Dons Trust Board Meeting Wednesday 9th October 2024

DTB in Attendance	Apologies	Also Present
Angus Fox (Chair)	Alex Folkes	Andrea Knox (Secretary) (Online)
James Macdonald (Vice Chair) (Online)	Hannah Kitcher	George Jones (Assistant Secretary)
Graeme Price	Anuk Teasdale	Michele Little (Treasurer)
Mark Lewis (Online)		
Richard Shepherd (Online)		
Kevin Rye (Online)		
James Longhurst		
Anuk Teasdale (Online)		

1. **Introduction**

The Meeting opened at 6.05pm. Angus welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Alex who was unable to attend due to being abroad and Hannah who was unable to attend due to a late change in work arrangements. Anuk was also unable to attend.

Since the full September meeting 2 board sessions have taken place.
One was a closed session on 19th September where the following topics were discussed: Restricted Action Wording, the drop-in sessions and the constitution review.
A short notice meeting took place on the 4th October where the main topic was to finalise the restricted action wording.

2. **Ratification of Email Decisions**

None

3. **Approval of previous Minutes**

The minutes from the full September board meeting and short notice October meeting were approved subject to some further redactions.

4. Strategy Document

Angus introduced the strategy document that had been circulated to the board prior to the meeting. The report is 65 pages long and covers all aspects of the club. There is a separate excel file with all the objectives that can be tracked easily.

Angus said the strategy process has been being worked on for almost a year and the output is a really good document. Graeme then said that whilst an overwhelming majority of the actions would sit with the PLC there are some that would be with other groups. Angus said that the numbering of the targets and the initiatives would make it really straightforward to track and monitor.

James L suggested a number of changes to wording of strap lines.

James L added that he is working to produce a summary that we could publish. Graeme added there was an internal summary explaining how the building blocks are allocated and added there should be an external one which is high level. It was agreed to try and get this out to members before the SGM. Kevin added it is possible to turn it into smaller bite sized sections on specific topics such as Men's team, Women's team, Academy etc. Angus added a great example of that was the investor onboarding document the board has published.

Richard said it is important to have the PLC KPIs tie into this document, Graeme added that they would have to be. Richard then added it is important they are included in the public PLC minutes.

There was a discussion about fan engagement The fan engagement plan is an EFL requirement. Angus asked Kevin to draft something for the board to pass onto the club to consider including in the report.

Angus asked if the whole board supported this document apart from the changes Kevin will provide. The board agreed unanimously (Hannah, Alex and Anuk not present to vote). Angus thanked the board and said that he thought the document sets the direction for the future.

5. DTB Actions List and PLC Questions and Actions List

An update was provided on the outstanding topics including:
Strategy review - Previously discussed

An update was also provided on the issues the DTB are waiting for the PLC to take action on including:
New Turnstiles
Sustainability Strategy

The board agreed to ratify the election rules that have been published in line with rule 61 of our constitution which are the same rules since 2022.

6. **Bond Updates**

Michele added that out of £3.3m due in 2025 only £81k has yet to be committed on. Current estimates are £1.37m will have to be repaid which is less than the club budgeted for, excluding the £81k undecided. £91K gifted to club £60k gifted to trust £117k converted to shares. James L asked what we do with the money budgeted that we don't need this time around. Graeme added we have a couple of options on this one of which is paying off some of the 2027 money early.

James L thanked Michele for all the work she has done on the Bonds.

James L added it is a really positive story that we will have repaid £1.4m of debt.

7. **Theme Groups**

a. **Community**

No further updates.

It was noted that there will be new board members in January and the group members should be revisited then.

b. **Engagement**

An update was provided by Mark following their recent meetings. This included an update from Richard on the results of the survey of new members. It was sent to 3105 new members, opened by 2332 with a 23% response rate, as against 33% opened last (2023 members) DT survey. Both emails had around an 80% open rate.

The other topics discussed at their meeting included comms surrounding the DT Elections and the Restricted Action campaign.

The group also discussed the event for 18-24 year olds which is planned to be taking place in the boardroom at Plough Lane on Monday 4th November and will include a free stadium tour.

The board then discussed board members going on different podcasts to promote the Majority Rules campaign and the elections. James L said he was working on putting together content for an official podcast. Kevin will record a piece for social media and the website on what is like being on the board to promote the elections.

