

Dons Trust Board Meeting



Monday 6 October 2014

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES – redacted version

Members:

Matthew Breach (MB)
David Growns (DC)
Jane Lonsdale (JL)
Iain McNay (IMc)
Mark Davis (MD)
Moorad Choudhry (MC) – from item 2.9

Invited:

Erik Samuelson (ES)
David Hall (DH) – Dons Trust Secretary

Apologies:

Sean McLaughlin (SM)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Kris Stewart (KS)

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies for absence	
1.1	Apologies were received from Zoe Linkson (ZL), Sean McLaughlin (SM) and Kris Stewart (KS).	
2.0	FCB Reports	
	<u>Initial FCB Report</u>	
2.1	ES had circulated two reports to the DTB: the standard report (as presented to the FCB) and a supplementary update on the arrangements for the new stadium. <i>This section has been redacted.</i> Prior to discussing the update, ES briefly presented the earlier report.	
2.2	ES explained that sales of the new kit had been very successful resulting in a shortage of supplies. Some of the club sides had been using kit not originally	

	<p>designed for them. He indicated that new stock would be unavailable for several months as Admiral would only manufacture large bulk orders. MD asked whether fans understood the third kit was only for one season. ES confirmed that it was clear in the original publicity. DG asked whether Ivor Heller (IH) was looking at other ideas for Xmas sales. ES said that it was being discussed.</p>	
2.3	<p>ES was then asked about the match with Milton Keynes on 7 October. He said that there were around 150 sales at a point earlier in the day but were continuing to sell tickets. On other football matters ES said that since his report Mark Phillips had been put on loan to get more game time.</p>	
2.4	<p>MD asked about the position with KM Live. ES confirmed that most events had now been outsourced but we get the bar sales receipts.</p>	
2.5	<p>With regard to new office arrangements ES confirmed that Paul Moran was now in place. Part of his role covers the job originally carried out by Chris Atkinson. Mandy Bynon would be due to start work on 13 October. IM asked about the new portacabin and other office arrangements following the earlier review following the Jake Nicholson contract issue. DG / ES confirmed that the recommendations had all been put in place although some further office tidying was still necessary.</p>	
2.6	<p>MB asked about the position regarding the aggressive behaviour towards a steward at the first MK match. ES confirmed that it had gone to court and that a non-custodial sentence had been imposed. The club was imposing a life ban.</p>	
2.7	<p><i>This section has been redacted.</i></p>	
2.8	<p>MB asked about Kay Skelton's (KS) attendance at the FCB meetings. ES said that she was now due to attend monthly following her recent illness and it had been going well. MB confirmed that further discussions regarding the Girls team and the Women's team were needed and would be on KS's agenda. MB confirmed that Mike Richardson as VP had been providing support to the KS and Ladies Team. ES confirmed that the Ladies team were getting more interest following their improved performance.</p> <p><u>Stadium Update Report</u> <i>[this section has been redacted]</i></p>	
2.9	<p><i>This section has been redacted.</i></p>	
2.10	<p><i>This section has been redacted.</i></p>	
2.11	<p><i>This section has been redacted.</i></p>	
2.12	<p><i>This section has been redacted.</i></p>	

3.0	<i>This section has been redacted.</i>	
3.1	<i>This section has been redacted.</i>	
4.0	Associate Directors	
4.1	<p>MB introduced this item and explained that he felt it would be useful to have a general discussion on this item prior to putting a paper together for the next DTB and AGM or future SGM as appropriate. MB explained that whilst a resolution had been drafted by MC it would be useful to try and achieve some consensus on the issues before going to a DTB vote on the proposal to go to the members.</p>	
4.2	<p>IM explained that the source of this idea came from discussions with other clubs. In exchange for an annual payment (say £25,000) Associate Directors (ADs) elsewhere get benefits such as parking spaces and admittance to the Board Room at home and some away games.</p>	
4.3	<p>ES said that the FCB were happy in principle with ADs attending occasional FCB meetings though this would be in a no voting role. MB indicated that the DTB should decide on whether the person was suitable – they would need to add value and pass certain criteria. MC agreed that they would need to pass a ‘fit and proper’ test.</p>	
4.4	<p>In relation to the way the paper was presented, MD felt there were two different audiences to be considered. It would clearly be necessary to sell the benefits to potential Associate Directors so as to attract people who wanted to contribute financially to the club. But, in writing a paper for members, we also had to be aware of members’ concerns. ES asked whether the arrangement would be for an annual fee and the scale of the fee.</p>	
4.5	<p>MB acknowledged that the intention was to attract those people who could contribute relatively more and suggested that £50,000 might be a more appropriate figure. MC noted that some people had already contributed more than £50,000 in other ways.</p>	
4.6		
4.7	<p>IMc asked about the legal powers of an AD. ES said that there was no such role in practice. It was acknowledged that the remit and role of an AD had to be clearly spelt out so that outsiders dealing with ADs also understood the limitations of their role.</p>	
	<p>JL expressed her concern that offering Associate Directors places on the FCB would be allowing privilege and influence for payments. IMc indicated that the role of an AD could be a positive influence on the club. After further discussion MB thanked everyone for their contributions and said he would try and put together a paper taking on board the views of those who appeared against the idea in</p>	MB

