

Dons Trust Board Meeting  
Thursday 20 August 2015  
The Cherry Red Records Stadium  
President's Lounge 7.30 pm  
Minutes – redacted version

**Members**

Matt Breach (MB)

David Growns (DG)

Jane Lonsdale (JL)

Mark Davis (MD)

Zoe Linkson (ZL)

Sean McLaughlin (SM)

Nigel Higgs (NH)

Kris Stewart (KS)

**Invited**

Erik Samuelson (ES)

Rob Crane (RC) (Secretariat)

Michael Hayes (MH) (Secretariat)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Moorad Choudhry (MC) and David Hall (DH).

**2. Final Draft Minutes from 15 July meeting**

JL asked that the minute in AOB dealing with WAW should explain that the figure of £103,325 covered a period of 18 months and not 12 months – she will email DH about this. ES will read the redacted minutes overnight and respond to DH. Any other last comments to be sent to DH urgently.

**Action: Final comments on draft minutes to be sent to DH urgently.**

**3. FCB Monthly Report**

(a) and (b) Report from ES/MB post FCB Report

Planning

ES gave a further update on the planning timetable. *This section has been redacted.* AW now understands that the consultation will take place in September, to avoid school holidays [*this section has been redacted*] and that LBM want to leave a gap between the end of the consultation period

and the date of the planning committee meeting, which is likely to be end September or more likely in October. *This section has been redacted.* LBM also want more detail on how the child care centre will operate. ES therefore thinks it certain that the RA process will start before planning consent has been granted but during the consultation process. The RA paperwork must make it clear that we are not assuming that consent will be granted. ES will keep LBM, Galliard and other interested parties informed about the RA procedure and the reasons for it, and will show Galliard the RA paperwork for comment before launch on 29 August.

#### KM

ES reported DN is on holiday, but should be concluded before the end of September, although they have commissioned a review of the KM boundaries so it will not be before that has been satisfactorily completed. ES has asked DN for a date when DN can meet the DTB to go through the draft agreement.

#### Dan Agyei

NH asked about the Dan Agyei transfer to Burnley. ES said we were paid a *[this section has been redacted]* fee with a *[this section has been redacted]* sell on clause, plus *[this section has been redacted]* appearance money, plus other bits and pieces. Difficult to say if we could have got more, but we need to learn more about how to do these negotiations. The fee was not included in the budget, but may be included as an exceptional item, with possible use as a legacy for the Academy. On the other hand, the 14 year old player *[this section has been redacted]* who may leave is in the budget *[this section has been redacted]*.

#### Beam Back

MD asked about Beam Back (screening away games at KM). ES said we are not connected yet, and the cost/benefit for Saturday games is not clear bearing in mind space issues due to Ks playing at KM, but should be good for midweek games, although quality will be low (single camera). *This section has been redacted.*

#### Hospitality

JL asked about hospitality and the website advertisements for which offers had not been received. ES said that the advertisements had been for early season/midweek games and JP, which are always more difficult.

#### WAW

JL noted that Joe Feeheley (JF) is leaving, which ES confirmed. He leaves on 11/9 and an ad for replacement has been placed. JL asked who to contact for the monthly spreadsheets that Joe currently provides noting the WAW contributions received into the club ES said that JF has been tasked with completing everything before departure; from then in the short term on it will fall to the club's accountant, Alison Franks, and ultimately JF's replacement.

## Financials

MD suggested, and the DTB unanimously agreed, that the DTB should congratulate ES and the FCB on the last 3 months of the year and the year as a whole – a great result compared to budget.

*This section has been redacted.*

ES said that a volunteer is being sought for legal issues.

*This section has been redacted.*

**Action: ES to copy the RA paperwork to Galliard and other interested parties for comment prior to 29 August. ES to chase DN for date to meet the DTB and go through the Chelsea agreement.**

(c) Management Accounts

JL reminded ES that the DTB is waiting for an analysis of the player overnight accommodation costs – ES to chase. JL also queried the £6,600 figure for WAW.

**Action: ES to seek answers to these questions and circulate them to DTB members.**

(d) Funding Ideas and Support from Supporters Direct Club Development (SDCD)

ES noted that we should be looking hard at grants. While the person at SD had passed him various references he would like to find someone to do this [*this section has been redacted*] but has not got time and would like assistance from the DTB.

