

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A

Meeting held on Zoom

Date: 13th December 2021

Trustees present: Nick Hawker, Will Barrett, Mark Cordell, Elaine Davis, Nick Edwards, Pete Ferlie, Doug Gillard, Clive Harrison, Richard Knight, Neil Le Milliere,

Apologies: Julen Beer, Kayleigh Jade West

Officers present: Steve Chudley (Finance Officer), Phil Burden (Secretary), Pete Cordwell (Minutes Taker), Celia Lowman (Membership Secretary)

Member Present: Alistair Yates

Part B Summary

Under Part B of the Trust Board meeting, the Trust Board:

1. Received feedback on the last Club Board meeting from the Trust Nominated Directors.
2. Were informed about improvements to membership records.
3. Heard that the Club had been congratulated by the FA for the way in which the Bradford City affair (subs/2nd replay) had been handled. Foodbanks in Exeter and Bradford have received £7,000 each
4. Discussed a new potential badge design.

Approval of minutes from November Meeting

Approval of Part A minutes proposed by Richard Knight, seconded by Doug Gillard

The minutes were unanimously approved

Matters Arising

Discussion about improvements to election system.

2022 Election Improvements

1. Remove the deadline for requesting a candidate pack.
2. Add information about the ability of members to nominate more than one candidate up to the total number of candidates.
3. Allow electronic signatures on candidate nomination forms.
4. Reduce the period for submission of a candidate nomination, possibly from six weeks to three or four but expand the period once the candidates are announced but the voting isn't open.
5. Have a more informal "Meet the Candidate's" session.
6. Reduce the period for vote counting given the use of electronic voting.
7. Do the hustings on Zoom, it's so much easier.
8. Check numbers for hustings, eight this year would not have worked all at once.
9. For current trustees, enable voters to view previous manifesto.
10. Possibly amend the five questions approach for it to be a video answer. Obviously the candidates would have the questions in advance.

It was felt paper ballots should continue, particularly as it was so close this year. In any case, the constitution would need amending if they were to be abolished.

For hustings, Zoom would be preferable. Can be recorded and out within an hour.

It was agreed that videos would appeal to younger members. PB, WB and JS to meet to discuss.

Update of Part A matters from Chair.

After last month's appointments by the Trust Board I can confirm that following Richard Pym's resignation as Chair of the Club Board, I have now assumed the role. At present there are two club initiatives requiring attention – the first is to commence a piece of work around a move to bring (or not) the women's team into the club; the second is to ensure corporate sponsorship and supporter donations will cover any costs related to equipping the new Clifford Hill Training accommodation.

I can also confirm that Steve Chudley has been appointed as an Associate Director. Steve has also agreed to fill the role of Finance & Governance Lead

We have been working with Spektrix on an update to identify gold members.

We have finally ordered branded folders to present new members with. Included in the folder will be (current suggestion):

1. Welcome letter
2. Membership form (invite a friend to win a prize?)
3. List of benefits
4. Car sticker
5. Attach the SILVER badge somewhere
6. Academy postcard
7. History of the Trust

A share certificate was suggested, possibly for new members. Referred to Ownership and Membership Working Group.

Richard Pym and Mark Cordell are working together to look at ways to increase the Trust's shareholding in the Club.

At a meeting with other Supporter Trusts, it was clear that behaviour at games is deteriorating. Supporters on the Big Bank are aware of the Club's views on bad language. It was noted that there is an excellent atmosphere at the moment.

Suggested more messages before and after games. The Club has good relations with supporters on the Big Bank. The Club paid for the new flag.

Suggestions that Stevenage match may be difficult.

Trust emails. If any trustees would like one, the cost would be £3.80. Working groups will get an address to help handover of Chairs and leaders.

The Communications Group was asked to design an attractive footer.

Any Other Part A business

None

Working Group Updates

Finance and Governance Group

No payment from Club last month and, when checked, some of previous months. Has now been rectified with more to come.

FCA return has now been submitted.

SC suggested we use Cash Management Solutions for our money. This has a relationship with about 35 banks or financial institutions across which they spread money, with none holding more than £85,000. It has a better interest rate.

It is not an investment. It makes our money easier to manage because their platform shows all the money in one place. At present, each of our bank accounts (to keep below £85,000) has to be managed individually. We would be allowed to make our own decisions about ethical issues.

NH spoke positively about our finances. We are cash rich at present and the emphasis is on us to make sure the money is spent on the right things.

Hope the Trust will be able to contribute to signage at the CHTG.

Still not sure if the redevelopment will need the Trust Loan.

