



## MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PART A OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Nigel Kingston (NK) Chairman of WWFC Trust Board (Chair)  
Trevor Stroud (TS) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board  
Tony Hector (TH) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board, Society Secretary  
Alan Cecil (AC) FALL Director, Website, Twitter and Facebook supporter interaction  
John Workman (JH) Marketing the Trust Leader  
Lisa Bowker (LB) Assists with Volunteers, "Programme"  
Bob Massie (BM) Vice Chair, Communications, Fundraising and Commercial  
Martyn Broughton (MB) Trust Treasurer, FALL Director  
Chris Harvey (CH) FALL Director  
Emily Isaac (EI) WWW Representative  
Russell Jones (RJ) Membership Secretary  
Ben Dunlop – newly elected Trust Director

Apologies: None

Plus 21 Trust Members who joined the Zoom meeting and 6 Trust members present.

NK welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated LB and AC on being re-elected and welcomed Ben Dunlop to the Trust Board.

### Items outstanding from last Meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 October 2022 were unanimously agreed and NK signed them on behalf of the Trust Board.

### Agenda:

**WWFC Women: Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** EI has returned to assist the WWW Board after an absence to recharge batteries. Welcome back. She will be concentrating on main sponsors liaison. As no men's game, this weekend there is a Ladies Game on this Sunday at Burnham FC and WWFC season ticket holders will only be charged £1. Please come along and support.

**Trust Finance Summary. Circulated to Board and on Website.** We have now started getting membership fees through, October £6k with more to come in November. As mentioned at AGM loaned WWFC £100k on Loan agreement which is repayable once the agreement re share re-organisation is finalised. NK will update on negotiations and as the original 30 days has expired there is now interest payable on loan at 6%.. £96k in bank. £14k which needs to be reserved for other projects which we are waiting to hand over. Interest is now 1.6%. with Redwood Bank.

**AGM Review:** NK said at AGM there were 180 people attending with 93 in the room and 87 online. Pleased to say that due to good work from Bob and Russell the online side went well. In terms of business at AGM all motions were carried unanimously and new Director elections took place. Q&A Session at the end of the AGM was good and had some good content questions and all seemed to be satisfied with the answers.

Although not part of the AGM there was a discussion on the proposed deal on share side and a number of questions asked online which we could not deal with due to time constraints. These have been answered to the incumbent personally and directly. Had no response back from these people and feel they must be satisfied with the answer.

**Membership Renewal Update:** RJ advised that we have 1195 members currently active. A small increase on last year and some people have re-joined and new members as well. January meeting will be able to give final position. Some have moved from annual to monthly payments and this will affect cashflow.

AC said banked £18k in November and now up to £25,300 compared to £27.9k last year. Half of the difference is that we do not have Gold membership this year as it has been discontinued. 23 people have cancelled their standing order, 2 RIP and some have switched to Go Cardless, 3 moved away and cancelled. 9 have cancelled for no obvious reason. RJ and AC will start chasing nonpayers. RJ said re communication with members we have had issues with emails with some members due to technical problems with our provider. Over coming months will try and sort out asap. All emails from the Trust, are also published on the Trust website. Can contact RJ on is [membership@wycombewandererstrust.com](mailto:membership@wycombewandererstrust.com) Someone has asked whether are we charging enough? AC said we have a good retention rate with members wanting to remain in the Trust. There is an option to pay into the QBC draw as well as pay the £30. This can also give funds back and also anyone wishing to donate can do so through the website. NK said one of the changes of people moving from one off payment to monthly payment will make a difference.

**“Programmes” Proposal:** This was being led by JJ who stood down at AGM and LB can bring us up to date as she is now heading this up. LB said that JJ will be part of the working team as well as EI. There is one other person she is going to speak to join the working party. Hopes to do the first one in February/March and do a review in the summer, of the Season. TH says we need to reach out to the membership for help with this. Can we ask membership if people can volunteer with knowledge of different parts of managing a programme. NK said that when narrowed down to exactly what help we are looking for NK will send out to the membership these specifics.

AC asked if it should not be called a programme but a publication. Will this still be attractive to away fans. LB said they will look into how it can appeal to away fans.

LB has also been able to persuade JJ to continue to help with the Auctions which have been so successful.

**Club Update:** TH and TS had little to add to what has been said over the last few weeks. Had a Board meeting while RC was over and one question was whether AP was available to sell, but both TH and TS said definitely not. Curtis Thompson making good progress following operation and Dom Gape is close to recovering. Lack of scoring is being shared with management and GA is very aware.

**Safeguarding:** TS said there is still work in background. Expect Barnados back in December. Made good progress from Audit in April. Confident they will be impressed with what has been achieved. Low level issues raised and being dealt with.

**QBC Ball Draw:** Quite a lot of money comes in on 25<sup>th</sup> and we hope it will be bigger than £760 but cannot confirm as all monies not in yet. On 17<sup>th</sup> November Square changed the fee structure without notification. We were being charged 1.9% and now 1.4% plus a charge of 25p per transaction. Will lose an extra £60 which will come from the Trust share, and not the prize fund.