	principle in order to draw up a workable proposal.	
5.0	Minutes of DTB only Meeting on 8 September	
5.1	ES requested an amendment to item 3.8 of the 8 September Minutes pointing out that Phil Clark was Club Safety Officer not Head Steward. He also asked that in future agreed actions for him to implement could be brought to his attention earlier if he wasn't in attendance. ES also suggested that in view of responses to the JPT match against MK that it would be worth posing a question to members at some stage on how we deal with matches against them. He suggested a nef type survey may be appropriate. (ES left at this point).	DH MB / ES
5.2	JL had some comments on the minutes which she had passed to DH already.	DH
5.3	The minutes were otherwise agreed noting that there would need to be some redactions.	
5.4	On matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 7.6 - DG agreed to send IMc a note regarding sourcing and organising the installation of another "pod" that would be used by the Dons Trust. • Para 7.13 - DG to liaise with Chris Maplin regarding the DT email address upgrade an arranging to put something on the OS. 	DG/IMc DG
6.0	DTB Election Process	
6.1	DH presented the previous circulated paper on the proposed Election Rules and Timetable. John Dolan would be Chairing the ESG this year with support from DH and Neil Springate from the Fulham Supporters Trust. Hustings had provisionally been booked for 16 November with support from Geoff Hawley. In the event that this wasn't put in place an on-line Forum would be considered. The Election Rules and Timetable were agreed.	DH
7.0	Webjam	
7.1	JL presented this and said that good progress had been made. She said it was hoped that the Webjam people would be able to attend a forthcoming meeting to demonstrate the software.	JL
8.0	Girls Team / Junior Dons	
8.1	JL explained about position regarding Girls and Boys teams and Junior Dons. It was agreed that all boys and girls who pays subs should automatically become	

	Junior Dons (ie get birthday card / name in programme / invitation to Xmas party).	
9.0	Junior Dons Xmas Party	
9.1	JL said that this was in hand. Following on from item 8 JL and MB to liaise with Vicki Lowndes (Ladies Treasurer / Webmaster & Minutes Secretary) regarding information for future programme item etc.	MB/JL
10.0	FSF Awards	
10.1	DH briefly introduced this. MD offered to draw up the DT response to this, canvassing input via the guestbook, and submit our entry.	MD
11.0	AOB / Round Up	
11.1	DTB Joiners Pack – MB explained that this was being sorted. SD training events would also be offered to new DTB members.	MB / MC
11.2	DT Programme Articles – Following the Election articles Rob Crane had offered to do a Social Media article.	
11.3	DT Stall Manning – DG had agreed to do the DT Stall against Bury.	
11.4	SGM Follow Ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match Day Representatives – it was noted that KS / ZL were continuing to lead on this Ticket Pricing Consultation – MD said he had had 3 additional people come forward to assist him on this following previous publicity. 	KS/ZL MD / KS
11.5	Level Playing Field – it was noted that DG would be leading on this	DG
11.6	Tottenham Hotspur Supporters Trusts (THST) JL introduced this item. Jane had met with them to understand more about how they engage successfully with their 16-25 age group. They use social media and have a named volunteer to do this. JL proposed that the DT explore a similar model, co-opting someone if necessary, to increase engagement from our 16-25 age group. Some of the work could be linked to Webjam but that needed further consideration. JL also noted that the THST were considering making a statement opposing a proposed move to MK whilst White Hart Lane was being developed in response to recent publicity and we should support this.	JL
11.7	Player skills videos – JL noted that following a proposal she had made in 2013 regarding skills videos to engage more with our teenage fans there had been	

	little progress. JL to pursue the idea with Chris Slavin and ES.	JL
12.0	Date of Next Meeting	
12.1	There would be a Special DTB Meeting on 20 October followed by the next DTB meeting on 4 November. The meeting finished at about 10.30.	