



Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A

Meeting held in RGB Legends Lounge and on Zoom

Date: 14 March 2023

Trustees present: Nick Hawker, Julen Beer, Steven Chown, , Nick Edwards, Pete Ferlie, Doug Gillard, Clive Harrison, Richard Knight, , Will Barrett, Kayleigh Jade West

Apologies: Jamie Pelmeur, Mark Cordell

Officers Present: Steve Chudley (Finance Officer), Phil Burden (Secretary), Pete Cordwell (Minute Taker), Ryan Ilott (Membership Secretary).

Apologies: None

Members Present: Tom Brooks, Neil Le Milliere, George Martin

Part B Summary:

Under Part B of the Trust Board Meeting the Trust Board,

1. Received an update on the Jevani Brown situation.
2. Received an update from the last Club Board Meeting.
3. Discussed both new kit suppliers and front of shirt sponsors.

Approval of minutes from February meeting

Approval of Part A Minutes for February. The wording on the Director for the Day page on the website needs updating. Proposed by Nick Edwards, seconded by Julen Beer. The minutes were approved with two abstentions.

Matters Arising

None

Update of Part A matters from Chair

The Club has received a sponsorship proposal for the upstairs bar of £5k ex VAT per year for three years from Au vodka. John Lewis do not object. Proposal by NH to accept sponsorship. Approved unanimously.

Other updates:

- The Chair noted he's seeing much more of Gary Caldwell than his predecessor.
- The CHTG opening has gone really well and the intention is to have a TB at the CH in the future.
- The Chair is speaking at a Fair Game Event on transparency in football on Friday.
- The Supporters Annual Report is now finalised and should be published on the website on Thursday.
- The data in the current membership access database is in a good place. There are currently 3726 members excluding Junior Grecians.
- Very Connect system is undergoing testing, an issue with Junior Grecians has been identified and a meeting with Very Connect is planned to discuss the testing.
- The Chair will host Richard Pym and his wife at the Bolton game. On the Friday before the game an exhibition dedicated to Dick Pym will launch at Topsham Museum. This will be the focus of Trust ownership 20th Anniversary for April.
- Flowers will be laid at the Heavitree Cemetery grave of Arthur Chadwick who played for Accrington before out game with Stanley.

The TB has an option to purchase a limited number of 20th Anniversary medals. Some will be sold and some given away. The front will have the "Proud to be Supporter Owned" on the front. The rear design is to be decided. The aim is for the Trust to recover the costs. The TB approved this unanimously.

Other Part A business

Working Group Terms of Reference

Revised Terms of Reference (TORs) the four Trust Board Working Groups in consistent format were contained within the meeting pack. They all need to align with the wording of the Trust Strategy. Steve Chown agreed to review and ensure these were consistent with each other and the strategy. Julen Beer will make sure they are consistent with the Trust communications style guide before they are published on the website.

Working Group Updates.

Minutes of recent Working Group meetings can be found on the Trust Website under Trust Board/Meeting Agendas. You will then be able to read the minutes of the Working Groups within the Trust Board agenda.

Trust Finance Group

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15th so no minutes. SC stated he would be shortly approaching WG leads for their 23/24 budgets.

The monthly account contains a donation from the estate of Chris Woolacott which was gratefully received.

Ownership and Membership Group

RK welcomed our new Membership Secretary, Ryan Ilott who was attending his first meeting. A handover between Ryan and Celia will take place on Wednesday 15th. The One Club Group continues to meet but the push will await the season ticket launch. The Supporters Experience Round Table was excellent and some comments have been published on the website. The work is now to look at the suggestions. On questioning it was confirmed at least four of the fifteen attending were under 30 years old. A new complaints process has been launched via the SEC. Events next week include:

- Grecian Groups Forum
- Fans Forum on Wednesday 22nd March
- Evening with Brian McDermott on Friday 24th March.

The City For All initiative has been a success with demand exceeding donations however individual feedback has been extremely positive. It should be noted that this was a Trust member suggestion. Season ticket holders have been emailed about donating tickets that they cannot use.

Communication and Engagement Group

Minutes of the last meeting are in the pack. The comms team has access to Very Connect for familiarisation purposes in advance of the launch. The comms group has agreed a style guide for the Trust to make sure communications are consistent. This will be provided to the club and we will access their guide to make sure everything is consistent.

The comms team lead on the Fan Lead Review for both the club and the Trust.

The Chair asked whether the Trust should consider responding to people on social media other than with matter of fact. This will be discussed.

Community Working Group

The next meeting is scheduled for the 23rd March so no minutes. For the first time The South West Supporters Trust Group minutes are included in the meeting pack.

The CWG will coordinate with CCT on a joint approach to the Exeter Respect Festival.

Any Other Business

Steve Chown thanked CCT for their invitation to the Women's game. It was a really good occasion and the team performed.

Will Barrett minuted his thanks to the club and supporters trust for accommodating the Alright Mate Men's Mental Health awareness campaign at the Cambridge United game. Thanks to the campaign, Alright Mate have received a tremendous amount of engagement and feedback, including people from within our fanbase who are now seeking the support they need. Alright mate is a small local charity who have the potential to make a big difference - not least given that suicide is the biggest killer of young men in our community - so I'm grateful that the ECFC family has been able to support them. As Nick has already said this evening, if our actions just help one person then these things are always worthwhile.

Additionally, a note the thanks from ECCT and the Women's team for the club and Trust's ongoing support. Far too many people to thank everyone individually for Sunday but special thanks to David Gribble, Clive Harrison, Justin Quick, Carrie Gillan, Zandie Thornton, Craig Bratt, Charlie Woolnough, Richard Knight and all staff and volunteers for their efforts in the build-up to the game and on the day itself.

It was another incredible occasion and positive milestone in the development of women and girls' football in Devon, as well as a wonderful engagement opportunity for families, some of whom will have come to St James Park for the first time.

Phil Burden noted than the next meeting would be his last meeting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th April.