



Minutes of WWSGL Board “Agenda A” Meeting on Thursday 30th April 2020 commencing at 7:00pm via Video conferencing

Directors Present: Nigel Kingston (Chair), Lisa Bowker, Alan Cecil, David Cook, John Derben, Tony Hector, John Jewell, Peter Lerner, Bob Massie, David Roberton, Trevor Stroud.

Board Attendees: Martyn Broughton (Group Treasurer).

Apologies: None.

1. Minutes from previous meeting and Matters arising:

Minutes of the 26th March 2020 meeting were presented and accepted by the Board.

Matters Arising:

- with meetings having to take place via video conference calls at present, it hadn't been considered appropriate to invite Pete Couhig (“PC”) to ‘attend’ a Trust Board meeting at this time. NK will invite PC to one of the first face to face meetings;
- confirmed the Trust Board (through individual personal donations) will sponsor an away player’s shirt at a cost of £480. With a number of directors already undertaking personal sponsorships, seven had agreed to contribute to this.

2. Financial Update / Club Matters:

- MB had previously circulated the WWSGL March cashflow;
- WWFC one of 12 League One clubs that have Business Interruption insurance cover and are looking at submission of a claim working with a specialist loss adjustor. The policy also contains specific “contagious disease” clauses.

Club Matters:

TS / DC advised:

- numerous speculations / suggestions / proposals on future of the 2019/20 season continue to circulate but, to-date, nothing has yet been agreed with the government’s decision on future lockdown plans being key;
- also, there is at present no decision on the position re broadcasters funding either for 2019/20 or 202/21 seasons.
- Rob Couhig (“RC”) remains fully committed and is pushing forward in an open / transparent manner with plans for the future development of the club, including planning for potential promotion to the Championship and the works that would be required in this eventuality i.e. seeking planning permission for floodlight upgrade;
- advantage taken of the enforced break to fully relay the pitch.

3. Fundraising Initiative:

Masks:

- 463 sold to-date raising c.£5k;
- BM has been able to persuade eBay not to charge selling fees and is attempting to reach a similar agreement with PayPal;

- eBay has a retention policy that withholds release of part of the funds generated to combat fraud and BM in discussion with them to seek a relaxation of this;
- TS and Benedict Musola will be making One Can Trust deliveries 01May2020 and will be wearing the masks – a useful additional advertising opportunity;
- with the possibility that part of the lockdown relaxation will involve ‘compulsory’ wearing of masks in public, any opportunities to promote purchase of our masks to be taken. Supplier has capacity to increase production.
- other marketing opportunities being considered include production of masks in ‘retro colours’ and different ‘Quarters’ based products;
- potential to collect and on-sell items of nostalgia / memorabilia no longer wanted by fan owners to be further explored;
- with the club to launch an online shop (utilising the services of an independent distributor) shortly, need for careful co-ordination / liaison noted.

The meeting was paused at 8:00pm to allow directors to participate in the NHS appreciation event and recommenced at 8:05pm.

4. Website revamp:

- access to latest iteration had been previously provided for information. Still significant development to be undertaken, not least, a ‘click through’ to TicketCo;
- all to review bios / photos and update via BM if necessary. **Action: ALL;**
- aim is to go live 01Jun2020;
- agreed to leave development with Working Group who will revert to the Board for final approval before going live;
- Privacy Statement to be uploaded as soon as possible.

5. Trust Name change:

- NK advised that ‘only’ 892 of the emails sent to Members regarding the name changes and seeking completion of a survey had been opened. 283 had completed the survey, voting: In Favour 206, Against 68, Don’t Know 9;
- again noted the survey was intended to be indicative only with the Board to make the final decision;
- discussion covered the strength of the existing WWT brand, potential confusion of using WWST with WWSET, benefits of using full name change at all times over abbreviation, paucity of survey response from Members, any cost involved in implementing a change;
- after discussion, NK put forward the Resolution to change the name from Wycombe Wanderers Trust to Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Trust and the Board voted: In Favour 5, Against 5. NK’s casting vote was ‘Against’ and therefore the Resolution was not carried – name to remain unchanged.