November Draw will be held before Portsmouth game on 4<sup>th</sup> December in the Trust gazebo in the car park..

The draw for December will be on Boxing Day before the game with Bristol Rovers.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. TH said that last week attended a meeting at the EFL in London and 4 key issues on agenda. Fan Led Review – been reconfirmed that the All-Party Parliamentary Group are still looking at pressing the Premier League for £250m redistribution for EFL. Premier League have come up with a proposal and the key issues are that they are willing to give £170m to EFL but there are a number of conditions that they want to negotiate. The main thing is that the figure of £170m is the bottom line. If they use the model currently in use we may end up with approx. + £4m together with other League 1 clubs. Gamble Aware – issues with problems over the last few months and a huge concern that the world Cup will increase the issue of gambling problems and active campaign ongoing which will need everyone's support. Information can be found on the website. Crowd behaviour is a massive issue partly because the police chief who is the Lead on this is being controversial. Using some small issues and blowing them out of proportion. Using things that are not criminal for the public and pressing that for football they are criminal. FSA trying to make sure that football supporters are treated as any other member of public. Streaming – ongoing discussion with EFL, Premier League and Fans regarding blackout for 3pm kick offs. Complex issue and one that there is insufficient data on effect of broadcasting at 3pm on crowd attendance. Trying to get more data from clubs and will be more data due to World Cup as now EFL can stream due to this and will look at effect from this.
2. AC asked if no meeting in December next year's meetings will still be on the same day each month. TH will circulate dates for 2023.
3. AC we were discussing doing our own Skills Audit and useful to know what skills are out there in the membership. Whether it is people able to provide a skill i.e. profession or as a volunteer. Maybe send out a request for members to do this.
4. AC asked if Gazebo will be available for next meeting and NK confirmed it is arriving tomorrow.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TRUST MEMBERSHIP

**Streaming** – how can they compare the streaming figures for the World Cup and League One. The only way to find out about attendance figures is to do trials. This would only be the reliable way of finding it. TH said have little data and if start streaming will not be able to trial and then stop. Once started it will be difficult to stop.

**Gambling** – C Hendren asked if people know how bad gambling is and highlighted the EFL is sponsored by Sky Bet. TH said unfortunately the problem at the moment is that there are contracts in place between Sky Bet and the EFL and unlikely anything will change until the end of these contracts and TH says EFL and FA aware of issues and FSA supporting as well. Could Trust send out a message – TH said have done practical things like putting things on website etc. NK said trouble with statements is it only one moment and then gone. EFL and Sky Bet deal finishes in 2024.

A number of years ago a Safe Standing Day was requested by a fan. Hope there will continue to be a safe standing stand. CH said involved with Trust and RC in the Stadium redesign and that the design for the new terrace will have safe standing.

**Sustainability** What does the Board think needs to be done to bring the Club back to sustainability. NK said that RC outlined his views on sustainability 2 weeks ago and is aiming for long term sustainability and is willing to fund the gap in the short term and will take on the losses short term. The Trust have put forward points on numerous occasions that sustainability is the way forward to the Club Board meetings. The Club board takes decisions on how much money is spent and budgets to put in place.

Can TS confirm whether he is aware of some members thinking of legally challenging the sale of the 15% of the Trust. TS/NK will speak face to face to those people involved.

Will Trust as 25% members be provided with a full financial report of the Football Club. TH advised that unfortunately the Company does not have to share more than the legal minimum amount and at the moment this is all the Couhigs wish to allow to be shared. NK said has pushed RC to be as transparent as possible as far as finances are concerned. NK pleased that RC opened up the numbers regarding the forecast losses, cash differences and short-term capex expenditures in short and medium term. Trust worked hard to have this made public. TH said if want to try and do something write to your MP and get them to support an Independent Regulator and part of this there is a stronger likelihood of Clubs in general make this information public. About 60% of Clubs do not publish full financial figures. The Audit is underway at present and unsure when completed. In terms of what is being sent to members and shareholders does not think this will change. Everything that we have that we can share with the Trust

membership we do, but there is some information cannot share legally as belongs to the Football Club and they decide what can be shared.

On 4 December do we know what time the bars and ground are open. NK will find out and send out a message.

What model gives £4m to League One – TH advised that it is per Club and averages out to 75% to the Championship 15% to League One and 10% to League Two.

Thank you from John Taylor to all those who attended the WWEPA dinner where Richard Dobson. Gareth Ainsworth and Matt Bloomfield were honoured.

Have the Club looked at replacing the Goalkeeping Coach and Coaching staff. Some concern re numbers on the management side but may not replace every vacancy.

NK said no Trust Board meeting in December but Trust members can continue to be in touch with Trust Board members during this time – please raise issues with NK and other Trust directors. The Trust table at home matches is a good vehicle for this. NK will also try and do two monthly updates during December.

The next meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January2023.

Meeting finished at 7.55 pm.

**Tina Davis**

Trust Minute Taker for Part A.