

Dons Trust Board Meeting

Sunday 3 May 2015

The Cherry Red Records Stadium, 2.30pm

Redacted version

DTB members:

Matthew Breach (MB)

David Grows (DG)

Mark Davis (MD)

Nigel Higgs (NH)

Zoe Linkson (ZL)

Jane Lonsdale (JL)

Kris Stewart (KS)

Invited:

Rob Crane (RC), Secretariat

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Moorad Choudhry (MC), Sean McLaughlin (SMcL) and, from the Secretariat, David Hall, David Reeves and Michael Hayes. SMcL had noted that he was unable to attend as this meeting had been scheduled at relatively short notice on a date when he had a prior commitment.

2. Kingstonian – The Future

DG briefed the board on his recent meeting with Kingstonian's Chairman, Malcolm Winright (MW), in advance of the DTB's forthcoming engagement with Kingstonian supporters. There then followed a discussion about the compensation to be offered to Kingstonian for their departure.

This section has been redacted.

3. Minutes from 16 March, Part 2

All present were content with part 2 of the 16 March minutes. It was agreed that NH's paper on the London Living Wage should also be published, provided there is nothing compromising in there. **KS** will check through NH's paper and then authorise **RC** to publish it online.

4. Priorities for 2015 including Strategy Update

MB's paper proposing priorities for 2015 was considered. MD had queried whether a thorough strategy review should be undertaken in 2015. MB clarified that this referred to reviewing the strategy paper that the DTB had produced in 2011 and was not a proposal to repeat the NEF strategic consultation exercise. This was a relatively straightforward exercise and the word 'thorough' should probably be deleted.

The organisation paper referred to in the list of priorities had been prepared prior to NH joining the board, and **MB** agreed to re-circulate it.

Subject to deleting the word 'thorough', the priorities paper was agreed. It was considered that this should be shared with members. To this end, it would be appended to the published minutes of the meeting (see Annex A) and also published by **RC** as a news item on the DTOS.

NH noted that it is difficult to find documents thematically on the Google folders. **DG** undertook to talk to David Reeves about finding a way to search for documents through the use of keywords or similar. JL noted that previous unredacted minutes were unavailable on googledrive and these should be added to googledrive (for action by secretariat).

5. How to improve reporting on work done / follow-up actions

The purpose of the outstanding actions list and separate list of DTB member activities was discussed. It was decided that both should continue. Accordingly:

- Responsibility for actions arising at DTB meetings tended to be taken by people volunteering for them. In future, the Chair should take a more directive role in inviting people to take on actions. The skills that people have set out in the skills audit might be a relevant criterion to allocation of tasks;
- Actions should only be taken on where they are a priority, and the DTB should be brave in deciding not to do things that are not a priority. There are some things that individual DTB members will be empowered to take on anyway because it is of importance to them personally, and these need not be on a tracker;
- It was for the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, to actively manage the list of outstanding actions, and to review and reallocate actions as necessary;
- On the list of DTB members' actions, DTB members should keep this to two or three brief bullets rather than set out everything exhaustively. Having this would enable DTB members to join up on related activities, would mean that a roundtable update at DTB meetings was not required (thus saving time) and would provide some transparency to DT members;

- In order to be transparent to DT members, the list of DTB members' actions should be attached to the published minutes (see Annex B).

6. DT Stall

MB reported that the area where the DT table is currently situated on matchdays will be paved by the start of the next season. **MB** is progressing the issue of what should be placed on the paving and is seeking information on some specific ideas.

7. Webjam Update

JL requested that, following her recent email, **all DTB members** should comment on the new Webjam thread regarding volunteers to be on a user group.

8. AOB

- The issue of convening a meeting in Wimbledon to discuss the new stadium will be on the agenda for 12 May.
- KS is considering standing in the Supporters Direct election. **KS** to email DTB members about this. In the meantime, **MB** to decline to nominate someone from another club who had asked the DT to nominate him.
- Supporters Direct Members Day is on 17 July. **KS** to forward the email invitation to DTB members. It was agreed that, if DTB members ask to be reimbursed for the cost of attending, then reasonable costs will be reimbursed, recognising that the meeting is being held in Manchester.
- The Football Supporters Federation has launched a Vote Football campaign, asking people to consider the implications for football of their vote in elections. This is to be publicised on the OS and DTOS.
- KS proposed that the DT should send a message of support for a statement made by the Blackpool supporters' trust. **KS** to forward the statement so that **DTB members** can confirm that they are content with this proposal.
- ZL reported that Wimbledon Food Bank had thanked us for the donation of two tonnes of food. ZL wished to invite representatives from the Food Bank's volunteers (and/or, at NH's suggestion, users of the Food Bank) to attend the club's pre-match carvery. **ZL** to email MB about this, and then **MB** will ask Erik. KS proposed that the Food Bank's thank you should be publicised on the DTOS.
- The DTB recorded its thanks to Paul Willatts for his work as club photographer.
- *This section has been redacted.*
- **NH** to add his skills into the skills matrix.