6. Nominations for WWFC board directors:

- it was agreed that, in view of the current COVID-019 situation, it was not appropriate to change the nominated directors at the current time;
- election postponed until the first Board meeting following a clear decision on how the 2019/20 season will end has been made.

7. Volunteers Report:

JD presented a report previously circulated to the Board (Appendix I). Discussion highlighted:

- currently c.100 volunteers;
- all work currently undertaken is for the benefit of the club and it makes sense for volunteers to be controlled by the club and covered by existing club Health & Safety, Safeguarding, insurance etc. policies - Trust would have to have separate policies (additional cost) if to manage volunteers;
- very good working relationship already enjoyed with the Stadium Manager and other club personnel;
- volunteer force can be called upon to assist with any Trust specific activities;

- important to ensure any work being undertaken, whether club or Trust, has been properly authorised and funding agreed;
- no specific discussions held with RC / PC, but from previous comments, fully expect volunteer role to be protected and promoted;
- JD report to be forwarded to RC/PC for their review at club board meeting 4th May. **Action: NK.**

8. WWSET Report:

PL presented a report previously circulated to the Board (Appendix II)

- considered there is a good chance of WWSET surviving the COVID-19 situation financially;
- had previously operated with a policy of holding sufficient reserve to cover six months costs, but recent activity expenditure had depleted;
- furloughing of staff where appropriate had reduced running costs.

9. WWLFC:

- the season has been cancelled;
- planning to continue with same three teams next season;
- considered that running the Ladies section provided positive publicity and Trust fully supportive of continuing with section;
- hoped WWFC will continue to provide kit (to be confirmed with PC, but Ladies section will be free to source own sponsors).

10. Safeguarding / ICO Registration:

- uncertain when Dr. Barnados audit will be undertaken, but comfort in the two successful EFL audits;
- NK updated the Information Commissioner's Office on ownership sale before completion, advised that club and Trust will require separate registrations;
- unclear if new registrations required before existing registration (which expires in August) cancelled or vice versa and procedure to be clarified. **Action: NK.**

11. A.O.B.:

DR - and others, welcomed the quality of the Zoom meeting platform and thanked Bob for organising.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:08pm.

Date and time of next scheduled meeting: 7:00pm Thursday 28th May 2020.

Chairman.....Approved at video conference meeting

Date.....28 May 2020

Wycombe Wanderers Trust

The trading name of

Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Group Limited

Registered society no. 32456R under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 4HJ

www.wycombewandererstrust.com

Appendix I

Paper to the Trust Board Meeting Report 30th April 2020

Where do the Volunteers sit under the new management? With the Trust or the Football Club?

Volunteers have been at the core of British Football from its very beginnings and High Wycombe is no different from any other village, town or city in that respect. If they can't give their time, they give money, sometimes both. If they can't do either they give their support. So, it is not surprising that volunteering looms large in Clubs like Wycombe Wanderers. It used to be a "mans" game in 1887 when Wycombe Wanderers were founded. Today it is a different story and women are just as much involved, especially among the volunteers and especially at Wycombe Wanderers. So I would hope that we can agree that our volunteers are actually here for the football and everything they do, whether it is cleaning seats, painting, gardening, selling programmes, car parking, serving behind the bar on match days, maintaining the fabric of the stadium and even running the whole operation until Friday February 21st February 2020. The list is endless and the majority of it will hopefully carry on under the new owners.

But it is still about the football, the volunteers' pride in their team, their players and the stadium. That is the key reason for volunteering. To give what they can, when they can, for their football club, whoever owns it.

