

# **Dons Trust Board (DTB)**

Minutes of virtual board meeting held at 7.00pm on 19 October 2022

## **DTB members**

Kris Stewart (Chair)  
Graham Stacey  
Hannah Kitcher  
Freddy Flaxman  
Luke Mackenzie  
Niall Couper  
Michele Little  
Charlie Talbot  
Anne-Marie Godfrey (Co-optee)

## **In attendance**

Martin Newton (Secretary)

### **1. Introduction**

Apologies for absence from Graeme Price.

### **2. Minutes and Actions List**

The minutes of meetings on 10 September and 21 September were unanimously approved, subject to any further redactions required by Sunday PM.

On the actions list, the following was noted:-

Junior Dons offer to be shared with DTB – Action closed. Offer emailed to DTB.

Strategic direction, which including aspiration of Championship football in 5 years – To be considered further at AGM.

Directors and Executive Boxes - use of unsold boxes under the 'potential sponsors' criteria of the complimentary tickets policy and inviting DT members into the Directors Box at Plough Lane on matchdays – On hold pending discussions with new MD.

Membership Secretary appointment and role changes – Stephen Godfrey and John Stemberidge would be working together on Membership Secretary role for a while. Further consideration for Board on Membership Secretary role post-integration.

Memorial Garden costs - Garden designer coming back with costs details.

WAWF money/Dons Draw - Graham S and Graeme P to liaise on club comms and fundraising. Noted that John Lynch is keen to be involved in Dons Draw revitalisation.

DLAG de-merger from Foundation and DT Charity Approach - Copy required of the application going to the charity commissioners. Noted that there is an SLA between the Foundation/club and similar would be required with DLAG. Discussions continue between the Foundation/DLAG.

WiSH – scrutiny of proposals - Niall to liaise with WiSH.

Further advice on NFTs – Action closed for now. To be reconsidered if necessary.

Members survey - Sharing of survey details. Luke will produce summary for November DTB that can be shared with members.

Membership integration - Meeting with Winners took place 4 October. Agreed action plan focused on integration of memberships in time for Spring 2023. John Stembridge and Winners working together on this and Stephen Godfrey putting analysis together on what changes are needed.

Closure of PLB – Letter of thanks to be sent from DTB.

AGM Date – Possible change of dates for DT and PLC AGMs in December to be considered.

### 3. **Ratification of Email Decisions**

The email decisions approving Theme Group ToRs and representations from the DTB to the Government on the Fan Led Review of Football Governance were unanimously approved.

### 4. **Strategic Direction**

Kris said that it would be appropriate to speak about progress or otherwise on Strategic Direction at the AGM. Noted that it would be unlikely that there would be time and space for altering/reviewing SD at the AGM bearing in mind the other business that was required to be transacted.

### 5. **Board Theme Groups**

#### Oversight

On oversight actions, Charlie commented on the need for a shorter update on proposed governance changes and the consultation processes prior to the AGM. Kris said that the requirement was to know members were broadly happy with the direction of the proposals. Noted that the Memorandum of Understanding between the DTB and the PLCB needed to have a method of review built in.

Michele then reported that the PLB had now closed. On final figures – Cherry Red Records were owed £139,500 which will now be repaid – and an extra £223,255 was raised and available to put toward capex. It would be up to the club to decide what capex to spend on. Overall outcome was £9.8m raised at average rate of just under 4%.

Charlie confirmed that a draft on the issues around selling equity below 75%, and associated matters, would be completed for an initial temperature test with members.

### Community

On work of the foundation, it was noted that Phil Rudling would be attending the Board in November.

On sensory packs, Graham raised the issue of reimbursing funding provided for the packs and undertook to follow up on this matter with the club. It was also agreed unanimously that the DT should fund the cost of future packs.

On community actions, nothing further was raised.

### Culture and Mission

On culture and mission, Kris confirmed that an anti-gambling group 'The Big Step', who had expressed an interest in talking to the Board, would be invited to a future meeting. Discussion had also taken place about tors and how they were understood, the mood over the weekend (post Sutton game), and on preparing more materials for incoming/prospective board members.

At this point, Kris expressed his concern over Anne-Marie's decision not to continue on the Board, and the goal to address the reasons for this in future.

### Member Services and Engagement

On MS&E actions, Graham said a newsletter had been drafted on DTB issues. This could be used going forward to flag up theme group matters or, for instance, to inform members that there may be a delay on something like publication of minutes or to include details of DTB actions. It was noted further consideration of deadlines/timetabling was needed to ensure the most effective use of the newsletter.

Further discussion took place, during which Graham raised organising the next 'Meet the DTB' session but it was noted that a more important priority at this time was planning the AGM. Noted that another 'Meet the Academy' or 'Meet the new MD' would also be worthy of consideration soon. It was further noted that behaviour on Pro Boards had calmed a

little, with one person being banned, but required additional scrutiny. Graham then raised the matter of children waiting by the gate to get player autographs, and the requirement for the club to put in place a better solution. Hannah reported that the JD party would be in early December, which had taken a while to arrange with the club.

## 6. **Diversity and Inclusion**

On D&I, Anne-Marie said consultation would take place on signing up to 'Her Game Too'. Kris suggested a 'broad' question, rather than a vote, to ensure the sign up had some clear support. Hannah undertook to speak with Anne-Marie on this issue.

## 7. **AOB**

- On any other business, Charlie reported that with Seedrs pre-emption people would be able to top up holdings, which could mean 30k coming in during January.
- Hannah asked whether DTB members that were not on the PLCB were still able to observe PLCB meetings. Kris said that Mick had raised concerns about his but no decision had yet been made.
- Michele raised the matter of abuse aimed at DTB members at the kiosk on matchdays. Kris suggested that further consideration be given to kiosk attendance/rotas going forward.
- Niall referred to his experience at the Sutton game and noted that the club were looking into the incident. Kris undertook to speak with Niall outside of the meeting.
- Noted that the new MD, Danny Macklin would be coming along to the next meeting to meet the Board.

Meeting closed at 22.05pm