

**Our mi MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PART OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29 July 2021 at 7pm at Adams Park**

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) Fundraising and Volunteers

 Russell Jones (RJ) Membership Secretary

 Chris Harvey (CH) FALL Director

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

Apologies: David Roberton..

Plus, Rob Couhig and 35 Trust Members.

NK welcomed everyone to the meeting and a special welcome to Gareth Ainsworth who has come along to participate in a Questions and Answers Session.

Gareth gave us an entertaining interview with insights into his views on the coming season, the new signings and much, much more. It’s available as a video which is exclusively for Trust members. If you’d like to see it, join the Trust now, by going to the Trust website and clicking the JOIN button.

GA drew the ball for the Monthly Quarters Draw. Worth over £600 plus £550 if the Quarters Ball is drawn out first. Winning Number is 342. Mr Trevor Cox owns this ball.

**Items outstanding from last Meeting.**

There were no items outstanding from last meeting. Any matters arising are covered in the rest of the Agenda.

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

**Agenda**:

Reports below are available.

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

**WWFC Women & Under 18 Teams**: **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.**

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

**Community Update**. **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** PL highlighted All Quarters Project which is being funded by Premier League Fans Fund. Joint project between WWT, WWSET and Football Club. Managing demographics of football support and general public in High Wycombe. Cannot force people to come to matches but need to understand why people don’t and if there are any barriers as to why they do not come in. Women and Girls, LGBT communities and various Minority Ethnic communities. Understanding why they are not coming and if there are reasons why they do not come that can be improved by the Club. The DSA say that disappointed that some of the things they have asked for have not been achieved, but many of these are on the list to be completed. All Quarters project being launched Tuesday 4th and anyone wishing to come please advise Paul Foley (WWSET) on Paul.Foley@wwfc.com if coming so that they can make sure there is space in whatever room they use.

**Trust Finance Summary.** **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.**  MB said £126k in bank. Two features were auction and QBC. Looking to try and mix one-off fundraising with sustainable fundraising. Have plan next year and hope will be successful. Share Scheme now completed. 30th June is year end. Regular donations coming through. Members’ subscriptions come through annually in November. Trying to cut costs and generating £2k into the bank. Hope to get in £54-£55k into bank this coming year, if can remain with the same input as last year.

Running another Auction in September so if anyone has anything to add to the Auction please contact J. Jewell on jj.consulting@btinternet.com

**Volunteers:** JJ said Seat Cleaning done Monday and Tuesday. Also, superb work done in Training Ground and around the Club. Now have an up-to-date Volunteer list going forward and thanked everyone for turning up and helping where and when required. Had 29 people on Monday and 21 who came in on Tuesday and every seat in stadium including away stand was cleaned.

**Club Update**:

NK said some issues from last night. Firstly, all friends and part of the Wycombe Wanderers family and first game in stadium in 16 months. Trial event and was published as such. Lots new and different aspects and Club tried very hard to get right.

Car parking -access – Ground is at end of industrial estate. Businesses all the way down and although we talked to them there were still incidences when tractors and trailers doing 3-point turns, which blocked the road. Club is aware and will try and make it incident free as far as possible,

Upper Car Park which members use has capacity for around 400 spaces but reduced to 250 spaces due to fireworks. 150 season passes being sold and then 250 matchday passes which are being presold on a game-by-game basis.

Club have put together Park and Ride services to try and reduce number of people coming to Club in cars.

Covid - Club was following all Government and EFL guidelines regarding Covid and masks and personal space. All staff were wearing masks. Number of people in ground around 4000 home fans and all seats in Frank Adams, PreSonus and Family stand were available and people could move to other seats if they felt crowded.

Wi-Fi – huge investment in stadium and new PA system. Was a glitch and caused knock on effect with Fetch system which caused blockages in bars and waiting times. Meeting took place during second half last night and will continue until Wi-Fi is sorted out. Whole point of Fetch system is to reduce queues in kiosks and bars. Work will continue to improve this.

