

**Our mi MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PART OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24 June 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.**

Present: Nigel Kingston (NK) (Chair)

Bob Massie (BM) Vice Chair, Communications, Fundraising and Commercial

Peter Lerner (PL) Trustee of WWSET and Community Liaison

Martyn Broughton (MB) Trust Treasurer, FALL Director

Tony Hector (TH) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board, Society Secretary

John Jewell (JJ) Fundraising

Alan Cecil (AC) FALL Director, Website, Twitter and Facebook supporter interaction

Lisa Bowker (LB) Assists with Volunteers

Russell Jones (RJ) Membership Secretary

Chris Harvey (CH) FALL Director

Apologies: Trevor Stroud (TS) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board

David Roberton (DR) Trustee of WWSET and running of WWFC Ladies Team

Plus 54 Trust Members who joined the Zoom meeting as spectators.

NK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Items outstanding from last Meeting.**

There were no items outstanding from last meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously agreed and NK signed them on behalf of the Trust Board.

**Agenda**:

**Trust Fundraising Report: Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** JJ reported that the Trust’s online memorabilia auction held 8th – 12th June raised a profit of approximately £830. More online auctions are planned for September and December. Please let JJ know on [jj.consulting@btinternet.com](mailto:jj.consulting@btinternet.com) if you have any items for these new auctions. Current winners have been notified and items are being delivered.

**WWFC Women & Under 18 Teams**: **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** Recruitment Drive Day atBisham Abbey on 20 June went well and a good session with new potential players and BM did a promotional video which will be used for future player recruitment.

**WWSET Report**:  **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.**

**Community Update**. **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.**

**Trust Finance Summary.** **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.**  MB one major point is QBC Lottery as there are 2 month’s figures in there. Generated a lot of interested. Holding back some for-Quarter Ball (at present £248 held back). Pleased with contributions. Given surplus just over £1100 for first two months to go to support 25% share. £123,600 in the bank, of which £60k now in Redwood Bank with 95-day notice at 0.7% interest. 50/50 split between instant access vs 95-day notice. Year end 30 June 2021 and expect £125k in bank at year end. Will owe Auditors and any non-claimed prize money.

**Volunteers Review:** Review of volunteer system. JJ updated that trying to build list of midweek volunteers and matchday volunteers. Approx. 60 people have come forward which is a great result. The Chairboys Volunteers is the new name for the group. People have been signed up and guidelines to best practice of what is expected of volunteers when they come to the Club is currently being drawn up. Have one of the biggest volunteers’ group in the EFL. Midweek volunteers have done a great job at the Training Ground. Seat cleaning will be done on 26th and 27th July and if anyone would like to sign up and help it would be appreciated. NK wanted to add thanks and that of Trust Board for work done up at Training Ground and the huge number of hours that have been put in. LB and a few others have managed this.

As part of the volunteer review looking at how to operate the Upper Car Park given key objective of Club is to eliminate use of cash. It is proposed to be done on a prepaid basis. PL asked that Disabled Supporters and Elderly People who prefer to use cash and those people who have difficulties with PCs etc will be considered. NK will pass this on to the Club.

**Club Update**: TH updated that little happening at moment. A lot of stadium work being done at present and DSA have had a large input into this. On track for completion of proposed works. Scoreboard and perimeter advertising delayed due to Suez issue and shipping from China. Will not be in place until second week of season but trying to push it forward. Ongoing participation in Fan Led Review – on basis that Supporters Trusts, Supporters Groups and Individual Fans been able to discuss their views with Tracy Crouch. Panel backing her are experts on various subjects but are only giving guidance, so Fan Led bit is important. TH asked view of good owner and all taken into consideration when Tracy Crouch makes her recommendations. Budget for next year (not playing)- Club Board Meeting on Monday at which it was intended to present the finalised budget, but this might not happen due to EFL announcement. AC asked about celebration event pre-season or start of the season for fans partly to acknowledge contribution from fans who did not claim their ticket refunds. Any update? TH said original plans were for 4 July but with Government delay it is on back burner but will be left until greater degree of certainty of what can be put on and how. Not forgotten. **TH will update at next Trust board.**