**Action: DT Members to come up with ideas on how to progress the grants search.**

(e) *This section has been redacted.*

## **4.FCB Directors' pay**

*This section has been redacted.* A discussion took place regarding ES's position and the fact that he does not accept any payment. It was agreed that it would be useful to confirm ES position as an employee or volunteer. ES would seek advice on his status. MD said that the Board should acknowledge ES's great contribution and thank him, in the absence of being able to do this via remuneration. This was agreed.

The Board formally approved the proposed pay rises.

**Action: ES to proceed with pay rises. A process for dealing with remuneration issues in future should be devised.**

## **5.Restricted Actions Process and other Stadium update – (Agenda items A to Y)**

MD assumed that the DTB had familiarised themselves with the covering paper and key attachments and thanked those who had already provided comments. He proceeded to go through the questions raised in the paper and key issues arising from the comments received.

### Timing

The DTB agreed to proceed with the RA process on the current timetable, notwithstanding that we will not have achieved planning by the time the papers are sent out and may not have signed the KM contract.

### AFCW

The DTB agreed that AFCW PLC should write to the DTB setting out its intention to seek shareholder approval at the AGM.

### 29 August Launch

All DTB members apart from MC and NH will be able to participate in the leafleting process. ZL has so far had only one other volunteer, but will circulate the appeal for volunteers to the Bring the Dons Home database.

### Media coverage of Launch

David Lloyd is in contact with Chris Slavin about this. LBM are aware, and ES will brief Daniel Francis (Galliard PR adviser).

### SGM on 22 and 24 September

It was agreed that this should be for DT members only and JDs (to be accompanied by an adult if under 11 years) but non members can join on the spot. Crayons etc. to be provided for JDs. Attendance should be encouraged. ZL to be email contact for accessibility (via her DT email). JL wondered how DTB members could memorise the answers to 119 questions – MD suggested parcelling the questions between them.

### Information Pack – content

There was discussion about level of disclosure. An envelope of “in the region of £3-7m” should be given for the amount to be raised. *This section has been redacted.* Funding sources should be bank loan and/or community shares, but not naming rights as capital. The wording should be suitably flexible so as not to be a problem for a bank loan [*this section has been redacted*]. The document should be published online.

### Information Pack - process

MD to create a revised version by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. DG to send to Ks, ES to send to others (Chelsea, tax advisers, Dan Norris, Galliard) and brief Galliard’s PR advisers.

### Questions from DT Members

There was discussion about how to deal with questions. Agreed to get the FAQ up and advertise StadiumQuestions@thedonstrust.org. There should be a public folder for questions, but managing expectations from members would be difficult. It was proposed that there should be a combination of FAQs and a system of individual responses perhaps involving 2 or 3 DTB members to deal with different topics with “vier augen” referral where necessary; MB and MD to discuss how the process of answering questions should work.

### Votes - content

The wording and cut-off date of 31 December 2016 were approved. Stronger words about why turnout is important must be added – voting against or failing to vote will prevent us moving. A discussion took place on the extent to which all Board members would be able to support the resolution.

### Votes – process

It was recognised that the 30 September membership cut-off date means a tight turnaround. Signature of DDs prior to payment to be accepted as membership (vote to be cancelled if subsequent payment not received). A mechanism to be devised for DTB members to telephone DT members between 14 and 21 October, the task to be shared among the board. The final SGM date needs to be changed from 17 November which is a replay date – the alternative of 16 November to be checked with DC.

### AFCW AGM/EGM

The timelines for casting resolutions were discussed – no immediate decision required.

*(At this point, KS left the meeting.)*

### DTB Resolution

In anticipation of receiving advance notice from AFCW Plc of a special resolution to be tabled at its AGM, the DTB resolved to seek approval from members for a Restricted Action to sell the Kingsmeadow stadium and accordingly:

- Instructed the Secretary to convene a special general meeting in September in order to present the proposals to DT members;
- Authorised Mark Davis, on behalf of the DTB, to finalise and distribute an information package describing the proposals to DT Members, substantially in the form presented to the present DTB meeting, subject to incorporating comments already provided by DTB members and such further changes as are necessary in the light of further review and editing, and subject to consulting with the DT Chair on whether any such changes which are of a substantive (rather than editorial) nature require further DTB approval:

- Instructed the Secretary, as soon as possible following the special general meeting referred to above, to seek DT members' authority for the DTB to approve a Restricted Action to sell Kingsmeadow in accordance with the Dons Trust's Constitution;
- Proposed, following receiving the necessary approvals from members, to seek final DTB approval for the DT's votes to be cast in favour of the special resolution on the sale of Kingsmeadow at the AFC Wimbledon Plc AGM.