- Marc Jones had kindly offered to update the DT membership form. It was important to get the wording right about how much to pay if joining mid-year. There were also issues with online payment – **NH** would speak to David Reeves about this.
- Youth engagement. JL and NH had met and were working up an engagement plan. NH reported that there were 176 members aged 16 to 30. **NH** to circulate a draft email intended to reach out to these members.
- The FCB meeting had taken place by telephone on Monday. **MB** would circulate a note of the meeting shortly.
- NH had raised the issue of the lack of profile for the DT on the club’s website. MB has talked to Chris Slavin about this. Chris will come up with some ideas to implement over the summer. It was agreed that the DTB should tell Chris our ideas as to what we want – to be coordinated by **MB**.
- DG reported that we have a list of lapsed DT members – both those with and without email addresses. This could form the basis of a summer campaign to persuade them to rejoin the DT. MD pointed out that we should think through the implications of such recruitment at a time when we need active members who will vote on the Restricted Actions. To be brought back to the DTB meeting on 12 May.
- JL asked that the DTB should thank the club for a successful kit sponsors’ dinner.
This section has been redacted.

Signed:
(Matthew Breach, Chair)

Date:

Dons Trust Board – 2015/2016 Priorities (in order)

1. Pursue the New Stadium project:
 - Obtain planning permission
 - Seek agreement to undertake the Restricted Actions
 - Complete the deal with the purchaser of Kingsmeadow
 - Organise the required funding for the completion of the project (naming rights, bank loan, community share issue, etc.)
 - Agree the tender pack and subsequently the preferred construction partner for the stadium.

2. Complete the re-organisation of the DTB/FCB:
 - Operate the Boards as per the organisation paper (including co-option to the DTB as appropriate)
 - Put in place the other elements of the organisation
 - Prepare a succession plan for key staff
 - Undertake a review of the DT Strategy and republish
 - Review how the revised organisation operates and prepare an update to further improve the process.

3. Push forward with DTB responsibilities:
 - Create a DT membership, engagement and activity strategy
 - Support Government, NGO and other bodies pushing to reform football along lines better suited to fan-owned clubs
 - Campaign against B-teams and other FA/FL initiatives that would harm fan-owned clubs
 - Progress towards accreditation with London Living Wage, Kick It Out, Level Playing Field, etc. as far as is practicable and affordable within our current circumstances.

DTB MEMBER ACTIVITY SINCE BOARD MEETING ON 16 MARCH 2015

Matt Breach

- Attended FCB meeting and generated meeting notes.
- Liaised with ES and AW to develop the New Stadium presentation and commentary for the SGM.
- Liaised with Club on our current approach to SLO/DLO/FLO roles and with external bodies (LPF & SD) over perceived best practice in this area. Set-up meeting to review best practice examples and create an updated approach for us that is more optimised for a Trust-owned club (MB, DC and TH to meet on April 29th). Aim is for subsequent for presentation to the DTB and FCB for approval and action.
- Prepared draft “2015 Priorities” paper based on out-turn of meeting with KS and DG.

Mark Davis

- Met with Roger Evans, David Hall and David Lloyd on 12/04 to discuss sequencing of Restricted Actions approvals and stadium transaction agreements, including in particular communications aspects.
- Consequently wrote a paper for DTB consideration on sequencing issues in light of that discussion

Jane Lonsdale

- Webjam: strategy setting meeting with David Growns (7/4/15) and with David Reeves and David Growns (9/4/15), discussions with Webjam supplier and other users regarding functionality. Requests to Secretariat for slots at future board meetings to update board. Agreed formation and timing of Member User Group (and approaching identified members to join the group), setting up member site and module site.
- Youth engagement: Negotiations with media team and Club to deliver next Youth engagement video: (published on 30/3/15) and to deliver future programme. Meeting with Nigel Higgs (re10/4/15) to discuss co-option and youth engagement of the Trust. Agree strategy to be presented to DTB.
- Haydon Page: Coordination of 3 Haydon Pages (Northampton, Oxford and Wycombe), and written paragraph to go in Junior Dons end of season newsletter.
- Commented on 2015 priorities for DTB suggestions as circulated by Matt Breach.
- Attended DT SGM on 9/4/15.