



We Own Our Football Club

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting 9 March 2020 Minutes Part A

Meeting held at: Box 2, St James Park

Date: 9 March 2020

Trustees present: Nick Hawker (Chair), Neil Le Milliere, Jon Beer, Clive Harrison, Pete Martin, Yasmin Western, Elaine Davis, Richard Knight, Peter Holding, Doug Gillard, Mark Cordell

Officers present: Phil Burden (Secretary), Simon Larkins (Minute Taker)

Guests present: Justin Quick (Club Chief Operating Officer)

Apologies: Will Barrett, Steve Chudley, Alice Cooke

Approval of the minutes

Neil Le Milliere noted that in the chairman's update, the word remuneration was used, when it should read remuneration. This was noted and added that the minutes would be amended accordingly.

The approval of the minutes, on this basis, was proposed by Elaine Davis and seconded by Pete Martin, with Mark Cordell abstaining.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

1. AFC Wimbledon and the FSA

Neil Le Milliere said on the matter of the FSA's decision to buy a £5,000 bond from AFC Wimbledon to help with the cost of their new stand, there had been a further statement from the chair of the FSA and he had put forward further justification for why he, and the whole FSA board, thought it was appropriate. Neil said he would look into circulating that statement to Trustees so they could see the FSA's thought process.

2. Election of the deputy chair

The Chair stated that three people had expressed an interest in becoming deputy chair of the Trust and, with the board's approval, he would be responding to those Trustees privately.

3. Merchandise Trust 20

Elaine Davis gave an update on the Trust 20 merchandise. Originally the Trust was planning on getting Trust 2020 t-shirts to sell. The Trust have got enough shirts for Saturday for the flag bearers, the Junior Grecians, who are carrying out the newly commissioned Trust flag and the players to wear when they warm up. There would be a few then left o keep back to have signed to sell. The Trust had decided not to go down the road of selling any t-shirts in the shop, following a chat to club ticketing and retail manager Alan Hay.

4. Photography exhibition in the Centre Spot

Neil Le Milliere placed on record a thanks to Trustee Will Barrett for his work on the photography exhibition in the Centre Spot. He had noted that it had been hugely popular amongst supporters, especially on matchday.

Chair's update

The chair stated progress on the strategic plan is healthy and he was more confident now of it being completed by the end of month. Some of the financials are still absent but are in progress, in particular evidence to support our belief that we could be a sustainable EFL League One side under our current ownership model.

The chair said that he had been concerned that the Trust was not going to complete the strategy by the end of March, which has been promised to the club board, but Richard Knight had done some fantastic work, for the family side of things, and Elaine Davis and Doug Gillard had done some great work on community and work had been planned for the communication side of the report. So, he was pleased it was coming together and the only real piece that hasn't been started on was the financials. So he and Peter (Holding) would have to try and put some numbers down on that to convince people that Exeter City can be a sustainable League One side. He thanked everyone for their efforts because it is turning into quite an attractive document that The Trust could present to the club board.

The chair also added that Will Barrett had done a small test on the electronic voting system for the next Trust elections. Will Barrett had set aside some time next month to get in touch with election group.

However, as Phil Burden was going to be away, the chair said he would liaise with Will to get a proper test up and running.

Salford City – Trust20 celebrations

Elaine Davis gave an update on the Trust20 celebrations at the game against Salford City on March 14. A5 flyers were coming with the matchday programme on Friday, March 13, which would have some history of the Trust on one side and some of the photographic exhibition – which is to be displayed near the Thatchers' Big Bank – on the other. Trustee Yas Western was appearing on the club's Park Life YouTube programme to promote the celebrations and 19 photographs were to be unveiled near the Thatchers' Big Bank to celebrate the 20 years of Trust ownership. The plan was then to get fans to vote on the final photograph – No. 20 – from this year. On Saturday, there would be a message on the LED boards about the celebrations and also in the matchday announcements. The 2020 badges are set to arrive by then and the players are due to warm up in 2020 logo t-shirts and the guard of honour will be wearing these t-shirts as well. RGB Building Supplies had also given the Trust six places in hospitality, because they are sponsoring the match, and the Trust had raffled those places off as prizes to raise £360. FSA are also filming at Saturday's game with Salford and the club shop was also offering a 20 per cent discount for Supporters' Trust members as long as they had their membership card.

Trust Board group updates

Ownership and membership group

Mark Cordell gave an update on the Supporters' Trust and charitable donations. Last year the Trust gave £950 to the women's team, £500 to the disabilities team and £750 to the match sponsorship of the women's game, at SJP, against Buckland Athletic. There was also £1,500 given to the Sporting Memories group. These all fall under the banner of CITY Community Trust. Outside that a further £2,000 was given to general charitable donations.

This year, only £250 worth of charitable donations have been made, along with the £950 given to the women's team. The OWG's recommendation is that going forward and allocation of up to £2,000 is given to requests made that fall under the banner of CITY Community Trust and then a further £1,000 is allocated to external charities. It was also noted that it would be good to pick a charity theme for that £1,000

of external donations so that 50 per cent of the money could be aimed towards that, with this year's cause being mental health charities. Mark Cordell ended his update by saying he would give the Trustees a chance to look at the figures, as shared in the OWG minutes, before a final decision was made.

Communications group

Peter Martin said the communication group were meeting more quickly than normal to discuss strategy issues on communication and engagement. The next meeting was planned for Thursday, March 26.

Community group

Doug Gillard reported that the Trust had had a good chat with the district councillor for this area and set out what they want to achieve. Looking at the Respect festival they were going to stay away from the football side of things and talk about what the Trust does in terms of sponsoring the women's team, the history content and the sporting memories. It is a way of showing how the Trust is investing in the community in the hope that the community will invest in the Trust.

Any other business

Network meeting and Non League finals day

Neil Le Milliere asked for anybody to mention anything that needed raising for the Network League One and League Two meeting. He also added that he would be organising a bigger group to the Non League Finals day at Wembley and tickets would be available at a subsidised cost and anybody interested needed to contact him.

Bath City redevelopment

Yas Western said that fellow community owned club Bath City were expecting a decision on whether they have got planning approval to redevelop their ground. She said it was worth keeping an eye on and, if the Trust is looking building relations with fellow clubs in the south west, it might be something worth putting out a statement on the decision.

FoodCycle dinner

Simon Larkins thanked the Supporters' Trust for hosting the FoodCycle dinner, on Sunday, March 8, and those that attended the meal. Initial figures put the money raised for the charity at over £600.