet key political stakeholders in Wandsworth and Kingston and the GLA. ES is also meeting with the Leader of Merton Council in the near future.	
2.4	DG asked if recent planning changes could potentially impact on the building of a stadium on the site, as part of any development. DH said that he thought the changes mainly affected affordable housing provision.	
2.5	IM asked about the planned 'hospitality' market survey in the Wimbledon area, designed to inform the Club about the potential for a new stadium to provide conference and other commercial facilities. ES confirmed that IH was progressing this.	IH
2.6	ES reported on the FCB meeting with Terry Brown following the Bradford game and poor start to the season. A series of actions had been agreed, including changes to existing coaching arrangements and funding for two defensive loans. ES also reported that Steven Gregory was re-joining the Club on a three month loan, with Angus MacDonald returning to Reading.	
2.7	IM asked if there had been any progress on Peter Proto's plans to launch a fundraising campaign for the east stand. SB said he would send an update on the plan to Board members.	SB
2.8	SM updated the meeting on the Premium Bond and Lottery fundraising ideas. He said there was a potential taxable benefit issue that needed to be resolved before any Premium Bonds could be bought on behalf of the Club. A solution was in hand. SM would be writing to those contributing to the Lottery scheme to propose that any minor winnings (there had already been a £10 Euro Lottery prize) be re-invested in additional tickets.	SM
2.9	ES said that there were still a number of issues around the effective	

	working of the new FLi website. He had been in touch with other London clubs to propose a London user group to jointly represent shared concerns back to FLi.	ES
3.0	12 Month Accounts	
3.1	MB reported on the accounts (previously circulated) and asked for comments. In response to a question from TA about the KPIs, ES provided clarification on the matchday season ticket accounting process, Carvery staff costs and income from Kingsmeadow Live. ES said that, following some less successful gigs at KML, useful lessons had been learnt and this season had already seen several successful gigs. MB confirmed that IH would be updating the Board on KML at the December meeting.	IH
4.0	Fundraising/Financing	
4.1	ES said that he was taking his paper on fundraising to the FCB the following week, and would report back at the October Board meeting.	ES
4.2	There was a discussion about the potential Associate Director role, following the FCB's comments on the proposal. ES said he is writing a paper for the FCB to address their concerns. IM said that he felt that the Board should implement the Associate Director proposal as a matter of urgency as an important fund-raising initiative. MB asked IM to set out his view of the role's scope, which he would send round for comment.	IM / SB
4.3	It was agreed that any proposal to introduce an Associate Directorship should be subject to consultation with members, while noting that it had been raised with members on a previous occasion.	MB
5.0	SGM Preparation	
5.1	DH said that he had been liaising with Dave Boyle confirmed the proposed arrangements for the forthcoming DTB Elections. The proposed dates for the election are: Nominations open: October 27 Nominations close: November 12 Campaigning begins: November 16 Live Hustings (via WDON subject to technical arrangements): November 22 Vote closes: December 12 Counted prior to AGM: December 13. DH said he would send round full details and canvas opinion from those non-standing members and that the revised election rules be drawn up in conjunction with Dave Boyle to be agreed at the next DTB meeting on 8	DH

	October.	
5.0	Youth Football	
5.1	<p>NH gave a detailed presentation on the EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan), the Under-18 College, and the Academy. He said that the success of the Club's youth football structures had seen Frankie Merrifield, Huw Johnson, Jim Fenlon and Brendan Kiernan all progress into the first team via the Merton College scheme. NH outlined the new Premier League-funded system for PL and FL clubs. The AFC Wimbledon scheme has been awarded Category 3 status (of four levels) and has a budget of more than £400,000, employs six full-time staff and has countless volunteers. All schemes are independently-audited each year and must continue to justify their category level (and associated PL funding).</p> <p>NH explained that the normal transfer rules apply for selling young players with a tribunal decision if no agreement can be reached between clubs. ES commented that Crewe Alexandra's business plan was based on selling a number of their youth scheme players. Despite that, seven of their play-off final team last season were former academy members. All clubs have the right to send scouts to look at other clubs' youth footballers.</p> <p>NH noted that Crystal Palace's scheme was category 1, and given that competition in our catchment area he would like us to aspire to a higher level in time. IM asked if it would be possible for the Under 18s to play occasional matches at 5.30pm on Saturday matchdays, with fans being encouraged to stay to watch. This was felt to be impractical for a number of reasons. NH said that DT members and season ticket holders were welcome to come and watch them play for free at 11am on Saturdays, or the younger teams on Sunday mornings. He agreed to email Board members with details of upcoming matches. Youth Football matches were regularly covered on the website.</p> <p>SM asked NH how many hours per week he worked on the youth football schemes. NH estimated around 25/30 hours.</p> <p>The Board thanked NH for his excellent presentation and unanimously expressed their appreciation for his work on this vitally important aspect of the Club.</p> <p>It was agreed that NH's presentation paper could, with minor amendments, be extremely useful as a marketing document.</p>	NH

6	AOB	
6.1	<p>It was reported that NHa had sent an email about the development of a Charitable Trust. In particular, she had raised the issue of its potential links with non-football community activity. ES felt that this would be a good thing to do and that we should look further into it. He said that FC United were amongst other clubs who followed this principle.</p>	
6.2	<p>A proposal for the Club to join the Football Supporters Federation was discussed. MB recommended that we should join. ZL asked if we would be bound by any campaigns that the FSF chose to adopt. MB said that he thought it unlikely that we would disagree, based on previous FSF activity, but, if necessary, we could make our position clear publically.</p>	
6.3	<p>MB asked Board members to look at their website (http://www.fsf.org.uk/) and, if no issues were raised, proposed that we join. This was agreed.</p>	DTB/MB
6.4	<p>MB said that Wycombe Wanderers (now a trust-owned club) had invited DT Board members to the away match on 22 September. He asked Board members to let DC know as soon as possible if they were interested in accepting Wycombe's kind invitation.</p>	DTB
6.5	<p>ES reminded Board members of the upcoming Minithon on 30 September and that he along with other members of the football club and Sophie Hosking were participating and encouraged DTB board members to support and sponsor the event where possible.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 22:30. The next meeting to take place on Monday 8 October 2012.</p>	