



Argyle Fans' Trust

Board Meeting – MINUTES

Saturday 10th August 2019; 11:00am, Goals, Outland Road, Plymouth

No	Item	Discussion/Summary	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	<p>Members present: Tony Hooper (TH), Virginia Pike (VP), Emma Sellick (ES), Andy Symons (AS), Sam Down (SD), Sue Clark (SC) with Celia Ellacott (CE) and Keith Brown (KB) joining by Skype Tim Chown (TC, Secretary)</p> <p>The meeting was therefore quorate (8 of 11 Board members present).</p> <p>Apologies received: Chris Dean (CD) Roger Willis (RW), who then arrived at 11.51am</p>	
2	Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 4th May were approved, and are available at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AFT-Board-Minutes-04may2019.pdf</p> <p>The issue of the Trust member who was reportedly convicted of a racism-related offence was discussed. It was agreed that his current membership status would be checked, and then he would be contacted so the Board understood his view of the situation. Should a conviction be in place, Supporters Direct advised following the disciplinary procedure set out in the Trust's Rules, and suspending the person concerned in the meantime. If no response is received, Supporters Direct recommended proceeding in their absence.</p> <p>Supporters Direct also recommended that the AFT approach the club to do some education on discrimination. AS to speak to Andrew on 24th on this suggestion and to confirm whether the above supporter is currently banned from HP.</p> <p>KB will write a summary of the disciplinary procedure.</p> <p>The next Fans' Assembly is 24th Aug. AS will attend and report back to the Board.</p>	<p>RW, TC</p> <p>AS</p>
3	Membership Secretary's Report (RW)	<p>RW had not arrived at this point.</p> <p>RW had reported that his free time for AFT matters was currently limited. AS agreed to speak to RW to agree a path forward. VP is already helping on membership matters.</p>	AS

4	Treasurer's Report (VP)	<p>VP reported that there is £9,219.91 in the current account.</p> <p>The £1,000 cheque has been paid to the GTs as the Trust's agreed contribution to the new supporters' bar build.</p> <p>VP reported that there is well over £1,500 in PayPal but did not have a precise figure to hand. (After his arrival RW reported this figure was £2,502.80.)</p> <p>The Club is still owed for that AFT's sponsorship of Will Aimson. VP to ensure payment is made.</p> <p>VP has details of three card machine companies; we will need to pick one to proceed with to take money at the Trust table on match days and at events. TC, AS, TH to look at details to assist VP in selection.</p> <p>We may still also need to take payments over phone, though perhaps PayPal is then the best option.</p> <p>VP is working on a "forward look" budget based on a summary of the accounts for the past few years.</p> <p>It was noted that we need to ensure we use all the player sponsorship benefits to drive membership.</p> <p>VP reported we have two sets of invoices from the Post Office; VP to investigate further.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>VP, TC, AS, TH</p> <p>VP</p> <p>VP</p>
5	Secretary's Report (TC)	<p>TC reported the resignation of JL from the Board. AS conveyed the Board's thanks for his excellent work. JL will still assist with web site and other Trust matters.</p> <p>There was a proposal to co-opt Tony Cannan as "special projects manager". Tony is happy to be co-opted but advised the Board that he would not normally be able to make Board meetings on Saturdays, which would potentially affect the quorate status of those meetings. It was proposed that Tony would be added to the AFT Board email group as an ex-officio member. AS to finalise.</p> <p>TC reported that the AFT needs to adopt the new Supporters' Direct model rules at the AGM this year. TC, KB, TH to work on this, and KB to lead. Supporters' Direct have sent guidance, including the new Model Rules template.</p> <p>The AGM is set for Saturday 23rd November in the usual Life Centre venue. It will be important that the meeting is quorate</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>KB, TH, TC</p>

