

Dons Trust Board Meeting



Tuesday 4 November 2014

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge



MINUTES – redacted version

Members:

Matthew Breach (MB)
David Growns (DG)
Iain McNay (IM)
Zoe Linkson (ZL)
Jane Lonsdale (JL)
Mark Davis (MD)
Kris Stewart (KS)

Invited:

Erik Samuelson (ES) (items 1 to 5)
Andrew William (AW) (item 2 only)
David Hall (DH) – Dons Trust Secretary
Rob Crane (RC) (Secretariat)
Michael Hayes (Secretariat)

Apologies:

Sean McLaughlin (SM)
Moorad Choudhry (MC)

Ref	Item	Action
	The meeting began at 19:30.	
1.0	Apologies for absence	
1.1	Apologies were received from Sean McLaughlin and Moorad Choudhry.	
2.0	Update on New Stadium and Kingsmeadow Plans	
	New Stadium	
2.1	AW said that the planning application is due to be lodged with Merton on 14 November. The GLA have asked some questions but only about the residential aspect. The Met Police are reasonably happy. The application then has to be validated and will subsequently appear on the Merton website and be publicly	

	<p>accessible. Our PR advisers have said we should issue a low key announcement that we have made the application. <i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p> <p>Realistically, we need to have planning consent by June 2015 in order to be ready for the 2017-2018 season.</p>	
2.2	<p>A “hearts and minds” campaign is to be launched by the supporters’ group, ‘Bring the Dons Home’ after the application has been made (strapline “Write, Now”.)</p> <p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p>	
2.3	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p> <p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p>	
2.4	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p>	
2.5	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p>	
2.6	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p>	
2.7	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p> <p>Finance</p>	
2.8	<p><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>	
2.13	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p>	
3.0	Minutes from FCB element of 6 October meeting and 20 October meeting	
3.1	<p>Comments to DH on or before Friday 7 November.</p>	ALL
4.0	FCB Report, Quarterly Accounts and Cash Forecast.	
	FCB Report	
4.1	<p><i>[This section has been redacted]</i></p> <p>ES said that the complaints log relates to fan and customer complaints and includes any forwarded by MB. Club employees and directors are being</p>	

4.2	reminded to make sure all complaints are logged and reported.	
4.3	ES said that Admiral will only accept one order for a season – this year we ordered late, there were problems with the deliveries and demand was greater than anticipated. We have ordered for next year when hopefully the problems will diminish. ZL asked for reassurance that the merchandise problems wouldn't cause a problem for mascot kits this season. ES agreed to check.	
4.4	MD asked what discussions had taken place with NA about the team's poor performances against clubs which are lower in the league. ES said he had talked to NA who is very aware of the issue and has had face to face discussions with key players.	ES
4.5	JL noted that the Junior Dons Party takes place on the same day as Winter Wonderland (30 November) which raises player commitment issues. JL needs players until 2 pm that day.	
	Management Accounts	
4.6	ES noted that there are some figures that need further investigation and some missing figures (YDP). ES to develop YDP budgeting process with Jeremy Sauer and work out a realistic forecast for the remainder of the year.	
4.7	MD asked why there are such substantial changes in the working capital figures year on year, in the statutory PLC accounts. ES to follow up with Alison Franks.	ES
4.8	KS asked about the statistics on match day and season ticket sales that are published in the management accounts. ES to follow up with Mike Berry.	ES
4.9	ZL queried the overspend on players' kit. ES explained that we paid upfront in order to obtain a 5% discount. A reconciliation (what we have paid for, what we have not received and should have received etc.) will be prepared and this will include an analysis of where the charges ought to be put. He suspected that the players' kit charge did not reflect the free players kit we get from Admiral as part of the deal.	ES
	Thames Water Access	
4.10	The Thames Water access problem (behind East Stand) was discussed. Thames Water have changed the padlock, promised us a key but have not delivered. It was agreed that ES will change the lock and send Thames Water a key.	ES
4.11	Solidarity Payments There was discussion about the FL proposals for Solidarity Payments. Effectively the Football League has provisionally agreed a deal with the Premier League whereby these will become contractual in return for allowing the Championship clubs to make increased losses without breaking the financial fair play rules. ES noted that 12 Championship clubs rely on	