**QBC Draw Timings:** NK explained that normally QBC draw at Trust meetings but this month the closing date for the draw was 25 June, a day after the meeting, so therefore the actual draw will take place on Saturday 26th June and will be done by NK’s wife and a video will be made showing draw and this will then be posted on the Trust Website as soon after. **Action completed Sat 26th June.**

QBC entrants are still coming in. Looks like the total prize pot could be in region of £900 if QBC ball is first one drawn out on Saturday. Still tonight or tomorrow to enter draw if not already done so. Most people who have been in previous draw will have the same ball numbers and will keep these numbers going forward. **Email from BM tomorrow confirming ball numbers to everybody. Action competed.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**:

AC is there any more news regarding plaque. CH says all agreed to wording of it and should be fitted before we return to the ground for the friendly with Leicester City..

AC asked by Terry Hall if he can supply and sell matchday badges again for us. Will need 3 weeks’ notice, subject to confirmation of which league we are in. NK recommended do run badges. Commit to £100 badges for each game and ordered 3 weeks in advance. Need to sell 34 badges per match before we start making money. BM says we should not be paying for badges at our risk. No point ordering before League the outcome is known. **MB to circulate a P&L for badges covering last two full years. Action completed 26th June.**

TH advised that there are now 3 Women’s teams for next year and 2 teams will be playing at Lane End and 1 team at Flackwell Heath. Good standard of football and need to bolster attendances at these games. The Club/Matt Cecil helped to raise the profile. Look out for fixtures on Women’s Section on the WWFC Trust page. Games never clash with men’s games as Saturday Morning or Sunday. Please support. Looking for sponsors for these teams. Under 18’s looking for sponsors who will have their name on the kit. First and Reserve Team are looking for sponsor partners as they have main sponsor who is carrying on again this year. Anyone interested please get in touch with NK on [nigemart2019@gmail.com](mailto:nigemart2019@gmail.com)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TRUST MEMBERSHIP**

Will we be able to go to away games – TH says that there is nothing from Government or EFL. Near start of season before decision made.

**Rob Couhig joined the meeting to discuss the new Season and where we stand vs Derby.**

RC said groundsmen are pleased with the weather and the pitch is looking marvellous. Training ground is looking brilliant and players are enthusiastic about what is going on and with the hard work being done by the volunteers.

RC said Trust could arrange for a walk through for members and maybe have an Open Day at the Training Ground. NK to set up.

Everybody recalled that we finished in 22nd place missing 21st by one point. EFL and Derby have been going back and forth regarding a creative accounting system that Derby have put in place but never justified. All other 71 Clubs had used strict amortisation policy. Derby amortisation scheme allowed them to defer their losses and could thus spend more than the Fair Play would have allowed them to do. Over 3 years there is a potential overspend of £30 million. EFL asked for last three years accounts to be restated At Disciplinary Hearing the EFL lost on Stadium issue and won on the fact that accounting system was not properly disclosed to the EFL and at original hearing it was made out as a technical issue and no big deal. EFL made Appeal and this was upheld. Sent to Disciplinary Panel for sanction. Should there have been a penalty deduction this year or next? A decision was announced that Derby would be fined £100k for transgression. RC has not read opinion yet but it makes no sense. The £100k is nothing to Derby. EFL have done something that have never done before. Issued fixtures today based on where teams were at the end of the season, and they have created a different schedule for WWFC and Derby depending on which league they are in. Papa John’s draw has been done with us in either league. The EFL is looking at this Opinion and decide whether they wish to appeal again regarding the disciplinary measures. League will make this decision in the next week or so. WWFC will look at their rights, do we try and intervene - sought counsel but do not wish to delay proceedings. RC thinks that we probably will not (but will meet with counsel) and deduction could still happen in next 5 weeks (not likely). Deduction could be after start of the season and WWFC would be owed the disparity of income of £10m - £12m between the leagues.

