



Dons Trust Board Meeting

Thursday 8 November 2012

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES

Members:

Matthew Breach - Chair
Sean McLaughlin (SM)
Simon Bath (SB)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Nicole Hammond (NH)
David Growns (DG)
Tom Adam (TA)
Iain McNay (IM)

Invited:

Nigel Higgs (Nhi)
Erik Samuelson (ES)
Ivor Heller (IH)
David Charles (DC)
David Hall (DH) - Secretariat
David Reeves (DR) - Secretariat
Eric Page (EP) - Minute Taker

Apologies:

Kate Terriere (KT)

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies/Minutes/Matters Arising	
1.1	<u>Apologies</u> were received from Kate Terriere (KT).	
	<u>Matters Arising</u>	
1.2	There were no matters arising.	
2.0	Football Club Report	
	(a) Arrangements for Potential FA Cup Tie on 1st/2nd December	
2.1	There was a discussion regarding the possible FA Cup game against the MK Franchise. It was emphasized that there could be no reconciliation without	

	<p>first consulting our fans. It was stated, however, that the club would go through the 'Respect Handshake' and complete the fixture. An absolute minimum of information to be provided by DC to Franchise, in the form of pen pics and squad pics for the match programme.</p>	DC
2.2	<p>It was agreed that no FCB or DTB member should accept hospitality but noted that David Charles would need to be there to carry out his duties. It was mentioned that FCB and DTB members could go as fans but should behave in an appropriate manner befitting the club and, as recommended in the FCB paper, should not comment to the media at the game.</p>	
2.3	<p>ES noted that we should tell fans that the two boards have freedom of choice as to whether they attended the game.</p> <p>The issue of complimentary tickets was discussed. Two motions were introduced:</p> <p>(i) <u>Whether to accept complimentary tickets?</u> The DTB voted in favour of accepting comps with 6 DTB members (IM), (TA), (MB), (ZL), (DG) & (SM) supporting the motion. (SB) and (NH) voted against.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Whether to restrict complimentary tickets to players?</u> Four DTB members agreed that complimentary tickets should be restricted to players (MB, IM, TA, ZL). There were three abstentions (DG, SB and NH) and one DTB member voted against. (SM)</p>	
2.4	<p>With regard to a possible replay, ES highlighted the difficulties of accommodating their fans at TCRRS. It was decided that we should communicate with the police about how the situation could be best handled.</p>	ES
2.5	<p>On the subject of a match programme for a possible replay, it was mentioned that we should refrain from including them as much as possible.</p>	
2.6	<p>DH mentioned the option of putting a voluntary ban on away fans for the fixture and also applying this to any possible replay. He thought there had been a precedent on this a few years ago between Newcastle and Sunderland.</p>	
2.7	<p>The board also considered how best to deal with scout requests from the MK Franchise for the FA Cup 1st Round Replay against York City. The DTB decided to 'strongly advise' against any senior Franchise officials (E.g. Karl Robinson/Mick Harford) from scouting this game because of safety</p>	

2.8	<p>concerns. It was stated that Franchise should put in writing any request for scouts to attend this fixture.</p> <p>(b) Quarterly FCB Report</p> <p><u>North Stand</u></p> <p>ES reported on the cost of the delays to delivery of the North Stand and uncompleted works, and the potential value of a claim against the building company.</p>	
2.9	<p><u>KCL Rental</u></p> <p>ES explained that there could be a rise in the rental price for the premises.</p>	
2.10	<p><u>General Office/Secretary Role</u></p> <p>Sarah is happy to reduce her hours. New person to start in nine days time.</p>	
2.11	<p><u>Programmes</u></p> <p>Four fans have volunteered their services as programme sellers. IH to train.</p>	IH
2.12	<p>(c) Health & Safety Update</p> <p>ES stated that board members have certain responsibilities re H&S and that the topic needed a decent session to cover it.</p>	
2.13	<p><u>Generic Risk Assessment</u></p> <p>DC noted that there were three areas marked as high:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Car parking area. For cost reasons, the council are unable to help us with some of the identified risks, such as putting up 'SLOW' signs. We need to speak to David Evans, the RBK representative. 2. Getting staff from contractors. They need to provide us with insurance certificates etc. or they can't be one of our contractors. 3. Fire. Independent fire risk assessment carried out. DC has received report and would be taking action on this. 	DTB
2.14	<p>(d) New Stadium Update</p> <p>ES provided an update on the new stadium plans.</p>	

2.15	<p>(e) League 2 Promotion/Relegation Meeting</p> <p>ES spoke about the proposal put forward by Barnet Chairman, Tony Kleanthous, at the League Two meeting, suggesting that ‘there should be three-up and three-down from/to the Football Conference from next season.’</p> <p>ES noted that in a prospective meeting on 12th November, the football club board proposed that the club should vote in favour of the proposal. The board endorsed this position</p>	
2.16	<p>(f) 3 Month Management Accounts</p> <p>The board discussed the latest 3 month management accounts which were noted to be in line with previous projections but contained a number of areas of concern which were discussed.</p>	
3.0	Preparation for AGM on 13th December	
3.1	<p>(3c) Paper on Associate Directors</p> <p>The board discussed the possibility of having an Associate Director on a pilot scheme which would be trialed for 6 months or a year. A prospective candidate would be interviewed and accepted by the FC Board. It was stated that the position, which would be a non-executive role, could add value to help run the club and provide business advice. There would be a DT report on any interview and a document sent to members. Paper to be prepared for the AGM and circulated for comment.</p>	ES
3.2	<p>(3d) DT Communities Working Group Draft Paper</p> <p>NH reported that there had been a working group meeting which NHi and DC attended. NH stated that a meeting was planned for Wednesday 14th November. A motion was to be created and put to AGM and a final version circulated beforehand. NHi is putting together articles of association and producing a business plan. A rough draft to be prepared for meeting on Nov 14th</p>	NHi / NH
3.3	<p>(3e) Action Plan Update</p> <p>MB noted that there had been two months since an update and that there had been no major changes.</p>	
3.4	<p>(3f) Other</p> <p>ES provided an update on the situation regarding a possible Community Shares scheme and the need to increase the Trust’s shareholding in AFCW</p>	

3.5	<p>PLC to over 90% for the Community Share issue to be eligible for Enterprise Investment Scheme status (i.e. making investors eligible for tax relief). The fairness of the scheme was debated with respect to our fans and those supporters from other clubs who had invested in AFCW PLC. ES to put together results with explanatory note in time for November 20th.</p> <p>The board noted that over half of the most expensive seats in the North Stand are concessions. The board to review concessions in this stand.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>DTB</p>
4.0	AOB	
4.1	<p>(a) Election Update</p> <p>DH noted that the final date for voting in the DTB elections was December 12th. The Hustings were set for November 25th.</p> <p>(b) Round the Table</p>	
4.2	It was noted that the DT Twitter account has 260 members.	
4.3	NHi informed the board that we had played Franchise at youth level, winning eight out of nine matches. MB agreed to write to Mark Robinson (Academy Manager) on behalf of the Trust in connection with these games.	MB
4.4	It was explained that the DT has 1935 adult members and that numbers have risen every year for the last four years. One page report to be produced with metrics detailing new and lapsed membership.	
4.5	ZL asked about the application for membership of the FSF. DH / MB to explore.	DH / MB
4.6	Board member portfolios. MB noted that we have split actions up amongst DTB members. To be written down with clear wording.	DTB
	The meeting closed at 22:30. The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th December 2012.	