



We Own Our Football Club

**Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd
Trust Board Meeting 20 January 2020 Minutes Part A**

Meeting held at: RGB Lounge, St James Park

Date: 20 January 2020

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

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

Apologies: Doug Gillard

Guests present: Justin Quick (Club Chief Operating Officer), Spike Sussex

The Chair welcomed the Club's Chief Operating Officer Justin Quick to the meeting. He felt that there was value in having somebody senior from the club at the meeting in the spirit of openness and collaboration.

With a view to this the Chair said he was going to have a look at the Supporters' Trust confidentiality forms, with a view to getting Justin (Quick) to sign one. At the moment the forms only cover Trustees and officers, so the Chair agreed that he would do some work on these forms so they could include volunteers and other persons.

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed by Elaine Davis and seconded by William Barrett.

Matters arising from the last minutes

Elaine Davis has been asked if we are going to publish the discussion and progress on the election feedback the Supporters' Trust Board has received. The Chair said that this would happen, but the Supporters' Trust had been delayed in this process as the returning officer for the Supporters' Trust Elections, John Street had been busy with the General Election on December 12th.

No other matters arising from the December minutes.

Chair update

The Chair said that he had met with Plymouth Argyle and Torquay United Supporters' Trusts. He had also met with Andy Walsh, Head of the National Game and Community Ownership at the Football Supporters' Association and spoken with Richard Irving, Network Manager and Community Owned Club at the Football Supporters' Association. They were keen for Exeter City Supporters' Trust to help develop a South West Trusts' group. He said they were trying to get a date in the diary, where Exeter City Supporters' Trust could invite all of the South West Trusts to SJP for a seminar which the FSA would run and the Supporters' Trust would host.

The Chair touched on the 20th anniversary celebrations for Exeter City Supporters' Trust which starts with the Salford home match on March 14th.

There is also going to be a dinner at the end of the season, separate from the awards night, in order to make it inclusive to all supporters. The Chair added that it might be good to have the seminar with the FSA during the day at SJP and have the celebration dinner in the evening, to give the opportunity for other Trusts to join Exeter City Supporters' Trust in the celebrations.

Elaine Davis, Richard Knight, Jon Beer and Will Barrett all volunteered to pick up the project of the 20th anniversary celebrations, to plan the events and how much it is going to cost, to make sure that the occasion doesn't slip by without recognition. They agreed they would come back at the next Supporters' Trust Board meeting with some ideas and plans.

The Chair added that he has been asked to answer a few questions by blogger David Gribble and also there will be a piece produced by the Guardian soon, on how tough it is for lower league EFL clubs at the moment, which both he and Neil Le Milliere have contributed to.

Group updates

Report from the Ownership Working Group

Trustee Mark Cordell gave an update on the Trust's Music Quiz, to be held on Sunday, February 9, which is raising money for the STARS campaign. Currently there are six teams registered. The OWG want to reach the 20-team mark to bring in £500 for the campaign and hold a raffle at the event to bring in a further £100.

A document was also circulated by Will Barrett, looking at the 10 reasons to join the Trust, and improving the current advertising we have for this. A lengthy discussion was had on the 11 suggested reasons to join the Trust that were presented. Will (Barrett) agreed to take a note of the suggestions made and then email out a new document to Trustees for them to comment on by the end of the week.

The Chair informed the meeting that Justin Quick has agreed to part fund a permanent location in Red Square that the Trust can use, to be shared with the club ambassadors, on matchdays. Mark agreed to look at some suitable options and get some prices.

The Chair also tasked the Ownership Working Group to they recommend a budget on Trust's charitable budget for the new financial year.

Report from the Communication Working Group

Will Barrett gave an update on the possibility of electronic voting for the next Trust elections. He is going to speak to Trustee Neil Le Milliere and Richard Irving, at the Football Supporters' Association. He told the meeting there was a range of options available, but he wanted to make sure that proper safeguards could be guaranteed to ensure the integrity of the election process. Following his meetings Will then agreed he would bring it back to the Trust Board Meeting before making any recommendation.

Will Barrett also gave an update on the website update. He told the meeting they had got the basic setup and was planning in-house user-testing for March/April. He added they were on track for the July launch date.

Report from the History Working Group

Will Barrett gave an update from the History Working Group. He informed the meeting of the new photography exhibit which was due to be launched in the Centre Spot on Friday, January 24th.

The first meeting of the newly formed Museum Trust advisory group is to be held on February 12th. It will be looking at the short, medium and long-term funding of the Museum Trust, how to run it as a voluntarily organisation and how it can bring people into St James Park and benefit the aims of the club and the Supporters' Trust.

Any other business

Food Cycle

Simon Larkins informed the meeting that, following the help of with Trustee Elaine Davis and CEO Justin Quick a date had been set for a one-off Food Cycle event at St James Park on Sunday, March 8. Food Cycle is a national charity that aims at tackling food poverty and social isolation by turning food, that was going to waste, into a three course-meal for those people at risk of food poverty and social isolation. It is hoped that a couple of players might help with event, which should be good publicity for the charity, club and Supporters Trust, by helping serve the food and chat to guests. Elaine Davis informed the meeting she would talk to assistant manager Wayne Carlisle, on the Trust's behalf, to enquire about this.

STARS Dinner

Elaine Davis that the Trust had sold 92 out of the 100 tickets for the Supporters' Trust STARS dinner on January 28.

Merchandise range for 20th anniversary

Spike Sussex gave a talk on the possibility of launching some merchandise, with the Trust logo on it, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Exeter City Supporters' Trust.

Trustees agreed that a limited-edition item, sold on a pre-sale basis, would be the best option. It was agreed that the group looking at the 20th anniversary celebrations would be in touch with Spike Sussex to discuss what lines the Trust could do on this basis.