



Argyle Fans' Trust
Board Meeting - MINUTES
Saturday 9th April 2016; 11am
Ed's house.

No	Item	Discussion/Summary	Action
1	Members present / Apologies for absence	Members Present: Bob Foale (BF) Chair Celia Ellacott (CE) Vice Chair Virginia Pike (VP) Ed Shillabeer (ES) Tony Cannan (TCa) Secretary Apologies: Anthony Sherlock (AS) Treasurer	
2	Minutes of last meeting	TC still to update and send on with minutes from this meeting. However no matters are outstanding. TC apologised for the delay.	TC
3	Financial Report	Anthony Sherlock was not present at this meeting due to illness. He will update BF on financial matters once he is well. This will be updated and reported in minutes of the next meeting. We still have the situation about repaying our benefactors where the RBL shirt sponsorship deal was concerned which was agreed with the previous Board. BF to contact the previous treasurer as well as relevant parties to discuss this as it is an issue still hanging over us which we are yet to resolve.	BF



4	Secretary's correspondence	TC reported that all is now well with his duties as he was struggling to maintain upkeep of AFT correspondence due to time restraints. TC to upload the ACV letter from the council to the website as well as publish minutes from this and last meeting.	TC
5	Membership report	Further to the above, TC announced that although the handover from Bob Wright to himself with membership responsibilities was more than satisfactory and that BW continues to offer support when needed, he has been taken by surprise by the amount of time required to keep this up-to-date and has been struggling to get mail out. VP has offered to help TC with some of this as it is vital this work does not fall behind. At the moment, things are just up to date but at the detriment of other Secretarial duties as mentioned in Item 4. However, TC did report the membership figures as: Full members: 839 Junior members: 147 Total: 986 Lapsed members: 919 TC expressed concern at the amount of lapsed members. Some of these are conscious decisions by members to cancel their payments. TC has offered to send personal emails to these people to ask if there's anything we can do to keep them on and to enquire why they have left. If people are consciously leaving the AFT then we feel it is important we know	TC



		<p>why. All agreed this was a good idea. TC to move forward with this.</p>	
6	Progress on Pedal for Pounds	<p>ES mentioned that he now has a bike to compete in this event which is in two weeks' time. He and Mark are ready for their legs of the event and sponsorship and fundraising is still ongoing.</p> <p>The event will finish by the next AFT meeting where ES will update results.</p>	ES
7	Eviction of Argyle fans in hospitality at Exeter	<p>This was a rather unsavoury event in which a group of paying Argyle fans had booked hospitality at the Exeter away game, only to find that the seating arrangements that ECFC had made for them within the ground caused some problems which resulted in their eviction from the ground. They feel they have been treated very harshly and in an unsavoury fashion by the club for something that was not of their making.</p> <p>BF to take up this matter with relevant people at both Argyle and Exeter City to clear up some facts and will represent our fans whilst this is ongoing.</p>	BF
8	Hartlepool sponsored game	<p>We have a table of 10.</p> <p>Four AFT Board members are attending as well as two people from the membership which were won in an auction.</p> <p>Romain Larrieu will be offered one as AFT President (TC to contact).</p> <p>This leaves three. TC will email the members to ascertain any interest. Full cost of £100 is payable.</p>	All, TC



<p>9</p>	<p>Fanzine Report</p>	<p>CE presented the latest edition of the fanzine. This time the print run is 400.</p> <p>CE advised that she is constantly looking for people to contribute to content.</p> <p>She asked if we would continue with it next season – all agreed we would however we must be realistic about the buy-rate as we often have surplus left over. As already said, this print run is down to 400 from 500.</p> <p>We will not do a play-off ‘special’ (should we end up there) like last year.</p> <p>Advertising and sponsorship is also required for next season. All to look for opportunities to provide this.</p> <p>Also agreed was the fact that we will continue with our small columns in both the match-day programme and the Plymouth Herald as they are vital for keeping up the AFT’s profile.</p>	<p>CE</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Proposed action plan for the next 3 to 5 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACV actions We must decide, now that we have ACV status for Home Park, how best to utilise it. Progress must be made on this pretty quickly. Benchmarking against other Trusts who have also achieved this is vital in this regard. ● Far Post Club Continue pressing the issue of gaining a new FPC/Supporters bar. Update by next meeting. ● Share Scheme – Crowd Funding An excellent way to raise funds. Look to other clubs – Chelsea have done something similar 	<p>All</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involvement in Mayflower 2020 There is still time here but we must not leave it too late to get involved. TC to look into this. ● Working with other Trusts As previously discussed, this is vital in building a successful model. We must decide what we want to emulate and become. Wrexham Trust have over 5000 paid up members. They would be a good place to start. 	
11	Date and venue for open meeting with fans	<p>Agreed that the venue would be at Home Park, but not yet agreed which venue – whether that is the Tribute Lounge inside the grandstand, or the GT tent.</p> <p>It will be around September time on the day of a home game so will be properly booked when fixtures for the new season come out which we expect will be 15th June 2016.</p> <p>We hope by then to have finalised the action plan mentioned in Item 10 and will take advice from the membership for ideas and initiatives. There will also be a quiz and we hope to have Paul Sturrock and Romain Larrieu attend.</p>	All
12	Any other business	<p>Frazer Lloyd-Davies has forwarded a question to us for discussion in today's meeting and included screenshots from Pasoti – but they do not contain the original question. BF will contact Frazer and hope that he picks up his emails while he's on his travels so that we can clarify what the question was.</p> <p>BF is trying to set up another meeting with Martyn Starnes but is having difficulties. He</p>	



		<p>advised it is unlikely we will get an opportunity before the new season.</p> <p>TC to put to members to start to consider their Player of the Year. Also to ask Tim Chown how this was done last year and what he needs to do this year to make it easy for fans to vote.</p>	
13	Date of next meeting	At Ed's house, 10:30am Saturday May 7 th . Day of the Hartlepool game.	All