Day after end of last season met with GA to discuss what team we would put together. AH, PC, GA and RC have been meeting regularly going over options of players for a team to compete in the championship. Even accounting for the loss of Fred Onyedinma and Josh Knight we still have good squad and will get better. Came 6th for the second half of the season. Important additions will be coming into the squad and everything we do will make players, staff, off pitch staff believe we are a Championship Club and act like belong there. So, if we are in League 1 then will push for Championship.

**Q.** Who would EFL appeal to regarding this? RC not clear but same 3 people who turned around the last time when Derby appealed last time and Arbitration Panel. Decision today thumbing their nose at people who made the mistake.

AC appreciates not read Opinion in full. Derby state that they have until 18 August to hand in their accounts. It makes any suggestion of any points deduction likely to be next year. RC has not seen that date. Derby are under obligation to amend their accounts.

TH said if EFL decide to appeal, it will be against the sanction which is £100k fine. Restatement of Accounts is a separate issue. Derby could potentially be hit twice.

RC said somewhere there is a statement from Derby that they do not expect the accounting to show they broke the Financial Fair Play and did not break the rules.

PL said thanks to RC for all he is doing. Luton Town lost their place in the Football League when they lost 30 points. Seems equality where clubs are concerned it is one for the elite and different for others.

BM asks if there is any possibility of being resolved legally before the start of the season proper or will we run out of time and stay in League One by default. RC was shocked when the £100k fine was released. Status quo is we are in League One and Derby are not.

**Q.** Quite a lot of press comment about Clubs being interested in Uche. RC says he should still be with us at the start of the season unless someone offers us a lot of money. RC likes that we have several players we get calls about.

**Q.** Do any of the players have relegation clauses in their contracts? RC said no. When contracts done players will suffer as we are in League One instead of Championship. No one can walk away because we are not in Championship. Difficult to go for one or two guys who want/wish to stay in the Championship teams.

BM said he’d read local Derby Mail to find out about what WWFC say about this. Are we not saying anything? RC talked about doing a statement but wanted to see what Panel said before making anything public. RC did 10-minute interview with BBC tonight. Why have rules if no one follows them. Will meet with the solicitors and barristers again (having talked with them over the last 6 weeks) and will take counsel from them. As circumstances allow then will deal with what can happen.

**Q.** Are there any plans to extend the Frank Adams Stand to stop disabled supporters from getting wet? PL advised that the DSA have been around stadium to look at issues that affect people with disabilities of all types. Have a long list of things which could be better, from signage, better toilet facilities, getting wet and potholes. One of the things stressed to get disabled supporters out of the wet and the Club have taken this on board. RC said seen the issue when attended game in the rain. Neil Peters is doing phenomenal job getting properties in order with help from PL. Neil was part of the tour with the DSA and has list and ideas. RC, Neil, PL and DSA supporters to discuss this. TH had a look at a number of schemes to see where they could be placed for better protection and view. Number of plans trying to address but unsure whether will be ready at start of season but will make changes as and when they can and is on the priority list of expenditures.

**Q.** Are WWFC looking at US tour next year for pre-season friendlies. RC said yes. Halifax, Canada as Halifax Wanderers are big on the Worldwide Phenomenon, with second stop in somewhere like Boston and third stop, possibly Houston (but Houston in July is very hot). Aim will be to get ready for new season and spread the message of WWFC and help when competing for potential 18 – 24-year-olds to sign. To be able to put in front of them going to USA for 10 days may help.

**Q.** Why did EFL go for second set of fixtures if no deduction. EFL were probably asked at Hearing if no decision made. EFL would make alternatives schedules available. More could happen and EFL were trying to be generous to all sides.

NK gave thanks to RC for attending the meeting and insights given to all Trust members attending. RC said that when being able to we should meet in person to talk about relationship between Trust and Main Board which is all going well. As this relationship matures we should have a face-to-face meeting as soon as we can. Once Government makes the relevant announcements then will see what is possible.

Meeting finished at 8.10 pm.

Tina Davis

Trust Minute Taker.