

Dons Trust Board Meeting

Thursday 14 March 2013

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES

Members:

David Growns (DG) - Acting Chair
Mick Buckley (MBu)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Nicole Hammond (NH)
Tom Adam (TA)
Iain McNay (IM)
Kris Stewart (KS)

Invited:

Erik Samuelson (ES)
Nigel Higgs (NHi)
Dennis Lowndes (DL)
David Hall (DH) - Secretariat
David Reeves (DR) - Secretariat
Eric Page (EP) - Secretariat

Apologies:

Sean McLaughlin (SM)
Matthew Breach (MB)

Ivor Heller (IH)
David Charles (DC)
Fawwad Udin (FU)

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies for absence	
1.1	Apologies were received from Matthew Breach (MB), Sean McLaughlin (SM), David Charles (DC) and Ivor Heller (IH).	
2.0	Minutes for meeting of 11 Feb 2013 (Paper A previously circulated by David Reeves)	
2.1	Updates to be sent round by email.	
2.2	TA raised 6.6	

3.0	Ladies and Girls Team Accounts (Paper B) Fawwad Udin and Dennis Lowndes to attend for this item	
3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6	<p>Dennis Lowndes spoke about how the Ladies and Girls teams were progressing and also gave an update on the budgetary situation. He advised that the figures were looking good. He noted that the girls' team had been expanded and were anticipating more games next year. He also said that the ladies team had moved from the athletics track to a private sports ground at Raynes Park High School.</p> <p>DL explained that training prices were going up. He also stressed that with regard to the ladies; players weren't based locally, but came from a variety of different locations. He stated that there was a desire to attain the same level as Arsenal Ladies but that it was all down to funding. He added that some of the best players leave to join bigger teams. The lower down the ladies team, the less interest in the girls' team.</p> <p>DL stated that he has to place kit orders in March for the start of the season in September and needed to be confident that his budget was secured. The DTB stressed the need for a realistic budget for both the ladies and girls teams.</p> <p>NHi stated that girls can put their names forward to become CFS coaches. He advised that two players are qualified coaches.</p> <p>It was stated that DL would put together an impact statement in the form of a two-page document in order to outline the vision for the ladies and girls teams.</p> <p>The DTB voted to continue the funding at £5K for the ladies and girls teams. (TA, KS, IM, NH)</p>	DL
4.0	Football Club Reports	
4.1 4.2 4.3	<p>(a) <u>Football Club Board Report (Paper C previously circulated by Erik Samuelson)</u></p> <p>ES to re-issue a list of players who are on loan and for how long.</p> <p>ES gave an update on developments for the proposed new stadium.</p> <p>ES informed the DTB that after a hearing in front of members of the</p>	ES

	DTB/FCB, it was decided that the AFC Wimbledon supporter whose banana ended up on the playing surface would be allowed to come to games from 23 March, 2013.	
4.4	It was explained that with regard to team kits and budgeted merchandise sales, next year would be a 'one-kit year', where sales are usually lower.	
4.5	The end of season dinner was discussed. It was stated that we wouldn't be doing the £10 speech as it would be deemed unfair on the people who pay full price for the whole event. There was a discussion about pricing and the possibility of premium priced tables for the best view/access to former players.	
4.6	It was stated that the David Weir dinner had been pushed back to October.	
4.7	IH to attend a future DTB meeting and give an update on commercial matters.	IH
4.8	Update to be given on safety & security at the next DTB meeting by DC.	DC
4.9	We will be showing the FA Cup Final at the stadium on 14 May, 2013. The charge will be £3 in the middle bar and this would be redeemable against a first drink.	ES
4.10	We have been advised to replace the back wall in the east stand. The work is currently being costed. <u>(b) Ticket pricing for season 2013-14 (Paper D previously circulated by Erik Samuelson)</u>	
4.11	The board noted that it had yet to finalise its proposals for consulting with the membership on ticket pricing but it was nonetheless comfortable with the proposals.	ES
4.12	The DTB voted unanimously that: (i) Most matchday and season ticket prices should remain unchanged. (ii) We should not add to the financial burden we will face if relegated by reducing our prices (iii) We should change the designation for youth prices from under-16 to under-18. <u>(c) AFCW FL budget 2013-14 (Paper E previously circulated by Erik Samuelson)</u>	KS

