



Argyle Fans' Trust

Board Meeting – MINUTES

Saturday 21st September 2019; 11:00am, Goals, Outland Road, Plymouth

No	Item	Discussion/Summary	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	<p>Members present: Keith Brown (KB), Sue Clark (SC), Celia Ellacott (CE), Tony Hooper (TH), Virginia Pike (VP), Emma Sellick (ES), Andy Symons (AS). Tim Chown (TC, Secretary)</p> <p>The meeting was declared quorate (7 of 10 Board members present).</p> <p>Apologies received: Chris Dean (CD) Sam Down (SD)</p>	
2	Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved after minor amendments, and can be found at https://www.argylefanstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AFT-Board-Minutes-10aug2019.pdf.</p> <p>SD has announced his intention to resign with immediate effect due to other commitments. The Board thanked Sam for his contributions.</p> <p>The matter of the supporter originally convicted of a racism-related offence at HP has been resolved; the conviction was overturned, though his ban remains in place. There is no further action for the Trust.</p> <p>On fundraising, PADSA reported they have funds, so there is no urgent need to raise for them. SC is however looking at potential disabled facilities and how we might help, with GTs or for club.</p> <p>TC suggested we might offer funds to help support Greens on Screen, though their main need may be technical rather than financial.</p> <p>The situation with grandstand seating is unchanged from earlier communications sent out by the club.</p> <p>AS has spoken to Bury Trust. They want fans trusts to contact club chairs to express public support for their club's re-admission to the league. They claim the EFL have not followed rules, i.e., that expulsion must be ratified by all league clubs, though the situation also depends on finances.</p>	

		With regards the Green Army Grandstand Working Group (GAGWG), it is not a given that it will continue. The AFT will raise issues with the club regardless, e.g., SC reported many issues for the AFT to follow up with.	
3	Membership Secretary's Report (RW)	<p>RW was not present to report figures.</p> <p>VP reported a couple of memberships needed attention. TC has added VP to the membership@ mail alias.</p> <p>It was agreed that reminders need to be sent; TH echoed that this should be a priority for the board, as well as defining the clear benefits of membership.</p>	
4	Treasurer's Report (VP)	<p>VP reported a sum of £11,034.29 in the bank, with a further £80 (approx) in PayPal.</p> <p>The club has been paid for the AFT's sponsorship of Will Aimson, and the Ladies paid £350 for the sponsorship of Amber Pollock, but these have not yet gone through.</p> <p>VP reported duplicate invoices from the Post Office; it was agreed to cancel the account.</p> <p>VP has been exploring card payment systems; a decision needs to be made.</p> <p>VP is also working on a budget for the year ahead.</p> <p>More membership cards are required, and the membership form needs review. VP suggested we print our sponsoring companies' names (for member discounts) on the back.</p> <p>AS has a box of AFT share certificates – TC will check whether these are current. There is a new share template.</p> <p>TC reminded the Board that the 2018/19 accounts are needed before the AGM, with the AR30 to follow after but by the end of December.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>VP</p> <p>VP</p> <p>TC</p>
5	Secretary's Report (TC)	<p>TC reported on the requirements for the AGM and the adoption of new Model Rules. The AGM is booked for 23rd Nov at the Life Centre, meeting from 5pm for a 5.15pm start.</p> <p>As an incentive to attend the AGM, there will be free pasties (30) and a Sonny Bradley signed away shirt for a (free) raffle at the end. Other raffle donations are welcomed. VP to order pasties. ALL to consider other incentives.</p>	VP

