

Dons Trust Board Meeting

Tuesday 13 May 2014

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES PART 2 – redacted version

Members:

David Growns (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
	This part of the meeting was DTB only but ES attended part (for the discussion about Agents)	
5.0	Agents	
5.1	ES summarised the position re agents, which was different from what he had previously understood, and is subject to confirmation. ES said that he had been informed that agents are not permitted to act for two parties i.e. not for both player and club. Either the club appoints an agent to find a player and charges a finder's fee, or the player is contracted to an agent and the agent negotiates a higher contract to include the fee and then the player pays the agent.*	
5.2	If the former route is followed, the player is taxed on the agent's fee as a benefit in kind. Either way, the payment has to be made via the FA. On this basis, whichever route is adopted, the cost to the player is identical in tax terms and also works out the same to the club (unless paying one route involves a loss of VAT offset but ES does not think this makes a different to the net cost to the club). The normal fee is 5%. It is unlikely in the present climate that we would secure an in demand player without paying an agents fee. (ES leaves the meeting)	

5.3	KS reminded the Board that historically the DT has had a “no agents” policy.	
5.4	JL noted that the club had received favourable comment in the social media for its policy on agents, so that any change would be a major issue and should be discussed with DT members.	
5.5	KS was of the opinion that we should find out more about this issue and exactly how it works before proceeding to change DT policy. He considered that this is an area where the DTB was getting insufficient notice from the FCB and was consequently unable to give it proper consideration. KS indicated that more notice needed to be given for events such as this otherwise the FCB would continue to make such proposals at short notice. KS indicated that the DTB should ask ES to find out more and take soundings from other clubs.	
5.6	SM said he cannot see a real difference between the club paying or the player paying; as a question of principle the DTB could vote no, but no need to defer a decision.	
5.7	DG said that KS was right to raise the issue; he indicated that it appeared the DTB was being asked to change a policy at short notice even if the timing was unavoidable.	
5.8	MD thought that it would be a pity if we were to miss out on a striker just for the sake of sticking to a policy which might no longer be appropriate.	
5.9	IM said that this issue highlights the fact that the DTB is being too reactive when its role is to be visionary and look ahead.	
5.10	SM felt that the DTB should ask ES to identify what has changed, why he wants the policy to change, but should not hold things up.	
5.11	JL said that we should learn from the arrangements surrounding the signing of <i>[this item has been redacted]</i> , where we had been put into a difficult negotiating position with his agent.	
5.12	It was agreed that ES should be requested to prepare a short paper on the benefits to the club and to the players of what he has proposed, with a cost comparison, for the DTB to take a decision within a week.	DG / ES
5.13	This discussion triggered a debate about existing DTB policies and the desirability of reviewing these. MD agreed to assemble a list of earlier existing agreed policies to include policies imposed by the membership and share with DH.	MD
6.0	April 3 Minutes Part 2	
6.1	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.	
6.2	Redactions to these minutes to be finalized, suggestions for redaction to DH then DH is to revise the minutes accordingly within 48 hours once all comments were	DH

	received.	
7.0	ESG Report from 2013 elections	
7.1	DH said that he had circulated Dave Boyle's ESG report. Dave Boyle was standing down as Chair of the ESG along with Geoff Seel. DH explained that new arrangements would need to be put in place for the 2014 elections. Due to shortage of time it was agreed that the report and issues arising from this would be considered at the next DTB meeting.	
8.0	SGM Preparation	
8.1	DH reported that papers for the SGM had gone out although there were again some difficulties with email despatch via Titan.	
8.2	MD stated that the season ticket consultation should be about the club's financial relationship with its supporters. There would be a background report, followed by discussion and questions.	
8.3	IM suggested that DC should attend the SGM to hear the John Stembridge resolution about club representatives at games	
9.0	AOB	
9.1	FA Commission Feedback JL suggested that the DTB should follow up on its statement. KS offered to do some work on this. It was noted that Charlie Talbot had drafted the DT website statement. The DTB wished to record their thanks to Charlie for his work on this.	
9.2	Ladies Team Event 13 June MB, DG and MD will attend.	
9.3	Boardroom duties JL suggested that there should be a rota of DTB board members; also that the role of "club representative" should be clearly defined in the light of the John Stembridge resolution in order to avoid misunderstandings.	
9.4	IT update/Collaborate Software Working Groups Constitution Update Round the Table These items were deferred to the next meeting	
10.0	Date of Next Meeting	
	Monday 9 June at 7.30pm	

- Post meeting note – ES has subsequently indicated that he had been misinformed about this and a deal was subsequently done with the agent acting for both parties.