4.13	The DTB discussed a draft football club budget for 2013-14 which will be refined by the FCB for further discussion at the April DTB meeting.	
	(d) <u>Recent Fan Behaviour</u>	
4.14	The following communication to fans was agreed: ‘The DTB discussed how best to encourage and support AFC Wimbledon fans in ensuring that the lively, inclusive atmosphere we all want at home and away matches is maintained within the spirit and values of the club. Some FCB proposals in this area were discussed at length and agreed. The DTB and FCB to talk about this subject in various communications with fans over the coming weeks. The DTB and FCB expressed appreciation for the efforts of a number of supporters, who have, over the years, sought to encourage the best (and discourage the worst) of chants and songs we use to get behind the team. All board members agreed to give active support to fans on the terraces and in the stands in such efforts at self-policing.’	KS
4.15	It was also agreed that there should be a matchday programme and website article.	
5.0	Strategy Working Groups	
	(a) <u>Fundraising Group - update</u>	
5.1	No update.	
	(b) <u>New Stadium Structure - update</u>	
5.2	It was stated that a good meeting had been held in the previous week.	
	(c) <u>People Group - Terms of Reference (Paper G)</u>	
5.3	Focusing on DT membership, volunteering and community. NH emphasised the need for volunteers with appropriate professional expertise and experience.	
6.0	Any Other Business	
	(a) <u>We Are Wimbledon Fund - Update by Zoe Linkson</u>	
6.1	ZL explained that costs had been incurred. ZL to drop the board a note with regard to SO’s and DD’s. ZL to give actual figure next month.	ZL

6.2	<p><u>(b) Constitution & Community Shares - Update by David Hall</u></p> <p>DH explained that we need to make changes to the DT constitution in order to accommodate a Community Share offer. He added that Supporters Direct (SD) had developed a new set of rules in the last two years and that ours were out of date. He noted that unless we adopted the SD constitution there were two key changes which would have to be made to ours:</p> <p>(i) Rule 6: application of profits – in order to enable interest to be paid - under rules 97 and 98 this would require support by 75% of those voting and a turnout of 25%</p> <p>(ii) Rules 16 – 18 – these would need to be altered to allow for community shares to be offered but only require a simple majority of those voting.</p> <p>DH to circulate. DH & DR to do draft communications plan. DR to do draft constitution changes action plan.</p> <p>Aim for Barnet programme to provide update to fans. There was a brief discussion about alternative/complementary sources of fund-raising, including prudential loans.</p>	DH/DR
6.3	<p><u>(c) Volunteer Database Resolution (Draft) for SGM by Tudor Jennings (Paper H)</u></p> <p>DG advised that there had been communication with Tudor Jennings on this topic. TJ is putting forward a resolution for the next SGM.</p>	
6.4	<p><u>(d) Other Outstanding Actions</u></p> <p>An update was given on the CRM system. The board cited a lack of resources for the delay in implementation. It was stated that the relevant software is needed and then we can move forward. DG to put plan together in next couple of weeks.</p>	DG
6.5	<p><u>(e) Other/Round the Table</u></p> <p>MBu pointed out that with regard to the BetButler deal, we should be careful about pushing people to gamble. The DTB discussed whether as a board, it is comfortable with this process. ES explained that the club's intention is to say 'if you are going to bet, please do it this way as we get some benefit'. He undertook to determine the precise financial benefits to the club. FCB to determine what the club's stance is. The subject would be discussed further at a future meeting.</p>	FCB
6.6	<p>DR asked the DTB to provide feedback on the use of Google Drive.</p>	DTB

7.0	Next Meeting - 8th April, 2013	
7.1	The meeting closed at 10.15pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 th April, 2013. (Post Meeting Note: this date is incorrect and the next meeting will be on 3 rd April).	