



Argyle Fans' Trust
 Society Board Meeting Minutes
 Friday 4th May 2012, 7.30pm, 10 Tor Road (home of ES).

Item	Agreements	Action
<p>1. Members present</p>	<p>Gareth Nicholson (GN), Paul Bartolini (PB), John Demellweek (JD), Richard Blight (RB), Ed Shillabeer (ES), Laura Starr (LS) and Margaret Carn (MC) were present.</p> <p>Tim Chown (TC) offered apologies.</p> <p>JD volunteered to act as temporary Chair for this meeting, all agreed.</p>	<p>TC: Investigate voice telecon device (e.g. low-end Polycom room unit) for future meetings.</p>
<p>2. Matters Arising</p>	<p>RB, JD and TC attended the Supporters Direct Board Member Development training event on Sunday 22nd April. Topics covered included: Raising Finance, Strategic Planning, Stakeholders and Being An Effective Board Member. All reported it as being a useful exercise, and plenty of resources were made available to everyone present.</p> <p>Discussion amongst all present of the current difficulties being faced by the Board in refuting unfounded allegations.</p> <p>RB passed £595.00 in membership fees to MC. MC provided current Trust bank balance figure: £4,997.78.</p>	
<p>3. Welcome Paul Bartolini to the Board</p>	<p>On behalf of the board, JD welcomed Paul Bartolini as a new co-optee. PB's mission statement read to group by LS.</p> <p>One of PB's briefs as a small business owner is to help engagement between the club and local businesses.</p>	



<p>4. PASB Update</p>	<p>JD provided summary of the latest PASB news. Leaflets to be handed out at Cheltenham game on May 5th giving further information.</p> <p>Group discussion of Trust involvement with PASB.</p> <p>GN: Trust can offer constructive suggestions regarding electoral process; fairness and legitimacy needs to be ensured.</p>	
<p>5. Fundraising Schemes/20% Share Offer Update</p>	<p>PB mentioned Jon Sparkes at PriceWaterhouseCoopers as a finance expert who could provide guidance to the Trust on the 20% share offer. Agreed to draw up an updated list of open questions for the experts, to improve understanding.</p> <p>Board members are continuing with research into other clubs' community share schemes. JD provided input on the FC United model.</p> <p>The New Model Rules from SD also support a Capital Funding Scheme.</p> <p>GN: legal advice needed on the issue of the allocation of invested money. Supporters' trust investments in football clubs have a community benefit remit. 20% share could have long-term importance in securing fans' emotional connection the club.</p> <p>TC's notes on the current status of the 20% offer, on Community Share Ownership raised by JD and circulated to group.</p> <p>Work to be done on framework for shareholding committee.</p>	<p>All: put forward any open questions for Jon Sparkes and Bob Jack, to be compiled by LS.</p> <p>PB to set up a meeting with Jon Sparkes, LS and MC also to attend.</p> <p>ES to contact Bob Jack for additional financial expertise.</p> <p>LS to ensure all members familiar with Supporters Direct Briefing Paper No.3: <i>Financing Supporter Community Ownership</i>.</p> <p>LS to coordinate; need to identify who to invite to the committee asap.</p>



	<p>PB raised issue of AFT not being listed on the Supporters Direct list of trusts.</p> <p>PB raised idea of advertising on AFT website to fundraise.</p>	<p>LS to look into and rectify this.</p> <p>PB to work on fundraising ideas.</p>
<p>6. Membership Report (JD and RB)</p>	<p>Renewals coming in steadily. Backlog significantly reduced. New members joining on a weekly basis. Will have a clearer idea of true position once postal reminders have gone out.</p> <p>JD & RB to re-word the renewal letter to post out to members. Pre-paid envelopes and stamps are ready.</p>	<p>LS to print off copies of the letter once complete.</p>
<p>7. Secretary's Report</p>	<p>LS provided feedback on current AGM plans. With Ed doing his walk, and two other board members likely to be away, all agreed the original proposal of holding the AGM on the morning of 26th May was not feasible. Thus a date would be selected as soon as possible in June, TBC. Board members to provide availability.</p>	<p>LS to continue work on this.</p> <p>All: provide availability in June for AGM (and any other required meetings).</p>
<p>8. Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>MC provided feedback on the approximate annual running costs of the Trust: £10,000 a year.</p> <p>Current balance of almost £5,000 after cost of stamps (£1,000) debited.</p> <p>Pavilions invoice from August 2011 has been settled.</p> <p>MC has sent all relevant paperwork to Paypal regarding changing account to her name, issue soon to be resolved.</p> <p>MC: Warren Bowden to be removed as signatory, JD to be put on as new signatory. LS and JD completed relevant paperwork.</p>	



<p>9. AOB</p>	<p>GN: Proposal to publicise more widely the possibility of Trust group memberships. Model Rules allow groups to become Group Members of the Trust for £50.00. GN asked ES to put this offer to the Federation of Small Businesses.</p> <p>LS: PB needs to be announced as a co-opted member on the Trust website, before these minutes are published.</p> <p>LS: a meeting needs to be scheduled for work on the New Model Rules, along with the next Board meeting and a further meeting with James Brent to progress the 20% share offer.</p> <p>Aim is to announce the basis of the 20% proposal by/at the AGM, and to begin the consultation at that time. The members will decide whether the offer is taken up.</p> <p>A Trust presence will be needed for the Legends game, with Ed's H4H walk finishing at half-time. This is also an opportunity to leaflet fans about the Trust.</p>	<p>GN to work on press release regarding benefits of Trust group membership.</p> <p>GN to draft a statement.</p> <p>All to provide availability, dates to be settled asap.</p> <p>Meeting with JB to be arranged asap once the open legal/financial questions have been answered by the expert contacts.</p>
<p>11. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>TBC.</p>	