	<p>The election is the responsibility of the EMG; a notice will be posted by the 28th Sep.</p> <p>AS will speak to Rick Cowdery about advertising the event in a match programme and/or on the club web site.</p> <p>The Model Rules need updating. TC has forwarded the new template to the Board. KB has taken an initial look and will produce a list of changes for review. The best approach is to minimise changes from the default template provided by the FSA (formerly Supporters Direct).</p> <p>The Board then moved to appoint the Election Management Group (EMG). TC and Neil Le Milliere (ECFC and FSA) were agreed unanimously, proposed by TH and KB. Further members will be sought before the election period begins and agreed by an email vote.</p> <p>It was agreed to keep the Board size at 12 people. TH proposed, KB seconded, unanimously passed.</p> <p>A discussion followed on the number of places up for election. The number will be different to last year, where all 12 places were up for election. BF, TS, JL and SD have all stood down since then, with ES co-opted. AS announced he was standing down at the AGM, given the AFT is now on an even keel and the relationship with the club much improved. TH and KB therefore proposed there would be 5 places for election, which was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>TC raised the issue of the status of the Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing on HP, which includes Higher Home Park (HHP). Simon Hallett approached AS at the Trust table at the last match to discuss the ACV and his intention to take (much of) HHP into PAFC ownership. The Board welcomes SH's open and transparent approach on the matter and agreed that the AFT wants to see HHP back in the club's ownership. AS to arrange a meeting with SH to discuss further.</p> <p>The ACV is valid until 2021. TC's advice is to maintain and when due to renew the listing. TC will ask the FSA's advice. VP to seek pro bono legal advice, should it be required.</p> <p>There was then a discussion regarding AFT policy on the Leasing.com (formerly Checkatrade) trophy. TC noted that the matter is an emotive one, given the presence of Premier League U23 teams, and the Premier League's desire to see B teams introduced into lower league football, which would have a detrimental effect on lower league clubs.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>KB</p> <p>AS</p> <p>TC, VP</p>
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		<p>TH proposed that as a Fans' Trust we take the position that we believe it is in the interest of all football fans that we oppose the introduction by whatever means of Premier League B teams in lower league competitions, as doing so would be detrimental to competition and to lower league clubs. KB seconded. The motion was passed 4-3.</p> <p>TH proposed notifying the club of today's vote so the AFT position would be known, and to encourage the club to support this view if they wished to, but to also let the club know that the AFT will not encourage or discourage fans to attend. TH also proposed that the AFT write to the FSA on the matter as an act of solidarity. KB seconded. The motion was passed 4-3.</p> <p>AS therefore noted that we should not as a Board encourage people to go or not go to Leasing.com matches. If Board members want to attend as individuals, they can do in a personal capacity.</p> <p>AS proposed that the AFT will not formally post anything on social media relating to the Leasing.com trophy, positive or negative, and retain a boycott-neutral stance. Board members are still free to post in a personal capacity. TH seconded. The motion was passed 4-3.</p> <p>TC noted that the new board can choose to revisit the matter after the AGM.</p>	
6	Events planning (ES)	<p>The Foodbank collection is to be confirmed with Eunice and the club. AS suggested asking the club for two players to help promote it.</p> <p>The quiz is deferred to February as the GT facility is not available in October.</p> <p>The suggested gig at HP was discussed.</p>	
7	Social Media Update (ES)	<p>The issue of social media policy was raised.</p> <p>ES felt she had received unduly strong criticism on social media from AS regarding her posts for a Leasing.com match. ES believed the AFT position on the Leasing.com competition hadn't been made clear, so she had reported on the game as she has done for all other games, while AS had received strong comments about the AFT posting at the match from past AFT Chairs. TC stated he did not believe the AFT formally had a policy on the Leasing.com trophy. Further discussion followed.</p>	

		<p>CE proposed that if people are posting on social media relating to trust matters, they need to indicate it's on a personal capacity. TH seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>TC reminded the Board that everyone had signed up to the conduct policy that says board members support board decisions.</p> <p>Social media update: 143 extra Facebook likes, with 157 extra followers since last meeting, plus 18 on Instagram and 38 extra followers on Twitter. The Ryan Lowe videos were particularly popular. ES will repeat the prize draw for our GT ticket.</p> <p>ES also proposed we repeat the Christmas 12-day freebie campaign. We need to think about what can use. We are also about to hit our 3000th Facebook member so should put some bundle together for whoever that is.</p> <p>The Argyle Ladies would like us to help promote them. We sponsor a player already, and all agreed we should help as best we can. CE is already also working with Jane Hallett on ladies' football matters.</p> <p>It was agreed we will help promote the Argyle Legends charity ball.</p>	
8	Communications and Marketing sub-group (CE, CD, SD, JL)	Nothing reported.	
9	Governance sub-group report (KB, TC, TH)	Nothing reported. KB will send email.	
10	Membership Building sub-group report (VP, ES, RW)	Nothing reported.	
11	AOB	<p>SC will send an email to the Board on disability issues.</p> <p>ES reported on a medical emergency at the Ryan Lowe evening, where she helped when a doctor was asked for. There were</p>	



		<p>many concerns arising as a result of this incident, around H&S facilities and processes. It was agreed that ES would draft a letter for the AFT Board to review and send to the club CEO.</p> <p>SC commented on a lack of food labelling for food at the event. The paramedics had asked what the lady who had fallen ill had eaten, but it was not possible to know.</p> <p>CE suggested Tony Cannan comes to the next AFT meeting to discuss special project ideas.</p> <p>CE will propose fanzine ideas by email.</p> <p>CE suggested the AFT consider sponsoring a game. James Greenacre suggested possible a deal on an advertising board and match sponsorship on the new grandstand.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>CE</p>
12	Date of next meeting	The next meeting will be on 2 nd November 2019 (the Grimsby match) at 11am at Goals.	
13	Close of Meeting	The meeting closed at 1.07 pm.	

TC
20 October 2019