

Dons Trust Board Meeting

Monday 20 April 2015

The Cherry Red Records Stadium

President's Lounge 7.30 pm

Minutes – Part 1 and Part 2 combined – redacted version

Members:

Matthew Breach (MB)

Jane Lonsdale (JL)

Zoe Linkson (ZL)

Mark Davis (MD)

Kris Stewart (KS)

Nigel Higgs (NH)

Sean McLaughlin (SM)

Invited:

Dan Norris (DN) Club Lawyer

David Hall (DH) Dons Trust Secretary

David Reeves (DR) Secretariat

Erik Samuelson (ES)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Moorad Choudhry (MC) and David Grown (DG).

2. Stadium Update

ES gave an update on recent developments, indicating that there may be a short delay in obtaining planning permission. He said that the GLA had asked for some changes re the stadium east wall that would take a little while to resolve. Once we had submitted our responses Merton Council would confirm the date for the planning committee.

Regarding the outstanding restricted actions issue, ES said that if this was not resolved until next season, his recommendation to the DTB was that AFC Wimbledon ('the Club') should enter into an agreement as soon as practicable with Chelsea FC (CFC) on the sale of Kingsmeadow, prior to the restricted actions meetings.

ES then introduced DN to the meeting, who gave the Board a detailed briefing on the current position regarding the potential sale of Kingsmeadow to CFC. He said that CFC was taking the deal very seriously, using both internal and external lawyers. *This section has been redacted.*

DN explained the principle of 'conditionality'. Some of these conditions would be in our favour and others would be in favour of CFC. *This section has been redacted.*

DN said that CFC would expect Kingsmeadow to be handed over to CFC in the condition previously agreed. As regards the named bricks, DN said that CFC was aware, and have agreed that we can remove and replace them. At present we were planning to keep the fixtures and fittings (e.g. furniture), but this could change in due course. As regards the pitch condition, this was excluded, but it would still have to meet Football League requirements. AFC Wimbledon would need to consult CFC on any alterations to be made in the meantime, in case CFC wished to carry them out in a different way. *This section has been redacted.*

DN went into further detail on two further matters of particular interest to CFC:

a. *This section has been redacted.*

b. Reporting closer to contract

DN explained that when the Club purchased Kingsmeadow he produced a detailed report for the directors of the club and the DT board. He proposes to do that again with the sale when the signing date is close, so that the AFC Wimbledon and DT Boards could point to the necessary due diligence having been undertaken.

This section has been redacted.

MB asked DN when we would need the restricted actions decision. *This section has been redacted.*

There followed a Board discussion as to whether they would be able to make a decision at this meeting on the restricted action timing issue. *This section has been redacted.*

NH asked for clarification on where our discussions stood with Kingstonian FC. ES said that David Grows (DG) had met with Malcolm Winwright (MW) the previous week, and they had agreed that further engagement between the two clubs was needed. DG would be meeting MW with the Executive of the K's Supporters Club on 7 May. There was a further meeting arranged on 28 May with Supporters Club members. *This section has been redacted.*

MD reported on the distributed Restricted Actions (RAs) timetable paper and explained that he and DH had met with Roger Evans (RE) and David Lloyd (DL). David Lloyd had assisted the Club with the communications on the planning application consultation and had been approached to assist with the communications challenges on the RAs process. *This section has been redacted.* ES asked how long the restricted actions consultation/vote process was expected to take. DH said that legal advice from DWF had indicated that the vote could also be conducted online (as well as by mail / in person), with the second SGM being within one month of the first SGM (which would, in itself, require two weeks' notice to members). *This section has been redacted.*

MB said that the Board needed clarity before the two K's Supporters Club meetings in May.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to arrange a special meeting to discuss the arrangements with Ks in order that this can be slotted into the Restricted Actions timetable.

Action: MB to organise a doodle poll of DTB members re a meeting date.*

This section has been redacted.

DN left the meeting at this point.

New stadium SGM consultation

KS said that, unfortunately, running a similar presentation to the SGM session before the Cheltenham game would not be practical due to other events taking place at the athletics stadium that day; however he recommended that the Board did commit to a further session for the wider fanbase early in the new season, or at a pre-season friendly. The Board were in agreement in principle, and after discussion agreed that this could be held at a convenient venue in Wimbledon, as well as or instead of Kingsmeadow, depending on availability of venues. MD noted that this could potentially be combined with engagement on the Restricted Actions.

