

Dons Trust Board (DTB)

Minutes of board meeting held at 7.30pm on 15th

September, 2021

Meeting was held virtually and recorded via Microsoft Teams

DTB members

Jane Lonsdale (Chair)
Tim Hillyer
Xavier Wiggins
Hannah Kitcher
Charlie Talbot
Luke Mackenzie
Graham Stacey
Niall Couper

In attendance

Michele Little (DT Treasurer)
Conor Daly (Assistant Secretary)
Matt Stockbridge (Communications
Assistant)

1. **Introduction and apologies**

Apologies were noted from David Grows, Hannah Kitcher and Ed Leek.

2. **Admin.**

- The DTB discussed outstanding work to bring the minutes up to date

Actions: DTB to add comments to minutes from August 2021 meeting by 22nd September.

3. **PLC Update**

- Jane asked for the DTB to submit questions prior to the CEO report at the PLC meeting, it was noted that Iain McNay was content for observers from the DTB to attend
- Xavier provided an update on the resignation of the ticketing consultant; work on the backlog of customer issues on Secutix and ticket sales for the Arsenal match
- Xavier went on to update the DTB regarding the missing season tickets; how the club was addressing the away end capacity constraints; the slow pace of 25-year season ticket sales; the club's Twitter following
- Charlie highlighted that the club not reporting attendance figures could not be continued
- Graham asked about the current status of negotiations with a number of players.

Jane left the meeting.

- Charlie and Luke asked whether ticketing at the club was resourced adequately in order to address the outstanding ticketing issues
- Michele raised the fact that the club had been invoiced by a direct debit services provider, even though no transactions had been processed.

Jane re-joined the meeting.

Actions: Xavier and Jane to raise DTB concerns around PTX contract and club policy on authorising payments and contracts

4. **Resourcing**

- It was noted that Joe had provided a plan for how he would increase staffing if a hypothetical increase of e.g. £150k was available
- The plan was discussed with mixed views but recognising it was a good foundation for further discussion

5. **Resolution on June 2021 Minutes**

- The DTB voted on a resolution to redact Section 5 and include a note to read 'these minutes were amended on 15th September 2021 to remove some commercially sensitive information that had inadvertently been published'. Luke and Charlie voted against and all other members voted in favour.
- Xavier stressed the importance of protecting sponsorship revenue

6. **Joe Palmer Review Update**

- The meeting discussed the CEO's 360 review process

Hannah joined the meeting

7. **Treatment of EFL Trophy Games**

- Charlie discussed the need for the DTB to review current club policy regarding how the club used any net profits; our participation and the extent to which hospitality packages were marketed
- It was noted that Ed Leek, in absentia, felt that any net profits should be retained by the club
- Ed, in absentia, Finance Committee should be happy to take money and if people attend then money should be held in the club
- Charlie's view was that any profits should be declared and donated to the Foundation with limited promotional activity of any games
- Graham said that the club's stance needed an updated DTB position

- Jane noted that she had discussed this with Against League 3 and noted that the FA had devolved decision-making on B club involvement to the EFL
- All the DTB agreed that any net profit should be donated to the Foundation and that wording be added to ensure that some was allocated specifically to DLAG

Actions: Charlie to write paper on position agreed, item should be raised at SGM on 14th October.

Niall left the meeting.

8. **SGM Paperwork**

- The DTB noted a lack of progress on David Grown's e-mail communication concerning preparation of SGM paperwork

Actions: Comms group to review David's note from 26th August on this. Hannah to work with Jane on reviewing prior to distribution

9. **Stadium Naming Rights**

- All the DTB agreed on the terms of the stadium's sponsorship deal
- Jane raised the issue of conflicts of interest and the lack of process on the PLC board that would need to be addressed. The lack of a company secretary support on the PLC board had meant this hadn't been picked up
- Charlie and Xavier agreed that the deal should be agreed but that the issue of conflicts arising should be addressed

Actions: Jane and DTB to raise conflict of interest with PLC.

10. **Succession Planning**

- The DTB discussed having a process for succession planning.

Actions: Single item DTB meeting to be organised to discuss this subject.

11. **Verbal Update on Club Media Meeting**

- The DTB were updated on the resolution of the successful mediation between the club and the individuals who run the 9yrspodcast

12. **Social Media Working Group Update**

- Graham relayed feedback from the first meeting and said that the focus was on abuse and that Esther Beaumont had been tasked with drawing up a policy on this
- It was noted that the improved atmosphere would allow for a greater diversity of contributions to club media material
- Hannah questioned whether a dedicated digital policy concerning abuse was required

13. **AOB**

- Tim noted that the 'Greatest Story' room had opened last Sunday
- Jane highlighted that there had recently been an increase in complaints from members and a small number of members leaving the Trust and identified the Secutix issues and poor Seedrs communications as the primary contributors
- Hannah felt that the DTB was failing to deliver on the back of the club failing to deliver on the ticketing platform migration project
- Jane noted that the Development Group meeting that had been agreed with the PLC has not yet occurred, neither had the single item meeting on the football panel

Actions: Jane to raise re: Development Group Meeting and need to look at single item meeting for football panel with PLC.

The meeting concluded at 11.32pm.