<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>parachute payments. All FL clubs are being urged to vote in favour at the FL meeting in Walsall on 6 November which DC will attend. A 50% majority of all 72 FL clubs is required and 75% for Championship clubs. The question therefore is whether DC should be instructed to vote against or to abstain. ES suggested that it is likely that most clubs will vote in favour, <i>[this section has been redacted]</i> and we should choose to make our stand on issues where we are likely to have an impact. Agreed that ES will sound out Exeter, Portsmouth and Wycombe's intentions and report to MB who will then instruct DC how to vote. If these three clubs are not voting against then we should abstain, but if other clubs similar to us are going to vote against, we should vote against.</p> <p>Statutory Accounts</p> <p>It was agreed that the £300K spend on new stadium which we are unable to capitalize should be explained in the Directors' Report. Some typing errors were noted.</p> <p>There was discussion about share capitalization resolutions which would have to be presented to the AGM. ES explained that it would be necessary to ask the AGM to authorize AFCW PLC to allot both the Ordinary and the A Ordinary shares again in the same way as last year to enable the DT to take ownership of up to 90% as this would facilitate the Community Share issue should it be needed. This would have to be renewed for a further 12 months. It was agreed that as this has to be renewed annually there should be renewed resolutions prepared. Assuming the necessary resolutions are passed, the capitalization would not be implemented until the Community share issue went ahead. DH to draft the necessary resolutions after reviewing the AFCW PLC resolutions.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>DH</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Proposed 2015 Meeting Dates</p> <p>MB to revise dates in the light of comments received. DH will send agreed dates to DTB candidates.</p>	<p>MB/DH</p>
<p>7.0</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>8.0</p>	<p>Minutes from DTB element of Meeting on 6 October</p> <p>Comments to DH by 7 November 2014.</p> <p>Election Update</p> <p>DH reported that the election papers will go out on Friday 7 November. There are 7 candidates. There will be a double page spread in the Dagenham programme. There is a problem with Hustings. Geoff Hawley had accepted to organise Hustings on 16 November, but unfortunately had to pull out. It was agreed to seek another date convenient to him, otherwise to dispense with Hustings.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

9.0	AGM Update	
9.1	<p>The Agenda will be:</p> <p>DT Accounts Organisation – Paper and Debate Associate Directors – Paper and Debate Ticket Pricing Survey DT Member Matchday Representation Stadium Update Webjam and “Write, Now” to get a mention</p> <p>It was noted that this is a very full agenda.</p>	
9.2	<p>The Organisation Paper to be circulated in advance. Ticket Pricing Survey to be introduced orally. Constitutional Changes to be discussed/voted at next SGM.</p>	
9.3	<p>Matchday Representation – the original proposers of the motion (John Stenbridge and Gerry Hever) to be invited to a trial at a home game and use that experience to see if it could be adapted to away games. KS to speak to IH to see if this can be done before the AGM on 10 December</p>	KS
9.4	<p>MB will draft the Agenda and covering letter. All papers for the AGM must go out by 22 November. DH needs everything by 17 November.</p>	MB/DH
10	AOB/Roundup	
10.1	<p>It was noted that the £10,000 payment to the Ladies/Girls had been made.</p>	
10.2	<p>Webjam – JL reported that the trial is delayed until January 2015 due to the original volunteer having to step down from the project due to work commitments.</p>	
10.3	<p>DG called for support for the Wimbledon Cenotaph Remembrance Day wreath ceremony. ZL said her nephew may volunteer.</p>	
10.4	<p>JL and ZL reminded the Board that the Junior Dons party is on 30 November from 11 to 2pm and called for male members of the Board to attend.</p>	
10.5	<p>Thanks were extended to IM, whose last board meeting this was.</p>	
10.6	<p>Rob Crane was welcomed to his first meeting. It was explained that Rob is at the meeting in a secretariat capacity and will be issuing summaries of the meetings on the DT website.</p>	
10.7	<p>DG reported that he has received emails from 3 DT members, who wished to remain anonymous but who wanted the Board to know that they feel that some board members are not pulling their weight.</p>	

10.8	It was also reported that there is concern generally that DTB meeting minutes since April 2014 have not been posted on the website. DH said that he has been under great pressure dealing with the election process and other time consuming issues, and the problem is not the lack of minutes but the necessity to redact them before publishing, bearing in mind the large number of confidential issues that have been discussed over recent months.	DH/RC
11.0	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 4 December and Wednesday 10 December (AGM).</p> <p>The meeting finished at 22.36.</p>	