3. Minutes from 16 March Part 1

SM noted that Mick Buckley's name should be spelt in full in the minutes at item 2 for external audiences.

The minutes were otherwise agreed as a correct record.

Action: MB and ES would review the final document for the proposed redactions and respond by 21 April.

4. FCB Report

ES updated the Board on recent Football Club developments. The expected Football League meeting to vote on the Johnstone's Paint Trophy proposals had not yet been scheduled. ES said that if it goes ahead it was likely that from next season this would include Premier League club Under 21 teams.

This section has been redacted.

ES reported on various player contractual updates. *This section has been redacted.*

JL said that she had been asked by Mike Richardson for clarification on the financial support for the Ladies and Girls teams last season and when payments had been made. This was confirmed by ES as £15,000 being the £5,000 in August already committed by the DTB and a further £10,000 linked to the We are Wimbledon Fund donation matching that was paid in November 2014 as a response to a generous donation towards first team funds by Mike Richardson (MR). The Trust is committed to the same amount this financial year. JL added that that the Ladies and Girls section have asked not to be part of the AFCW Foundation at present, and noted the girls had been offered junior dons membership, in line with the offer to the boys' team. Vicki Lowndes had confirmed that this would be taken up as part of their registration for the new season. *This section has been redacted.* ES updated the Board on the Ladies and Girls set up, adding that there was no hurry to move forward on changing the status of the section. JL would reply to MR via email.

The Board formally congratulated AFC Wimbledon Ladies for winning the Surrey Women's Cup, and Mark Robinson on being awarded his UEFA coaching badge.

This section has been redacted.

Part 2

10. Any other business

DCMS Working Party

ZL gave a brief summary on the work of the DCMS supporters' working party, on which she is representing the DT. The group's main focus was to identify routes to making fan ownership easier, with an interim report having been submitted to the Minister of Sport at the end of March. The next meeting was scheduled for June, which ZL was unable to attend. She said that at the next Board meeting she may ask if another Board member could attend in her absence. ZL also said that she was seeking clarity about what parts of the interim report would be made available to the DTB.

Action: ZL to clarify position on which part of interim report can be provided to DTB and seek someone to deputise at the next working party meeting.

This section has been redacted.

Dedication to Sammy Moore's mother

ES said that there had been a request from Sammy Moore's father for a minute's applause at the Cheltenham game (last game of the season) for Sammy's mother, who had recently died. It was noted that the fans had spontaneously applauded in minute 8 of the game vs Oxford on 11 April. After a discussion within the FCB, it had been agreed that instead, the players would wear black arm bands and that Sammy's family would be invited into the dressing room to receive the players' applause.

London Living Wage

There was a further discussion regarding the London Living Wage (LLW), based on initial potential cost data gathered by ES. NH said that the Board needed to decide on who the scope of the LLW should include. ES noted that the GLA recommendation was that all new stadia should pay the LLW, and that it would be more affordable for the Club to pay it once we were in the new stadium. The Board asked ES to continue to calculating the cost of implementing the LLW for a further discussion at the May meeting.

ZL asked if the aim was to simply get the Club accredited, or to actually pay the LLW. NH said that it was important to obtain the information first, so that the Board could have the debate. He noted that the LWF may be able to give the Club accreditation even if it did not sign up fully to pay it initially – it was more a question of principle. SM said that the Board firstly needed to know if the Club could afford to pay the LLW; it was noted that the Board had already indicated at its meeting on 19 February that it 'wants the club to become a LLW employer'.

Action: ES to continue with the calculation of the potential impact of LLW on the Club.

Miscellaneous

JL said that she had been asked by a volunteer whether the Volunteers Away Day was fully funded by Cherry Red Records. ES confirmed that Iain McNay provided generous sponsorship, however this did not cover the whole cost. The extra cost was covered by Club funds.

ES reported that the away game supporters' coaches had lost £5,500 this season, over 25 games. He also noted that this would have increased by a further £850 if the Plymouth coach had gone ahead and the football club board felt that while some underwriting of fan's coaches was reasonable, such a cost would have amounted to nearly £100 per head for the nine people who had signed up for the coach.

The meeting finished at around 10.30.

*Post meeting note – this was later arranged for Sunday 3 May at 2pm The Cherry Red Records Stadium. Other items missed from the agenda would also be considered at that meeting.