The subject of this paper is "Where do the volunteers sit under the New Management, with the Trust or the Football Club" and who will find the resource in the future? I would suggest that our volunteers, certainly on a match day, sit with the Club, who provide direction and resource to maximise the value of their time. However, the Trust has to maintain its 25% ownership of Wycombe Wanderers and it is going to be very important in the future for it to be able to keep that position. This is now all about the money which the Trust will need to raise and a strong and effective volunteer fundraising team organised by the Trust itself.

Some volunteers will do both, support their Club and help the Trust, that has happened in the past when we were one entity. Now we are two and that makes it more challenging.

The new owners recognise the value of the volunteers and have already gone some way to thank them publicly in front of the supporters. They have also employed a member of staff to contact all volunteers, where possible, to prepare an up to date register so that we may develop a more professional record of service. Currently the Trust receives a PALS report at their monthly Board meeting and the Governance Committee receives a bi-monthly report which ends up at the Football Club board. So, all aspects of volunteering are covered in these reports.

The Stadium Manager uses the volunteers for the maintenance programme at both the Stadium and the Training Ground and team leaders Lisa Bowker and Alan Hodgson carry out the work with the volunteers. This happens every Tuesday and Thursday.

On a matchday the programme sellers and top car park volunteers are organised and led by Sandie Derben. Following the match, she cashes up and checks the money collected ready for the bank.

It has been necessary that this paper contains what volunteers actually do, to determine where they should sit in the structure. There is a cost to volunteering which is minimal at the moment, indeed several volunteers have in the past paid for materials which the Club could not afford. In the future we need to become a little more professional. The programme kiosks need attention, volunteers need better tabards that clearly identify all our volunteers, we need to develop better communication with our volunteers on a more regular basis and we need one event every season specifically to thank volunteers for their service.

So where should volunteers sit in the scheme of things?

My personal view is that they should be the responsibility of the Football Club and the Club should meet all the costs of volunteering, as they gain substantially by the savings achieved by the volunteers' contributions. There is no reason why the Trust cannot use the services of the volunteers to help in their fundraising efforts. That could be led by a senior volunteer, reporting into the Fundraising committee of the Trust.

I am happy to answer any questions at our next meeting. John Derben.

Appendix II

WWSET Report for April Trust Board Meeting: Author Peter Lerner

- WWSET furloughed 15 full time and 4 part time staff members at the end of March. Only remaining staff in normal employment are Head of WWSET, Head of Health, WWSET Accountant (1 day per week).
- Head of Health still delivering lots of online activity sessions (yoga, Indian clubs, mindfulness, quizzes etc) to our Keep Moving Forward participants (mental health project). Also making personal phone calls to each one of the circa 40 participants each week to check they are ok and to offer additional support if required.
- Last week WWSET submitted a large funding application (circa £105K) to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government to deliver activities that focus on reducing instances of faith and/or race hate crimes within High Wycombe. Decision expected in July with delivery to begin in Oct should we be successful.
- Still pressing ahead with plans for Green Street despite the current restrictions on movement. Paul Foley recently submitted an Initial Project Development Costs application to Football foundation to cover:
 - planning department pre-application advice,
 - architects detailed design proposal,
 - measured buildings survey (required by the architect),
 - quantity surveyor fee so that the full building development can be accurately costed,
 - design and feasibility studies related to the pitch area to be completed by the chosen pitch build company.
- Football Foundation responded and asked whether there was any financial commitment from WWSET towards the initial costs at this stage (*which there wasn't*) so I liaised with Jo West from Buckinghamshire Council and she agreed that they would cover the cost of the pre planning advice, allowing this element to be included as our contribution. Refined initial project development costs application due to be resubmitted by the end of this week.
- WWSET have been selected by the EFL Trust and National Rail as a "priority area" for the second year of the You V's Train campaign that seeks to reduce occasions of unauthorised access on the nations railways, and the injuries/deaths this causes. WWSET will be delivering educational content plus social media messaging over the course of the next 12 months. Hopefully the club will also support with the campaign in terms of player messaging and website/social media.