**Action: MD to create revised documentation by 25 August. DG to send to Ks, ES to send to other interested parties. MB and MD to decide how to deal with DT members' questions. ES to arrange for AFCW plc to notify the DTB of its intention to seek shareholder approval at its AGM. Information pack to be published online.**

#### Z Buckingham Group Stadia and Sports Facilities Experience

ES reported that AW recommends that 6 potential stadium constructors be interviewed, from which a shortlist of 3 would be selected for tender. It is possible that the Buckingham Group, who were involved in the MK stadium, would be among those interviewed. MB asked whether there was any DTB member who thought that we could not use them if they were to win the tender and were clearly the best firm for the job. Could we let sentiment override what might be in the best commercial interests of the club?

NH asked who owns the Buckingham Group? ES to find out.

*This section has been redacted.*

#### **6. Attendance at DTB meetings**

*This item to be carried forward to a future meeting.*

#### **7. AOB**

##### (a) Webjam Update

JL reported that a usergroup meeting had taken place on 19 August. DG, DR and JL are to meet on 4 September to formulate a strategy to bring forward to a future DTB meeting (probably October). JL reported that DT members want participation and feedback from the DTB, although commercial constraints on this have been explained to them

##### (b) Podcasts and Engagement with DTB

JL has been asked by Nick Draper (Dons Fan) and Stuart Deacons whether the DTB would support the Thursday night podcast. This is an unofficial podcast recently launched which plans to cover volunteering this and they would like to interview DTB members and seem supportive of the DTB. The DTB indicated they were happy to be interviewed. The proposal was agreed. It may be possible for this to be used to promote "Back in Two Ticks" and for hustings at election time.

**Action: JL to email the links to the DTB**

(c) DT Kiosk update

This is due to arrive on 24 August.

(d) Stall Rota

This was noted.

(e) Sheffield FC

*This item to be carried forward to a future meeting.*

(f) West Ham Olympic Stadium

The board noted that the Trust has been asked to support the petition complaining about the generous terms offered to West Ham. MB had indicated that a decision would have to await the present board meeting, but in the meantime the protest has been launched. *This section has been redacted.*

(g) Secretary recruitment update

MB reported that a potential new secretary has been identified to whom MB and MD are talking.

(h) Ladies Team Budget

This was noted.

(i) Girls Team

JL updated the board that Vicki Lowndes had confirmed that 8 girls teams this year would be joining the Junior Dons - about 100 girls in total. This would be on the same terms as the boys' academy teams.

Next Meeting – Thursday 17 September at 7.30 pm.

## Appendix

### **DTB MEMBER ACTIVITY SINCE BOARD MEETING ON 15 JULY**

#### **Matt Breach**

- Completed review of options for DT Matchday kiosk and visited down-selected vendor in Pershore. As a result of the visit we have committed to purchase a second hand unit that is due to arrive on August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Continued recruitment campaign for new DTB Secretary; initial meetings held and first formal interview due for August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Attended monthly formal FCB meeting and reported back to DTB.

#### **Mark Davis**

- Working with the RA Comms group on preparation of materials for the Restricted Actions vote and associated communications campaign.
- Took part in a tasting and selection of variants of Plough Lane Ale at the new Wimbledon Brewery. It was a tough gig, but someone had to do it.

#### **David Growns**

- Continued discussions with Kingstonian Chairman and supporters regarding our move to the new stadium and it's implications
- Attended Quarterly Football Club board meeting
- Administering member detail changes ahead of the forthcoming votes on the restricted actions



## Jane Lonsdale

- Holiday: out of country between 24 July and 10th August
- Webjam: ongoing engagement with the Test User Network to trial Webjam. Feedback meeting planned and scheduled for 19/8/15.
- Engagement with 9 years Podcast volunteers.
- Haydons Page - negotiation with club over proposed changes to Haydon page to ensure children's views are taken into account. Preparation of Plymouth and Cambridge pages
- Junior Dons Christmas Party - date being sought for 2015 party.
- We are Wimbledon Fund: Re-engagement with the re-vitalised WAWF group. Trying to find a volunteer to do the accounts for this.