



MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PART A OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Nigel Kingston (NK) Chairman of WWFC Trust Board (Chair)
Martyn Broughton (MB) Trust Treasurer, FALL Director
Tony Hector (TH) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board, Society Secretary
Alan Cecil (AC) FALL Director, Website, Twitter and Facebook supporter interaction
Lisa Bowker (LB) Assists with Volunteers
Bob Massie (BM) Communications, Fundraising and Commercial
Russell Jones (RJ) Membership Secretary (via Zoom)
Chris Harvey (CH) FALL Director (via Zoom)
Emily Isaac (EI) WWW Representative
Ben Dunlop - new Trust member

Apologies: Trevor Stroud (TS) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board
John Workman (JH) Vice Chair and Marketing the Trust Leader

Plus 25 Trust Members who joined the Zoom meeting and 11 Trust members present.

NK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Items outstanding from last Meeting.

Communication – this is still being worked on. Thanks to Jamie Kettlewell who has been a big help to RJ regarding updating the In Touch CRM system.

Individual trust members to help at Trust Table on match days. Have cover for the next 2 matches. BD responsible.

Evening function with Dean Saunders was a success and Chris Harvey represented the Trust and over 100 people attended. Football Club were pleased with the event.

Safeguarding – discussion regarding the second Barnardo's audit had taken place and report has now been received and whilst there is a lot of ticks there is still some criticism of things that need to be done. The EDIS Steering Group will be picking this up over the next few weeks.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February 2023 were unanimously agreed and NK signed them on behalf of the Trust Board.

Agenda:

WWFC Women: Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.

In order to determine the best way to attract more supporters to Chairgirls home games, WWW are launching a short survey to find out what fans and Trust members want and we want your feedback to help drive the club forward.

EI would like members to take part by clicking this link <https://forms.gle/smeZTRmZZWRaYw9UA>

Currently have 2 lads on work experience and it is going well and may well continue this going forward.

Anyone interested please contact EI.

Trust Finance Summary. Circulated to Board and on Trust Website. MB - not much happened in January. No extraordinary expenditure and normal income. Income stable and interim costs for legal costs for refinancing negotiations, now received. There will be a small deficit in February and numbers will be published on the website. £3733 paid towards the refinancing but not final figures. £116k in bank. Plus loan of £100k to be repaid by Football Club. Monies have been reserved for QBC bonus, OWWSA donation to WWFC, All Quarters, WWFCW and Muslim Ifta celebration. Donation to WW Women Teams on hold for when they require it. Also money on hold for DSA Sensory Room when required.(All Quarters)

Next Trust Auction: LB updated on this. Auction is from 28 March – 1 April. Donations will be gratefully received. Please contact LB or NK. Previous ones successful, raising on average £1k each.

Update on Fan Led Review White Paper: Published 10 days ago. TH updated regarding this. Vast majority of contents has been accepted and adopted by the White Paper. FSA are fully behind it. Some people in football are against it but most of the Football Community is behind it including a large number of Premier League Clubs. Concerns raised are FIFA will be looking at the proposals and considering whether it contravenes their Articles. FIFA had not actually commented but one of the leading lawyers said that what has been proposed is unlikely to trigger concerns to FIFA.

Next steps – targeted consultation process with the key stakeholders (FSA, Trust Associations, Premier League and EFL) and likely to last no more than 4 weeks. The Government will then review and update the Proposals. Legislation will then be introduced to Parliament through the King's Speech. Unlikely to be completed before next Parliamentary Session. Expected that any legislation should pass without difficulty and hopefully be introduced for 24/25 season. Disappointing that the White Paper did not address financial distribution. Premier League have already "offered" 19% (extra c. £1.3m per League 1 Club), the EFL are looking for 25% (extra c.£1.8m per League 1 Club) per season so benchmark set at 19% at least. Premier League are not in any rush to increase distribution until they absolutely must. EFL have asked for review of the broadcasting deals that are in place at present and a number of expressions of interest from online and streaming platforms and if it comes off then could see EFL increase from £119m to over £200m per year. All looking positive.

AC joined Zoom call with Sports Minister after the publication. Appointment of Independent Regulator (IR) and how they would be paid – this will be via a levy on all participating Clubs. The IR will be able to look at finances of individual clubs and proper owner and director's tests and fans are put front and centre of clubs. Enshrined rights are included in this as some clubs have not got this organised. NK said as a Trust we are 100% behind this and tend to work through the FSA. 6 richest Clubs will cover 50% of the IR and Premier League as a whole will cover 80%.

