

# **Dons Trust Board (DTB)**

Minutes of virtual board meeting held at 6.30pm on 16 February, 2022

## **DTB members**

Kris Stewart (Chair)

Xavier Wiggins

Hannah Kitcher

Charlie Talbot

Luke Mackenzie

Graham Stacey

Niall Couper

Michele Little

Freddy Flaxman

## **In attendance**

Martin Newton (Secretary)

Rupert Jeffery (Minutes)

## **1. Introduction**

(a) Apologies- none

(b) Protocols and Item 5 on ESG report aired first with David Hall and Alex Folkes from ESG presenting.

## **5. ESG Report (Items D1-5)**

Three recommendations were proposed:

a) Neil Springate (scrutineer) should be given additional responsibility to ensure all candidates had status checked.

b) Some members (approx. 80) had the same email address and was proposed that each full member should have their own email address.

c) Alex F spoke about possible misconduct on the part of a candidate in the light of an incident on social media in most recent election. Informal warning issued, then formal warning. It was proposed that in future DTB take the lead in action, potentially to the extent of excluding a candidate from standing.

Contributors said: posting while drunk was not acceptable, nor excusable in this environment; sanctions should be imposed by ESG, as an impartial body; there was unacceptably short notice for parts of the process, e.g.

hustings; possibility of using preference voting system; opportunity to raise an objection to the behaviour of another candidate without making a formal complaint.

Alex F endorsed the views expressed, adding that a survey to find favoured voting system could be undertaken. A survey could also seek views on other aspects of the election process. More opportunities should be taken to publicise elections on every platform available. He also made himself available to hear views of Trust members at any stage of election. Code of conduct would be drawn up for candidates as well.

Thanks were formally recorded for the work of the ESG for all work associated with conduct of elections.

Agreed unanimously that recommendations (a)-(c) above be accepted largely, save that ESG will take responsibility for sanctions for misconduct. Timetable of elections to be produced much earlier than for previous elections. Survey of DT members to be undertaken regarding content and process of election.

Neil and Alex left meeting after this item.

## 2. **Minutes (Items B 1-2)**

Agreed unanimously

## 3. **Updates**

(a) 1 to 1 Notes (Items C 1-3)

Ticketing: A discussion was held on the ongoing work to resolve ticketing issues ahead of the next season of ticket sales and also the plans to integrate the DT membership into Secutix. Noted that work was still need on the latter.

Education: need potentially to have a Board member to attend meeting of March 3rd.

(b) PLC Report (Item C4)

The following matters were discussed and noted:-

- DT Direct Debit payment would need to be through PTX, rather than Bottom Line, if the DT membership information was merged with the club's data.
- Assistance for video editor would be critical at this stage of the season.
- There was a de facto policy, supported by the current Head Coach, of not recruiting players that had previously played for MK.

- Manner of providing pastoral care at the club needed further discussion;
- Updated plan for diagnostic centre - still waiting to hear from potential partner. Plans being looked at for fit out of third floor as Education Hub.
- Review supporters' code of conduct for social media. GS will send a copy now for Board members to read. Comments to GS.

*Meeting suspended for break at 8.18pm and resumed at 8.30pm.*

#### 4. **Finance Update**

Most issues raised elsewhere.

ML reported there is over £2m in for PL Bond 2, at rate of 6.1% on average.

CT added that there were more people to target for more on Bond. £3m is realistic. £4.5m would be a good target.

FF would present update next week in the light of discussions he has had with potential investors.

#### 6. **Directors Box**

Item deferred.

#### 7. **AOB**

a) GS raised a number of issues relating to meet the DTB, answering queries on pro-boards and fan engagement with surveys.

KS suggested ticketing and pricing surveys could be done now, with previous survey versions updated, that GS continue to deal with pro-boards queries at the moment, and that the next 'Meet the DTB' date be confirmed as soon as appropriate.

Noted that any revamp of the DT website should be low priority as work being undertaken on Club website that would include extra functionality.

b) ML - we need to give members our priorities, as we have promised.

c) LM raised first team results and the Board discussed the latest position, including the change to Club strategic objectives since past managers, and the requirement to fully take account of these in assessing the situation.

Meeting closed at 9.47pm