



Dons Trust Board Meeting

Thursday 9 May 2013

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES

Members:

Matthew Breach (MB)
David Growns (DG)
Mick Buckley (MBu)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Nicole Hammond (NH)
Tom Adam (TA)
Iain McNay (IM)
Kris Stewart (KS)
Sean McLaughlin (SM)

Invited:

Erik Samuelson (ES)
Andrew Williams (AW)
David Hall (DH) - Secretariat
Eric Page (EP) - Secretariat

Apologies:

Ivor Heller (IH)
David Charles (DC)
Nigel Higgs (NHi)
David Reeves (DR)

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies for absence	
1.1	Apologies were received from David Charles (DC), Ivor Heller (IH), Nigel Higgs (NHi) and David Reeves (DR).	
2.0	New Stadium Update	
2.1	Erik Samuelson and the club's stadium adviser, Andrew Williams, provided an update to Board members on the current status of discussions and agreement was sought from the Board on the club's position on a selection of key issues (see appendix 1). The timetable for raising funds following the	

	success of the SGM motions was also discussed.	
3.0	Football Club Board Report	
	<u>Budget/Dons Draw/Golden Goal</u>	
3.1	ES stated that there had been broad agreement on the operational budget for our next season in League Two – the final budget would be presented to the next DT Board. To complete the capex budget and the associated funding analysis ES said that he needs feedback on the DT budget and Dons Draw.	ES / DTB
3.2	SM to inform about the Golden Goal by Monday 13 May. <u>End of Season Break</u>	SM
3.3	ES explained that the team had gone to Las Vegas on an end of season break. He advised that players had to be over 21 years of age to travel and must have been in the squad for ten games post the Oxford home game to qualify. <u>Development Squad</u>	
3.4	ES noted that the new Development Squad would bridge the gap between the Academy and the First Team. He stated that 7 players would be kept and that a designated coach be recruited. Players from other clubs would also be scouted. It was mentioned that Neal Ardley was keen on having a development squad. <u>Solidarity Payments</u>	
3.5	ES briefed the board about the recent L2 meeting. He stated that there had only been an offer of a 5-10% rise in solidarity payments but that, given some of the conditions surrounding the overall offer, it is possible that clubs would be receiving less money. ES told the DTB of his unhappiness with this offer and said that he was minded to vote against it. <u>Norbiton Incident</u>	
3.6	ES stated that the club has asked the police for feedback regarding incidents at Norbiton station after the Fleetwood game. DC to ring the Inspector if there is no feedback soon. DG stated that we could consider a package of measures with a plan around it in order to minimize any potential trouble. ZL mentioned that some clubs have liaison officers in place to help manage such events ES highlighted the benefit of offering an	

	anonymous texting facility to single out troublemakers.	DC
	<u>DTB Chairman</u>	
3.7	The DTB discussed the possibility of appointing a DTB Chairman who could perhaps act as a figurehead. This could be a football expert and perhaps someone who has a connection with the club. It was stated that there would have to be terms of reference for what they would do. MB to look into this.	MB
	<u>Other</u>	
3.8	It was noted that Chris Slavin would interview the AFC Wimbledon directors as a look back on the season and looking forward to next year.	
3.9	ES noted that we continue to be in the lower regions of the wages league table and that the WAWF initiative is very helpful in increasing our ability to recruit players. However, he is concerned that this will reduce our ability to raise funds for other purposes and we will have more money for the team at the cost of, for example, being unable to fund capital expenditure	
3.10	ES explained that we are halfway in the League table with regard to attendances.	
3.11	It was noted that IH is looking for a new bar manager. The DTB emphasized that dealing with large crowds at the bar was problematic.	
3.12	ES said that it is being arranged for the team to travel to Monza for a friendly. IH has arranged a sponsorship to cover the costs and been out to Monza.	
4.0	Any Other Business	
4.1	<p>There was some discussion on the paper previously prepared by MB/IM following their trip to Bradford earlier in the season. SM noted that it was a good paper with lots of suggestions which needed following up. Six actions were included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External help of value. 2. Undertake research of sporting enterprises. 3. Job Spec for DT Chairman. 4. Finance Director. 5. Role for stadium manager - short term. 6. 2020 Vision - detailed plan. 	

4.2	MB stated that with regard to external help, a management consultant has offered help. This would include benchmarking external structures and engaging with stakeholders on how structures should move forward. MB to meet him and draw something up. MB to also think about role of Finance Director and circulate.	MB
4.3	The DTB were advised that the Supporters Direct AGM would be held on June 21 st , 2013.	
5.0	Next Meeting - 17th June, 2013	
5.1	The meeting closed at 10.30pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 th June, 2013.	