

PAPER 8 – UPDATE ON RESOLUTION 11a FROM SEPTEMBER SGM

The Dons Trust Board was instructed by the September SGM as follows:

Resolution 11a: “To initiate the process of updating the Dons Trust constitution such that the Restricted Action protections which formerly applied to the stadium at Kingsmeadow are applied to the Plough Lane stadium as soon as possible. Since it may take time for these actions to be carried out, the Dons Trust Board must, at a minimum, produce the plan for how and when this will be carried out by the time of the next General Meeting.”

The Restricted Actions (RAs) were reviewed with an intention to drafting a simple amendment to the Constitution updating those RAs which refer to Kingsmeadow and introducing similar restrictions for Plough Lane.

Two of the RAs which mention KM have the high threshold of either category A or category B. The consequence is that these require a 'Two Ticks' level of approval by the members.

The third is category D: "Borrowing against the security of the leases at Kingsmeadow". Given that the Back in Two Ticks campaign authorised the sale of KM, that RA is now moot. There is substantial borrowing already in place effectively mortgaging Plough Lane. A revised Constitution will need to consider a suitable replacement for this RA.

In summary there is no immediate need for a constitutional motion to this AGM.

A full review of the Constitution is long overdue and will be a major undertaking for the new DTB. The existing Constitution dates from 2002 and was drafted without any contemplation of supporter ownership of a football club or stadium. Before the merger of Supporters Direct into the Football Supporters Association (FSA), a more tailored template had been drafted for the constitution of a supporter owned football club. It would be timely to develop that document alongside tailoring a guiding document for our specific needs. That work will of course take months. It is imperative that building a working group and planning a consultation phase begins with a degree of urgency so that a new Constitution is in place as soon as the work can be completed with a large degree of diligence including comprehensive detail.

As a precursor to the new DTB initiating this work, an outline timetable is an essential guide. This will necessitate the recruitment of a new Constitution Working Group (CWG) building on the work of the previous team.

January 2021	DTB initiate Constitution Working Group. Recruitment begins immediately.
February 2021	First (virtual) meetings of CWG. Review of findings of previous CWG.
March 2021	Call for evidence and gathering of data.
April 2021	Contact other supporter owned football clubs to assemble examples of best practice.
May 2021	Initial consultation with DT members
June 2021	Integrate findings of research and results of consultation
July 2021	Draft first version of revised constitution.

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August 2021	Final consultation with DT members
September 2021	Final draft presented to DT members for approval at September SGM (first of a 2 Ticks Mark 2 approval process).
October 2021	Second round of Back in 2 Ticks Mark 2.
November 2021	File new Constitution with FCA.
December 2021	DT AGM