The Dons Trust Board met online on Monday 15th September at 8pm in a short notice meeting called following the resignations of Ian Robinson and Simon Hood.

The meeting was attended by board members, Angus Fox, Graeme Price, Martin Drake, Alex Folkes, Hannah Kitcher, James Longhurst, James Ledward and David Rey as well as Secretary George Jones and Assistant Secretary Reece Wheeler-Kelly.

Angus opened by explaining some of the context surrounding the meeting, saying the board now needed to show leadership and make a statement explaining the issues and stating where we are.

A discussion took place on whether the board should consider appointing an additional casual vacancy to give the board more breathing room when it comes to quorum. It was agreed that this was not required.

Alex's view was that the board should prepare a statement to explain the process to the implementation of rule 10 including a timetable and emphasising that we are getting on with business and doing the right thing for the Trust and Club. Martin reiterated Alex's point about issuing a statement. James Le said it is vital the board moves things on.

Hannah said that with hindsight the board could have agreed for softer wording for the email sent to all board members declaring the election appeal rule 34 being classified as an exceptional item. Graeme said that in his view the correct process has been followed in relation to all items in this process. It was agreed that this should be explained clearly in the statement.

A discussion took place on having an independent review of the election processes. It was agreed that such a review should take place. A discussion took place on how to fund the potential additional costs arising from the recommendations of this review. James Le said that the board should make it clear it is not able to be tied to enacting any recommendations from the review until after the review is completed and the recommendations are known.

A discussion took place on whether conflicted board members should be involved in the statement. Alex suggested that the statement should be from the non-conflicted board members but shared with conflicted board members.

A discussion took place on how conflicted board members should respond to questions on the issues. It was agreed the statement should be signed by the board, and that distribution of the statement was to be via email, Discord and the DT website.

David added that the more we can say the better as a lot of members will be hearing about what has happened for the first time in the statement. Hannah requested that the statement answer some of the questions board members have received.

Martin, Alex and James Le left the meeting for the remaining discussion due to conflicts of being election candidates.

James Lo proposed the statement have the structure of:

Explain the role of ESG, what happened, that the rules were agreed in February, that ESG made the decision to block a candidate, that the candidate appealed to the board, that the board rejected the appeal, why it was rejected, why the rejection is important, refer to the guidelines, that everyone has to come together, everything else that is happening, what is happening next (review, conclude election, carry on being the DTB), Call to action for DT members on how to get involved including at the upcoming SGM.

A discussion took place on how to respond to communications from the member who was rejected. Graeme explained that a lot of the abuse aimed at the board is based on fallacies.

Reece provided an update on events on Discord over the weekend. It was agreed to review Discord in the new year based on conduct on the platform over the last few days and continued advice that we should not run a direct engagement platform. Reece had offered the person who was rejected the opportunity to stop discussion about himself on Discord. The member rejected this proposal.

The board discussed the post on Discord regarding George and agreed that the board took offence to the post. Angus added he had responded to it at the time. James Lo explained to Reece that if any point he wants to step back from moderating Discord he should do so, and the board would then shut Discord down.

Discussion then moved onto the finance statement. It was agreed that the finance statement needed to go out as soon as possible.

It was noted that the board was having to spend a great deal of time on the election rather than focusing on finance.

A discussion took place on the resignation of the two board members.

Angus thanked the board for their efforts and support over the last few days and noted the amount of support the board had received from members by email. The rest of the board then thanked Angus for his efforts over the last few days. The board also thanked the secretariat for their efforts over this period.

The board then went into a closed session