

Dons Trust Board (DTB)

Minutes of virtual board meeting held at 6.30pm on 21 September 2022

DTB members

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

In attendance

Martin Newton (Secretary)

1. **Introduction**

No apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes and Actions List**

The June minutes were unanimously approved, subject to amendment to make clear Anne-Marie would speak with Mick Buckley regarding the D&I working group and DLAG, along with a reference to SLT rather than SPL.

The August minutes were unanimously approved.

On the actions list, items 1-5 and 7 were now completed - draft PLC role descriptions for NEDs and DT representatives, tors for Board theme groups, comms plan, and restricted actions and included in papers for this meeting.

Item 6, The Junior Dons offer would be circulated to the DTB by Hannah.

Items 8 and 9 – the chart setting out club playing budget and income and expenditure and minute-taker advertisement had also been completed. On the latter, noted that 2 individuals had asked about minute-taker roles.

On item 10, strategic document and championship football aspiration discussion took place on reframing wording. Kris indicated that further

thought was needed on what to be said about the strategic document at the AGM.

The Directors/Executive boxes item 11 was on hold pending conversations with the new MD and to be taken forward by the MS&E theme group.

Hannah undertook to speak to membership secretary regarding handover date for Stephen Godfrey, item 12.

On item 13, Memorial Garden ongoing costs, Luke reported that the garden designer would be coming back regarding costs, including maintenance.

Kris undertook to make arrangements with the new MD to attend the DTB on 16/11, item 14.

With regard to WAWF money, item 15, Michele commented on the need to revitalise WAWF with regard to helping the playing budget to a higher level. Graham suggested relaunching WAWF with a marketing campaign based around the January window.

Processes around stadium security, item 16 had been completed - it was noted this had been covered by the club in a recent programme article and this information would be put up on the website.

On DLAG de-merger, item 17 noted that a meeting would take place on Friday with foundation chair to talk about licensing agreement. Graeme said that it would be necessary to see a copy of the application going to the Charity Commission.

Anne-Marie said that the D & I working group notes, item 18 would be emailed round.

On WiSH, item 19 noted that further discussions needed to take place on scrutiny of proposals.

3. Ratification of Email Decisions

The playing budget comms email decision was approved, noting only six board members voted.

4. Board Members Theme Groups

Community

No further matters for this meeting.

Culture and Mission

Noted that ToRs were included in the 'SGM pack' for discussion later in the meeting.

Member Services and Engagement

Hannah confirmed that the recent survey had not been shared with members and was on her 'to do' list.

Noted that with Secutix, the club accepted that integration of DT membership information was now a priority. Michele, Bal and John Stembidge would meet with Winners to talk about this and hopefully memberships would be on sale with Secutix in the spring.

Oversight

Michele reported that she was chairing the Finance Committee, which met last week with a smaller group.

On closing the PLB, Kris paid tribute to all involved with the bond and said that the Board would send a letter of thanks when comms came out about the closure. The proposals around bond closure were unanimously approved and the PLCB would be informed of the DTB decision tomorrow.

5. SGM and related matters

The DTB debated the papers proposed to be considered at the forthcoming SGM and also other matters.

During discussion, it was noted that due to account-related deadlines there was the possibility that the AGMs of the DT and the PLC might need to be moved back from the current proposed dates (DT provisional date is 15 December).

It was noted that dates for World Cup games may allow a date 'tie-up' for AGM meetings with attendees coming to an AGM at Plough Lane on the same day as a televised game.

The Board adjourned between 8.12 to 8.22pm

Discussion continued and the Board unanimously agreed that the following papers, once refined be submitted to the SGM for consideration and discussion, with the final agreement of them as appropriate to be put to the AGM in December:-

- Introduction to structure proposals
- Overview of proposed changes
- Restricted actions and proposed MoU with PLC
- PLC Board voting
- DTB PLC JDs
- PLC NEDs JDs

It was unanimously agreed that the items that were before the DTB for consideration on DTB theme groups and tors and guidance for election

candidates be considered offline by the DTB and approved via email voting.

On submitted members resolutions and after debate it was agreed that on:-

Resolution 1 (use of hospitality space) - there should be no DT recommendation (by 7-2, Niall and Luke voting against).

Resolution 2 (kit term length) - there should be no DT recommendation.

Resolution 3 (diversity data) - the DT recommendation should be to vote in favour.

6. **Incoming MD**

Luke raised the issue of information around the incoming MD.

Graham pointed out that some members of the DTB were aware of the identity of the new MD while others were not, and that it was symbolic of how the wider DTB were kept in the dark yet expected to provide overview.

Kris explained Mick's rationale around withholding the name of the appointed MD, particularly around the new MD's concern regarding the consultancy he is part of, his investor and the business they were trying to land.

After further debate, it was agreed that the concerns be expressed at tomorrow's PLCB with the suggestion that some information about the appointment be released prior to Saturday's game.

Graeme left the meeting at 11.31pm

7. **Diversity and Inclusion – Standing Item**

Anne-Marie reported that 'feelers' were out for volunteers for events in October, and confirmation was awaited from Bal about event food options.

8. **AOB**

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 11.33pm