

Dons Trust Board Meeting

Tuesday 13 May 2014

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES PART 1 redacted version

Members:

David Grows (DG)
Kris Stewart (KS)
Sean McLaughlin (SM)
Mark Davis (MD)
Jane Lonsdale (JL)
Iain McNay (IM)

Invited:

Erik Samuelson (ES)
Nigel Higgs (NHi)
David Hall (DH) – Dons Trust Secretary
Michael Hayes (Secretariat)

Apologies:

Matthew Breach (MB)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Moorad Choudhry (MC)

Matthew Breach (MB)
Ivor Heller (IH)
David Charles (DC)
Mick Buckley (MBu)

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies for absence	
1.1	Apologies were received from Matthew Breach (MB) Zoe Linkson (ZL) Moorad Choudhry (MC) Ivor Heller (IH) David Charles (DC) and Mick Buckley (MBu)	
2.0	April 3 Minutes	
2.1	The minutes had been split into two parts, separating the part where the FCB representatives were present from the DTB only part. This procedure was approved, subject to necessary redactions.	
2.2	ES had sent DH some suggested amendments to the first part. These were approved subject to those amendments.	
2.3	DH is to revise the minutes accordingly within 48 hours of receiving any final comments.	DH

2.4	<p>DH is to prepare a rolling list of unresolved action points, to go on a spreadsheet in GoogleDocs, which would be accessible to DTB members but not formally discussed as an agenda item subject to exceptions. There is an expectation that DTB and FCB members will update their actions in the rolling list (log?) to show when actions have been completed and any further action.</p>	DH
3.0	Football Club Board Items	
3.1	<p><u>Budget 2014/15</u></p> <p>KS asked how much difference increased attendance would contribute. ES said that this would increase the income by about £32–34,000 per 100 additional attendees and that there is a plan to increase attendance without reducing prices.</p> <p>IM noted that the figure of 700 plus for non attending season ticket holders seems high, and queried whether we could “overbook” if this figure is reliable. ES said that it is proposed to write to those who never come asking why, and what can be done to persuade them to attend. Also it is planned to ensure that more returns are sold e.g. by not giving them out as comps.</p> <p>In response to a question JL said that there are 255 regular WAW donors who contribute a total of £69,000.</p> <p>MD asked where the peripheral costs for the stadium will come from. ES said that all such expenses thus far have been met or provided for, and future such costs would not be high and would come from the stadium funding programme. This will be discussed in more detail by the Finance and Fundraising Group at their next meeting on 11 June.</p> <p>ES said that the budget would be reconsidered to reflect changes, e.g. extra revenue from the friendly with Chelsea [<i>this section has been redacted</i>] and some provisions may be taken out.</p> <p>MD asked for confirmation that the breakeven figure takes into account depreciation. ES would confirm.</p> <p>ES reported that for season 2013-14 the club is 20th in League 2 for players’ wages (£1,053,000) and the average is now £1,360,000 (the individual teams are not specified but some can be worked out [<i>this section has been redacted</i>]). Total players’ wages do broadly correlate with league position. If we increase our wage bill by £100K we would move up to 17th. He indicated we may need to spend more in order to maintain our current position in the wages league table. NA is aiming for a smaller squad with better players.</p> <p>In response to a question from MD, ES said that no cash flow forecast has been prepared (partly because we do not have up to date season ticket information due to Chris Atkinson’s departure) but CA felt that renewals are close to last year’s.</p> <p>KS asked if the quarterly accounts include all bills so far incurred for the new stadium – answer yes, these are included under legal and professional.</p>	ES

3.2

FCB Report

ES reported that it is likely that Admiral will meet the delivery date.

[this section has been redacted]

[this section has been redacted]

NH reported that the Academy audit result is due by 4 June at the latest, followed by a review on 12 June.

JL asked about Ladies and Girls - ES said that they report into the football club at present but he has asked Kay Skelton to look at what other clubs do, specifically how they integrate girls' football into their charities.

JL also asked about staffing issues. ES said he had talked to DC about changes which ES will bring to the DT Board. The remaining office staff (Patrick and Joe) will be working extra time for a while as Sarah is currently off sick. ES indicated much will depend on getting the right replacement for Chris Atkinson.

KS asked about DC. ES answered that DC has been well supported. *[this section has been redacted]*

IM asked if there was scope for volunteers to help with office duties. ES said that the Chris Atkinson replacement should have more involvement with volunteers.

[this section has been redacted]

NH reported that John Harwood is to become the Child Protection Officer for the whole club.

ES reported that Mike Richardson has offered the club up to a further £100,000 for player wages on two conditions; first, that the DT provides funding for Ladies and Girls of £15K each year (an increase of £10k on the current level); and that the fans also commit to raising some additional funds.

On the first condition, JL said that while she had no problem with helping the Ladies and Girls teams, she was concerned with how the proposal was being put forward and wondered if there was an alternative way of presenting this.

After discussion, the DTB agreed to accept the first condition, but on the basis that the Ladies and Girls should handle this operationally and explain to the DTB how the £15K will be spent, with reporting to the FCB.

As to the second condition, ES suggested that a letter from MR should be sent to a wide group comprising season ticket holders, WAW contributors and Dons Draw participators and other relevant groups asking for wider donations from fans. *[this section has been redacted]* It was agreed that ES should draft a letter to be written by MR to the wider group in which MR would offer to match additional donations from the wider group on a pound for pound basis, such donations to be made to one

	of the existing destinations i.e. WAW, Dons Draw and Yellow and Blue.	ES
4.0	AOB	
4.1	DH summarised the offer for us to contribute to the Merton Council Scrutiny Committee. He was awaiting further information on what it involved and would report back. Subject to that he recommended that this would be a good opportunity to engage with local issues in Merton.	DH