		<p>(20+ members) so as per last year it would be desirable to include some incentives, such as free pasties.</p> <p>TC also reported that the annual AR30 and accounts need to be completed. The finances need to be reported at the AGM, and the AR30 submitted by the end of December. VP to take the lead on the accounts, TC to help with AR30 paperwork.</p> <p>TC advised that the membership renewal process be documented, to ensure it is being followed. RW/VP to check that the membership form is up to date.</p>	<p>VP, TC</p> <p>RW, VP</p>
6	Events planning (ES)	<p>ES reported on upcoming events. It was agreed to delay the quiz until October and explore using the new GTs facility. We would approach the Legends for possible table captains. ES to speak to Gary.</p> <p>The Mayflower 2020 and AFT 10th anniversary fall together next year. CE has been speaking to groups who may be interested in participating in an event to celebrate. AS to assist in the planning.</p> <p>The annual Foodbank collection will be on Sat 14th December. VP to contact the Foodbank and to check permission with the club.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>CE, AS</p> <p>VP</p>
7	Social Media Update (ES)	<p>ES reported another positive month for AFT social media growth, including the Facebook page being up 148 likes since the close season. Snapchat and Instagram are also slowly growing.</p> <p>AS thanked ES for the good work and suggested that we ensure there is at least once a week a “join the Trust” message.</p> <p>TC/VP to check the web site Join page is up to date.</p>	<p>TC/VP</p>
8	Communications and Marketing sub-group (CE, CD, SD, JL)	<p>CE reported the group’s activities in advance by email.</p> <p>The new Fanzine is done, we now need to ensure we sell it strongly. AS will take some to the players’ dressing room. The price will be £1.50 an issue, and any shortfall in production costs will be offset with badge sales.</p> <p>Agreed prices - Fanzine £1.50, Fanzine and badge £2, Badge £1.</p> <p>The T-shirt competition would be reviewed. We need good ideas for merch. As will speak with Robby Bullen. A “we are family” shirt / mug idea was well received.</p>	<p>CE</p>

		CE is speaking to Robby also about a potential book of cartoons and/or a 2020 AFT Calendar. We might also look again to fan photos for a calendar.	CE
9	Governance sub-group report (KB, TC, TH)	<p>KB reported on the governance work that he and TH are doing. TH is talking to the Club Secretary by email and is hoping to see information about the structure of the non-playing staff at the club.</p> <p>The club ownership now seems to be approximately 96% Simon Hallett, 2.5% Tony Wrathall, and 1.5% Richard Halliday.</p> <p>TH looked at the Charges on the club as documented at Companies House. There is no separate charge on the ground / stadium itself, but three in total. The Halletts' charge seems to be on the club, rather than the ground, while Lombard and PCC have charges on HHP.</p> <p>All agreed with and welcomed Simon Hallett's blog on the new more transparent financial information. AS to draft a piece to put on the web site that would welcome the AFT working further with the club on this.</p> <p>KB, TH, TC to look at current potential share ownership routes for supporters, and what we might propose. TC noted the previous "Golden Share" proposal that Supporters Direct had suggested a few years ago.</p>	
10	Membership Building sub-group report (VP, ES, RW)	<p>There has been no meeting yet, but this will happen soon.</p> <p>TC is working on new membership benefits leaflet. We need to very clearly set out why people should join the Trust.</p> <p>All agreed we need to produce more articles for web site updates and email members regularly. TC suggested a target of two web site articles a week, for which we would at a minimum need a couple of paragraphs and ideally a photo.</p>	TC, ALL
11	AOB	<p>The somewhat chaotic area outside the club shop and around the paved area leading further up the hill was one topic. It is not clear where people should walk, or cars be parked. An accident is waiting to happen.</p> <p>It seems the capacity is down from 56 to 35 wheelchair places.</p> <p>The drop-off points are also not clear, both for disabled supporters and regular taxis.</p> <p>The park and ride is not suspended at Home Park anymore, so the car park fills up much earlier on match days.</p>	



		<p>AS welcomed the Argyle Community Trust's new bag with items for autistic fans. It was agreed the AFT will promote this widely.</p> <p>VP reported on an AFT member's grandstand seating issue. AS will get back to him after the Fans' Assembly.</p> <p>VP raised the issue of which causes the AFT should help with fundraising for. TC suggested we focus on PADSA, the Foodbank and the Academy. All agreed. SC will ask if PADSA require some specific thing(s).</p> <p>TC is getting sail flag quotes, to be used at the match day table.</p> <p>The question of support for Bury FC was raised. The situation is not clear. AS to contact their Supporters' Trust to see what help we might offer.</p> <p>With the club now being more transparent under Simon Hallett, we should increase our campaigning on positive things nationally, like safe standing.</p> <p>The AFT sponsored a Ladies' team player last year. It was agreed we would do so again, at a cost of £350. VP to speak to Paolo Bartolini to agree the specifics and the player.</p> <p>TH has joined the Bath City Supporters' Trust. TC reminded Board members that we agreed everyone would join at least one other Trust to both show support and learn of potential ideas that we could adopt.</p> <p>It is understood that at the Fans' Assembly on 24th Aug it will be announced that the GAGWG will continue once the grandstand project is done. AS will ask whether an AFT rep can be added.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>AS</p> <p>SC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>AS</p> <p>VP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>AS</p>
12	Date of next meeting	The next meeting will be on Sat 21 st Sep at 11am at Goals.	
13	Close of Meeting	The meeting closed at 12.52 pm.	

TC
8 Sep 2019