Trust Agreement with Rob Couhig Update: NK advised that it is taking longer than expected. When RC was over 10 days ago there was a meeting to iron out some issues. RC was then involved with the move of GA. NK spoke with lawyers quite a bit in the last few days. Some issues still being discussed and mostly legal. Clean Agreement due soon, which will allow us to look at and see whether we are then happy with this. Hope to get it signed within the next few weeks once it has been approved by the Trust Board.

DSA Update/All Quarters Update: DSA – committee meeting was held 2 days ago. NK spent some time a few weeks ago with Peter Lerner. PL was at Training ground today and is slowly on the mend. Hopes to be at the Exeter game on Saturday. No further buses booked as no uptake for the Ipswich Game (on Good Friday). Having a change in staffing as Claire McMackin is leaving and Jeff Brydon is taking over the membership and Gee Grou is taking over as secretary until Peter Lerner comes back. Quiet Room is taking shape but no launch date as yet as Football Club are managing this. Have an open meeting on 13th April at 6.30pm in Monty's. Everyone welcome to attend. Saturday game v Exeter will have a table in Caledonian Suite with leaflets and other information regarding the DSA so please go along and have a chat. AC will put any content given on the website and social media.

All Quarters – NK said during Ramadan the Muslim Community at the end of the day hold an Iftar and have prayers and break their fast. Often done as a community rather than individual gathering. Club and Trust holding an Iftar on 24 March where the local community Muslim Leaders will hold prayers on the pitch and then break the fast in the Caledonian Suite. Everyone invited to join in and would be welcome. NK will send out details fairly soon.

Cost of Living Tickets: TH launched this a few weeks ago and anyone can nominate someone to have the opportunity to come to a game. First one nominated was well past retirement age but has to continue working due to financial circumstances. Have not been able to attend a game for 2 years due to cost and we are happy to give them the tickets. Please contact NK or TH with nominations. It is confidential and anonymous unless the recipient is willing for it to be publicised.

Club Update: CH updated on road planning. Planner came back to us and we need to enter into negotiations with the Highway Department for which a fee is required. This will be paid tomorrow so that we can talk to them.

TH said the success of the Warm Hub has been great and therefore decided to continue for March. Discussions regarding upgrade of the pitch is ongoing and is likely to happen during the off season. Some work will be done on the Stadium and some good upgrades should happen during the close season.

Good to see reestablishment of working with Bucks New University and both sides should benefit.

Mentioned Coronation Weekend and rescheduling of games. FSA had discussion with EFL on why they were not consulted before the announcement. They are still awaiting a response. Issue raised concerning use of VAR in the FA Cup, as it's only used in some games and not others. Discussions will be held with the FA as to now this will work going forward as uneven playing. Quarter Finals were originally going to require VAR for all home games but this is not now going forward.

Meeting with EFL next week from FSA representatives but this has been put back a few weeks. It is to discuss the White Paper.

TH said that Matt Bloomfield said that Tafazolli back on the grass.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. LB said a lady is interested in knitting Gonks to order. Will be at the Trust Table to see if any interest.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TRUST MEMBERSHIP

1. Nigel Vickery– has concerns regarding away supporters coming into the Caledonian Room which takes away seating for home supporters. Stewards were aware but as they were not harming anyone they let them stay. Our supporters are having to queue outside. Club view is for home supporters only and away supporters should be in the Away Village. Will check with Steve Copp that this is mentioned at the Steward Matchday Briefing.
2. Any plans to have a Trust Board member with a Sustainability Hat and work alongside David Wheeler (Sustainability Ambassador) to take things forward. NK thinks it is a brilliant suggestion and the Trust Board will pick this up. CH said as part of the role of looking at the Stadium is sustainability. Part of discussions with the Stadium Committee.
3. Reference sale of AM and move by GA in the last month – do we know what RC will be doing with the funds generated. Not aware of funds that have come in. Assume compensation for GA leaving but no details at this time. Fair to say that there will be some substantial amount of money from these transactions. Could use it to reduce debt/potential debt or use to invest in some areas of the stadium that need doing. The Trust will try to get an answer to these questions. The Trust are willing to help with funding the improvements to the Stadium in the future.

QBC Ball Draw: Sold 997 balls. Some new people came in this month. Guaranteed Prize £797.60 and if blue ball comes out total of £4721.20. Raised £18642 in 23 draws and paid out over £15k in prizes. This month's winner is Ball 147: Will Jewell is the winner. AC has been asked how long to let the bonus ball run. Options available and the Trust Board will discuss this and make a recommendation.

The next meeting will be held on 30 March 2023.

Meeting finished at 8 pm.

Tina Davis

Trust Minute Taker for Part A.