



## MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PART A OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 April 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Nigel Kingston (NK) Chairman of WWFC Trust Board (Chair)  
Trevor Stroud (TS) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board  
John Workman (JH) Vice Chair and Marketing the Trust Leader  
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 and Auction (via Zoom)  
Bob Massie (BM) Communications, Fundraising and Commercial  
Chris Harvey (CH) FALL  
Emily Isaac (EI) WWW Representative  
Ben Dunlop - Trust Table

Apologies: Russell Jones (RJ) Membership Secretary

Plus 12 Trust Members who joined the Zoom meeting and 4 Trust members present.

NK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Items outstanding from last Meeting.**

No items are outstanding. One point raised regarding potential of renaming the Caledonian Suite. TS has spoken to the FC and at present negotiations with someone and this may include the naming of the Caledonian Suite but TS will let us know once this has been finalised.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 March 2023 were unanimously agreed and NK will sign them on behalf of the Trust Board.

### **Agenda:**

**WWFC Women: Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** EI advised that Sunday 14 May is Sponsors Day at Burnham FC. The Women's 1<sup>st</sup> team are playing Maidenhead ladies for the "Sponsors Cup" – 2pm kick off. Entry £1.50 per adult and free for U18. Refreshment kiosk and bar open as usual. Please come and join us.

Match v Cheltenham on Saturday the WWFC Women's Team will be at the Trust Table from about 1pm onwards. Josh Drake from Swish Fibre will also be there (key sponsor of the Women's Team). The Women's team will be pitch side at 2.30pm.

**Trust Finance Summary. Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** 2 lots of QBC prizes paid out in March. Had sundry costs as bought a few new signs for the Trust table. Zoom annual fee is £120 and also some other sundry expenses. In bank £117k. Commitments of £13761. Nothing more new this month. Auction money will come through during April which generated over £1200 profit.

**Trust Agreement with Rob Couhig Update:** Now in final stages. Agreement in line with what was discussed at meeting on 9 November 2022 and Heads of Terms that were signed at the time. The final documents from both sets of lawyers have just been received today. Hope to be able to make full announcement in very near future. In an interview RC did on Wanderers TV he expressed a certain amount of frustration with time it took to complete negotiations and the Trust echo this sentiment. Once we have this deal completed NK will make a statement about the negotiations but everything the Trust has done has been in the interest of the Club and Trust members and supporters.

**DSA Update:** TS advised that an open meeting was held on 13 April 2023. Well attended and worthwhile meeting. David Wheeler joined the meeting for 20 minutes via Zoom. The Level Playing Field audit has been received. We are prioritising 19 points raised and work will be done during the closed season. Clarifications on ticketing system and how to go about it was discussed regarding carers and renewals. Members have found this helpful when trying to renew. Disabled seating and parking are now more easily managed. Not all disabilities are visible. TH advised that the Trust had examined becoming a Charity to assist the DSA. He said that this has previously been explored and TH has discussed again with the FSA. Although we could become a Charitable Benefits Society – the governing regulations would add a significant level of restriction as to what the Trust could and could not do. Any funds that the Trust raised could only be used for charitable donees and this would not benefit the DSA. We also would not be able to help the Football Club either with any expenses. As a Community Benefit Society (our current status) can raise funds to benefit the community and could have access to other charitable institutions funding “pots” that we may have previously considered closed to us. FSA said we have more flexibility as a Community Benefits Society without charitable status. BD and TH will meet with Luke Godfrey at the Foundation on how to find further sources for assistance with funding. Will report to next board meeting.

**Club Update: TS:** Disappointment not making Play-offs but the Club generally is in good shape and, unlike previous seasons, have made early announcements of signings rather than leaving it to last minute. RC is aware that we now have a core of a team and need to bring new players in as well as allow some members of the team to depart. Installation of a completely new pitch will not happen this season but will scrape and restitch the pitch. Also will get growing lights for winter. Safeguarding – progress with the EFL. Mark Derring is a linesman on the committee and very supportive of the Club with the issues with Barnados. Barnados will be doing another audit, probably in November. Also set targets by EFL for achievement and will be submitting our report for the bronze assessment next month which is 3 months ahead of schedule. We will then start working on the silver. Being driven throughout the Club.

TH said that RC has mentioned season tickets and no increase in pricing if renewed before 5 May but there will be graded increases after this date. Monthly subscription is working very well. Up to 65% of season ticket holders now on subscription basis. Helpful to those with cost-of-living issues. Budget is being finalised and will be brought to the Club Board shortly.

Fan Led Review is progressing and should be in the next King’s Speech. Hopefully regulator in place for 24/25 season but hope to get a shadow regulator in time for this coming season. Still no financial distribution agreement between Premier League and EFL. The Premier league launched its Fan Guidance Statement. More clear standards with Club and Fan engagement. The EFL has not issued any similar guidance at this stage.

DCMS have held their first meeting regarding first Women’s Football review. Stakeholders invited to submit evidence. The findings will be published later this Summer.

**WWFCW Constitution:** NK and TH have put together a Constitution for the WWFCW to formalise the arrangements between the Women’s Team, the Trust and the Football Club. Clear about their aims. Has been circulated to Trust Board and before this can be put into place the Trust Board have to agree to approve the Constitution.

AC says refers to Service Level Agreement – TH said not been written yet but it will once the constitution is in place..

The Football Club do not need to approve the Constitution but it will form part of the Service Level Agreement so that both sides know what is expected of the other.

AC asked whether there would be more funding requests from WWFCW to the Trust and TH said that this will happen. AC advised that he would like more financial details on next year's budgets. TH said that they are currently finalising the budget for next season and will respond when this is complete.

The Trust Board agreed unanimously approved the Constitution.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. AC asked for update re extension of road. CH advised that we are waiting for a date from the Council and has no further information at present.
2. NK is appealing to all members. Trust table in the car park at every home game. There for members to ask questions of the Trust Board or find out what is going on with the Trust and the Club. The level of engagement between Directors and fans generally could be higher and we are, as a Trust, going to look at this over the summer. If any members have any thoughts please let NK know how it can be improved going forward.

#### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TRUST MEMBERSHIP**

1. What is going to happen to subscription rates with the increase. If season ticket price goes up then will the subscription rates also increase. What does this mean to those who already have a subscription. NK will get clarification and will send out a Trust update once he has the answer.

Subsequent to the meeting this response was received from the Club - "If you are currently a subscription holder, your price will remain frozen for the 23/24 season. It is only new subscriptions that are set up after the 19th May that will be affected by the price change."

2. Does the Trust have any plans to improve the coverage of WWFC Women's Games? Live updates go out on Twitter during the game. No live videos but highlights after the game are available a few days later via Twitter. NK advised that we could talk to Phil Catchpole to see whether can have some space on Wanderers TV for this.

**QBC Ball Draw:** Sold 1029 balls. Prize £823.20 and if blue ball comes out add £4356.40. Ball No. 87 was pulled out and the winner is Chris Brooker..

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25 May 2023 at 7pm.

Meeting finished at 7.44 pm.

**Tina Davis**

Trust Minute Taker for Part A.