Mark then clarified that Xavier has put him in touch with a fan in America who wants to set up an overseas fan group and the fan has been invited to the next engagement group meeting.

c. <u>Member Services</u>

Richard said the membership number has now been adjusted to remove the lapsed members. Stephen will now look to break down the membership into different demographics and produce a summary to present to the board.

d. <u>Culture and Mission and Oversight</u>

Angus went through the action list and explained he had set up a new SharePoint List which would make it easier to monitor and track actions going forward. The high priority issues are: the flood, constitution review and Majority Rules campaign. The SGM papers have now been sent to the printers with the email due to go out Friday.

Other items on the register included Bonds, training, planning for membership for 2025. There was a discussion about whether more tiers of affiliate membership should be a thing for the DT. James L says we should be very careful not to over complicate membership offerings.

Michele then said DT is due to receive £154k estimate for memberships this year up from £72k last year - an uplift of £82k. There is also a £60k donation from bonds. Michele then said we should confirm how much to give the women’s team of the increase. They have asked for a £30k increase on what it was last year.

James L asked to see the women's budget. James M then added there will be additional costs for the academy this season surrounding safeguarding which could cost around £2k. Angus then asked the board for a vote on approving these, subject to seeing an updated women’s budget. This was agreed unanimously.

Richard provided an update on the risk register which included referencing the existing item which covered managing mitigations for major events such as the flood.

Angus then asked everyone standing down to work with George to ensure a smooth transition period and handover of work.

e. Fundraising

Graeme introduced the papers he had submitted. He added they are waiting for capex quotes. He then provided an update on the Dons Draw.

8. Restricted Action Process and Comms

SGM papers had been sent to the printers, it was agreed to email out to members on Friday. James L said it is important to make sure this is timed to maximise it when voting is open. He suggested co-ordinating reminders to coincide with stadium announcements. The board agreed we should investigate ways of promoting it even if it incurs a cost. James L will work with Bark to produce some promotional materials for it.

James L added that a discussion had taken place between himself, the secretariat and Michele in the week. The topic covered that further share issue would require a class B restricted action vote. James L added it is vital this is communicated as it will drive support for the RA vote and will reassure members that they will get a confirmation on any investors.

9. Constitution Review

George and Andrea provided an update on the constitution review. This included the fact that the first meeting of the group would be on Friday 11th and the group would be meeting weekly for the next several weeks. The secretariat hopes to have something to present at the AGM. George also committed to making regular public updates until the AGM.

10. Women's team

James L raised the issue that crowd numbers are down significantly both at Raynes Park and Plough Lane and wanted to understand why, James L asked if someone from the women's board could come to occasional DTB meetings to discuss how things are going.

It was agreed that George would invite Sophia and David to the next board meeting.

11. Sponsorship discussion

James L will work on a policy for this. This item will be further addressed at the next board meeting.

12. ProBoards and Alternatives

The board thanked Reece for all the work he has done on ProBoards.

George asked for permission to go away and seek a more usable alternative to ProBoards. He said that that he would work with the ProBoards moderation team to look into alternatives with a view to having a new platform up and running before the end of the year.

A discussion then took place on what these future options might be.

The board gave George permission to go away and work with Reece to find a more modern and better alternative to ProBoards.

13. <u>Update on PLC Chair Recruitment</u>

James M provided an update on the latest on the PLC Chair recruitment. The job advert had gone live earlier in the week. The deadline for applications is Sunday 27th October. With a meeting scheduled for early November with EiSG to do an initial review of the candidates. EiSG hope to have an 8 person shortlist in time for the November DTB meeting. The aim is to have the final shortlist by the end of November with a view for final interviews early December.

14. <u>AOB</u>

Mark raised the issue of the DLAG sleepout and asked for volunteers from the DTB to do it. It was agreed for Mark to enter a team who will represent the DTB.

Mark also informed the board that he is not standing in the upcoming election due to time commitments.

Angus thanked Mark for everything he has done for the board.

Richard then formally informed the board that he will be standing down at the AGM.

Angus thanked Richard for everything he has done for the board.

Angus reiterated to both Mark and Richard to make sure they hand over everything in good time.

James L raised the issue discussed online during the week surrounding London Broncos when their supporters’ association asked for advice as they look into potentially taking over the club. James L then asked about groundshare for next season.

James L then raised the issue of three former Wimbledon ladies' players being presented with their overdue Wales caps and wanted the club to invite them to a game to be presented to the crowd. It was agreed to take this up with the club.

15. Closed Board Session

Following AOB the Board moved into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter.

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

George Jones
Assistant Secretary