Important to remember that the odd couple of thousand pounds on items there will soon mount up.

We also must make sure that the new CHTG is accessible to our members for tours and the like.

At a January meeting, supporters' groups will nominate equipment to finance. The Trust will underwrite this.

Ownership and Membership Group

Office Official Opening ceremony was brought forward from Boxing Day to Saturday (11 Dec v Tranmere) and cancelled due to emergence of Omnicom. Predicting a new date is difficult with all the unknowns and yet to emerge responses if any.

Office Rota - had worked well up to Saturday when no one was in the office. Covered as best we could. If you are rota on and can't make the date please arrange a swap with someone who can make the date.

Season Tickets 22-23. No gates Committee so presume SEC will be the sounding board. Request for dates (consultation, launch and Super Saver period).

Seniors party had been cancelled. Lack of interest caused presumably by no player involvement and emergence of Omnicom on the horizon.

Family Excellence - Zoom meeting this morning. First Visit Reports compiled and scored by an experienced assessor (probably not a family) available this week. Report is designed to help the Club identify what is going well and what could be addressed. To qualify for the Family Excellence Award the feedback and scores from visit 2 must be better than those received in visit 1.

The Covid Memorial plaque is being reformed.

Grecian Goal has raised over £1400 for yet to be established good causes so far this season. If you are not a member please speak with Elaine.

FSA. Discussion about our affiliate membership of FSA (Football Supporters Association). Useful to hear the views of Club directors who have joined their Club's Board through membership of a Supporters' Trust. We should make more of our relationship with FSA as we are an exemplar of good practice. We need to work harder to get material on their website. Initially this should go our Comms team.

Community Working Group

Exeter City Disabled Supporters Association needs our help.

The Community Group have been in touch with ECDSA as they have appealed for help in order to keep their group going.

They need urgent help in order to replace three Officers who are the core of their very successful, group.

Their Treasurer Trevor Harwood died in 2020. Trevor's wife was the group's Secretary. She and Trevor travelled from their home in Dorset to attend meetings. After his death, understandably, she has not felt able to continue.

Nick Saunders, a founder member of the ECDSA, the driving force and Chair for very many years is also unable to continue.

Dave Jones is Vice Chair and is happy to continue in this role but does not want to take on more. Likewise his wife, Jeanne, an active member does not want more responsibility.

The group have substantial funds in the bank and several projects they would like to complete. They also want to continue the work which has gained ECDSA an excellent reputation amongst other similar groups in the South West and with "Level Playing Field" the national organisation for disabled sports fans.

Nick has already appealed for help on his Facebook page but has received no replies.

What is certain is that without help from somewhere the group will fold. As representatives of the majority shareholder, the onus is on us to find a solution.

It is moral support that is most needed. Volunteers would only need to give an hour every three months

It was agreed to make every effort to get them over these difficulties. PB, NH and NE volunteered to help. All members will be emailed.

We hosted ECI (Exeter Community Initiatives) at the recent Papa John's .Bristol Rovers game.

The Trust Sponsorship of the game with Northampton was very successful. We have a signed shirt for future fund raising.

On the 21st December, we will be hosting the South West Supporters' Trusts

Communication and Engagement Group

Website has been refreshed and the newsfeed changed.

Content is being improved.

Profiles of Trustees need updating. A couple are missing. Please send to Will. General news is by far the most popular.

It was suggested that attractive invitations to meetings could be included. Could access to newsletter be easier for PB and CL? They are going to be learning how to use Election Runner.

PB would like to join Comms team as he can provide lots of routine monthly stuff.

NH is getting group leads together to devise a detailed plan for next year.

Any Other Business

Director for the Day for Swindon game has already been on list three times. Kindly offered to someone else.

NE is to join SEC.

Article on website to support fundraising campaign for the Afghan Women's team. ED and DG please contact Comms team.

Member (AY) comments. Pleased to see wealth management being discussed. Last month's minutes should have said "wealth management" not just "property". Asked if club had lodged a complaint after refereeing "mistake" at Cambridge.

Proposed dates for next year's meeting discussed. Issue of having Trust meeting prior to Club Board meeting was raised.

Agreed to meet on second Monday of month.

2022 Trust Board Dates

Monday 17th January (No club board in January)

Monday 14th February

Monday 14th March

Monday 11th April

Monday 16th May

Monday 13th June

Monday 18th July

Monday 15th August (No club board in August)

Monday 12th September

Monday 17th October

Monday 14th November

Monday 12th December

Date of next meeting:

Monday 17th January at 19.30