



Argyle Fans' Trust

Board Meeting – MINUTES

Saturday 8th December 2018; 10.30am, Goals, Outland Road, Plymouth

No	Item	Discussion/Summary	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	<p>Members present: Keith Brown (KB), Tim Chown (TC, Secretary), Chris Dean (CD), Sam Down (SD), Celia Ellacott (CE), Tony Hooper (TH, by phone), John Lloyd (JL), Virginia Pike (VP), Andy Symons (AS), Roger Willis (RW).</p> <p>Apologies received: Sue Clark (SC)</p> <p>TC acting as Chair welcomed everyone.</p>	
2	Election of Society Officers	<p>It was unanimously agreed that the Society Board would run with a Chair and Vice Chair.</p> <p>TC asked for those interested to state their desire to stand for Chair and to request to be nominated and seconded.</p> <p>AS was nominated by KB and seconded by SD. VP was nominated by RW and seconded by JL.</p> <p>A secret ballot was then held, with the following result: AS 5 votes VP 3 votes 1 abstention</p> <p>AS was therefore elected as Chair. It was unanimously agreed that VP should be Vice Chair. Other posts were also unanimously agreed: Membership Secretary – RW Treasurer – VP Secretary – TC Minutes Secretary – SD</p> <p>AS then assumed the role of Chair for the meeting.</p>	
3	Board Conduct and Membership Policy	<p>TC explained the Society's board membership policy, as available at: https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/AFT-Model-Board-Membership-and-Conduct-Policy.pdf and asked the board members to sign and return a copy to him.</p> <p>TC will arrange board training through Supporters' Direct (SD) early in the new year.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>TC</p>

4	Board resignations and co-opting of new members	<p>The resignations of Bob Foale and Tony Sherlock had been received and were noted with thanks for their contributions.</p> <p>TC confirmed that the Board could co-opt two new Board members to replace Bob and Tony, such that the Board does not exceed 12 members (the limit in the Society Rules). Co-opted members can remain up until the next Board election. Up to five further external Board members can be co-opted to bring specific expertise to the Board.</p> <p>The Board then discussed potential candidates, one of whom had expressed an interest to join.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to offer a co-opted position to Emma Sellick, who works a nurse and is also a Home Park volunteer host. AS and VP agreed to meet with Emma to discuss details.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to solicit further interest from the membership for the other co-opted post on the Board. Action on AS to draw up an appropriate advertisement.</p> <p>KB reminded the board we need more volunteers beyond the 12 Board members for the Trust to grow and be successful.</p>	<p>AS, VP</p> <p>AS</p>
5	Minutes and matters arising from Board meeting of 24th Nov 2018	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 24th Nov 2018 were approved by those who were in attendance. These are available at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/AFT-Board-Minutes-24nov2018.pdf.</p> <p>The salient notes from the meeting with Michael Dunford would be combined with those from the meeting with Simon Hallett later today for an article for the web site. VP has notes from the Michael Dunford meeting. JL will include notes from Leon who he has spoken to after he also posted notes on Facebook.</p> <p>The PO Box arrangements are ongoing.</p> <p>JL has text for the stewarding survey result. TH had posted this to Pasoti without knowing the AFT communications protocol. Discussion followed on the protocol. It was agreed this would be driven by posting news to the web site first, from where other channels then follow. The web site is the definitive source for Trust news. All Board members must respect this.</p> <p>JL to arrange for the stewarding survey result to be posted to the web site via TC/RW.</p> <p>Work to update the member Share Certificate and to share the new AFT Google Drive is ongoing with TC</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>RW, JL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>TC</p>

		AFT material is still to be recovered from Mike Perry's garage.	VP
6	Report from club fans' forum held on Thu 6th Dec	<p>This attracted around 70 people.</p> <p>A number of board members attended, including JL.</p> <p>The greater time available for discussion and socialising by using a Thursday evening slot seemed to work well.</p>	
7	Topics to be raised with Simon Hallett	<p>The Board would be meeting Simon Hallett at 12.00pm after the morning's Board meeting.</p> <p>Topics for the meeting were discussed. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of fuller accounts, as done by at least 12 other League 1 clubs; • Better and earlier advertising of future Fans' Forum meetings to boost attendance further; • Areas where the Club and AFT might work more closely, e.g., through drawing on AFT member expertise in many areas to help / advise the Club; • Possibility of a page in the club programme; • Running more frequent surveys to relay fan opinion to the Club; • The nature of and update on the new Fans' Assembly. 	
8	Priorities for the AFT for the year ahead	<p>The Board then discussed priorities for the year ahead, and future AFT strategy.</p> <p>It was agreed that the top priority is to increase membership.</p> <p>JL asked about young adult membership for new members, but RW pointed out that we don't have dates of birth for most existing members. JL suggested that university students could have reduced AFT membership.</p> <p>AS said that running events like the Foodbank collection lets us engage with people who donate, who can then be asked if they are Trust members. The more events we run, the more engagement we can have.</p> <p>KB felt the AFT needs to build more credibility, and to increase our standing. We should seek to represent fans as stakeholders. We should be clear on what is the advantage or benefit for people joining the Trust.</p>	

	<p>TC will revisit the old Trust flyers that used to be handed out on match days (which also include membership forms), with a view to producing a new version.</p> <p>RW noted that many issues can be divisive, and lose us more members than we gain, e.g., the 20% “loan” offer from James Brent in 2011/12, the ACV application, and the planning permission response. RW suggested that supporting national issues is good, and a more unifying activity, e.g., the Checktrade Trophy, Supporters’ Direct campaigns, safe standing, etc, and we can then be more active as a Trust.</p> <p>SD asked whether we might hold Society Member meetings to discuss topics. RW commented that it can be hard to get just enough to be quorate for an AGM, so there has to be compelling content to attract people. Our fanbase is spread across the country, which makes attendance tricky for exiles other than on match days.</p> <p>AS and KB suggested we find out what other trusts do, in particular what other bigger more active trusts are doing and approach them. TC will ask SD for advice.</p> <p>RW reported that of some 2,000 people on record on the AFT Intouch database, only 440 are active members. GDPR allows data retention when performing a contract or where there is legitimate interest; TC said that we must be sensitive to this with respect to lapsed members. RW has emailed all members who lapsed since the start of 2016.</p> <p>SD suggested membership fee discounts for a short period. VP did not agree with reduced membership, given the annual fee is already cheap.</p> <p>AS and VP suggested inviting lapsed members to a social night, with a view to regaining some members.</p> <p>VP reminded the Board that last year the AFT posted a loss of approx £500; we can’t keep doing that.</p> <p>VP also reminded the Board of the £50 limit on spend without explicit Board authorisation.</p> <p>TC asked about the position with the AFT 2019 calendars, which were ordered by CE at a cost of just under £200. It was agreed we should proceed with selling the calendars, and that Board members would ensure that CE would not be out of pocket. It</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
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		was agreed that Simon Hallett be given some calendars in the upcoming meeting.	
9	Dates for future meetings	AS suggested that at the moment a monthly meeting is important. The following Saturday dates were agreed, for 11.30am – 1.30pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th Jan 2019 (subject to FA Cup fixtures)• 9th Feb 2019• 9th March 2019• 6th April 2019	
10	AOB	JL agreed to look at the AFT running an independent survey of premium seating.	JL
11	Close of meeting	The meeting was closed at 11.50am.	

TC
5 Jan 2018