Few hiccups but a changed stadium to 16 months ago with massive improvements. Wonderful floodlights and great PA system where all could hear. Pitch in fantastic condition and lots of upgrades around the ground that have taken place. Lisa and other weekday volunteers have put a lot of effort in to make it look great. A lot to celebrate last night.

TS said committees formed in Club with Safeguarding and Equity /Diversity issues. Safeguarding officer now hired. Infrastructure – terrace not used as work needed to be done on it, but this work has now been done so will be available for first home game.

TH said that problems due to so much being done and came together last minute. Park n Ride was only completed last Thursday and were unable to get information out as quickly as would have liked. Last night was a definite testing evening. All will not go smoothly from day one but will get more and more right going forward. Feedback forms on website – please use them for constructive feedback. More constructive and helpful with direct feedback rather than social media.

TH reminded that first thing RC had said was he wanted to make the Club sustainable. That means if it is not made so we will all have to put our hands in our pockets. Changes are being made for the betterment of the Club. Nothing is going through that is not being properly assessed and being questioned.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**:

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TRUST MEMBERSHIP**

Rob Couhig updated the meeting and answered members questions.

RC said Missy is still in quarantine and apologies for not attending tonight. This Club structure is unique in Football League. It is a fan led Club. Unique in that it does not own principal asset of Club which is the Stadium. RC has a different position some days for Volunteers. As shareholders place burden for return of investment. Would not be here today without Volunteers. These volunteers are going out at night to water the training club pitch. Volunteers have cleaned all seats.

RC says aim to make ours best digital stadium. Would not be here without Volunteers and 25% shareholders. Trust has to raise funds to look after 25%. RC says he is looking after 100% and would not want to ask for the Trust 25% as he would have to find 75%. There will always be an early warning if new cash needed.. Now in strongest position of most clubs compared to other clubs in EFL. Do not just go out and buy players. Manage the infrastructure first. Now done this. RC is excited and pleased how it is going. Developmental Squad is exciting. Now have 6 offices for staff at TG, rather than 1 previously. Brand new and exciting medical facilities.

Last night was a test. Knew there would be issues. Unable to do much about the companies in Hill Bottom Rd. Limit access to AP for the game. With a Parking Season Pass or pre-bought matchday pass you will be allowed to come in. If you don’t have them – no access.

Park n Ride. 22 people used this last night. Re-orient to get people to use this facility. May do a free park n ride but looking at feasibility.

Number 1 concern.

Food, drink and wireless. By first game of the season will have the best Wi-Fi. Had system glitch. Domino effect made that affected Fetch system did. The kiosks did not have a number on them. There are a number of signage issues and signs will be put up to sort out.

Did better in concessions and merchandise than season before last when Sunderland came. Price charges are set by the concessions for food. RC will be discussing with them to see what they can do.

RC said here to create value for fan. Better burgers cost more as do bigger sodas. We have a good playing squad. Last season we ended the season very well. Sorry to see some go but the new squad will help get to the Championship again next year.

As Trust members, try to sell tickets. Promote the Club to friends. More members bring more revenue.

RC will find out regarding sale of chips.

RC said looking at a few more spots for Park n Ride in different parts of the area. Three types of fans. Those who have passes for the Car Park, those who walk down the street and those who Park n Ride.

 Real Ale in Caledonian? Had to throw away lots of barrels. Rebellion on draught all around the stadium. Support local. Start small and build from there.

RC wants to double crowds in stadium which will help build sales of beers and food.

No hot chocolate available. Will only took kiosks on a month ago and trying to start slowly. All valid suggestions, such as this are being taken seriously. Not here to give away or throw away stock not being used.

 Drive towards digital world is fine but card only and everything has to be on the phone. Should have choice. RC said complaints have come direct to him. RC made decision to go cashless. Less exchange between people during this time is for safety. RC said maximising return and bartender to have to give change takes time. Club made mistake before trying to be all things to all people. RC wants facility to give cash at a point in the club and get a card in exchange. RC said communication about what is going on has not been good. Some of this has not been able to be sent out as there was not enough time once things had been finalised and it was advertised as a trial evening. However, RC committed to get this right.

Meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

Tina Davis

Trust Minute Taker for Agenda A.