

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A

Meeting held in Boardroom and on Zoom

Date: 8th April 2024

Trustees present: Nick Hawker, Julen Beer, Steven Chown, Pete Ferlie, Doug Gillard, Clive Harrison, Richard Knight, Neil Le Milliere, Debra Noble, Nick Edwards, Jamie Pelmear.

Apologies: Will Barrett, Pete Cordwell

Officers Present:), Dean Matthews (Trust Secretary), Steve Chudley (Finance Officer), Ryan Ilott (Membership Secretary),

Trust Members present: Stephen Dart, George Martin, David Thompson

Approval of minutes from February meeting

Approval of Part A Minutes for February, proposed by CH, seconded by PF.

The minutes were approved with two abstentions

Matters arising

DT asked about previous meeting and stated disappointment in the Trust and no sysement being made.

SD queried previous minutes – emailing DM with queries

SD asked about Trust Handbook document and also queried last minutes stating whether it should say wearing a t-shirt and unveiling banner

SD asked about Kevin Instance's job title

Chair's Update (Part A)

Membership (as of 31st March 2024)

Total Number of valid Trust Members: 4,315 (Including Corporate Members)

Made up of:

Corporate Members:	46
Members in Grace Period:	276
Fully Paid Up:	4,039

Newsletter

The April Trust newsletter has been despatched.

PGMOL

Details of this meeting were sent out independently of the TB Meeting notes. There was nothing of note beyond this.

Howard Webb started the call by detailing how the PGMOL had now recruited a development manager to scout for, identify high performers, and generally develop

referees. Many newly qualified referees were 'put-off' and lost through the behaviours of lower league clubs (these being in the amateur/grass roots environment). However, some referees were now being promoted quickly through to EFL and Premier League games from the National league(s) whereby in the past, this could take up to 3 years.

Referees are being asked, in non-statutory decisions, to make decisions that were in context to the game being played, which might lead to some apparent inconsistency between games.

Cautions for dissent have purposely increased this season to make football self-regulate, e.g. it was felt that players would show less dissent if, at the start of the season, they were more regularly booked. The PGMOL had hoped that by now the numbers would have dropped off or were at least decreasing. They're not! The same is true of other incident types.

On this subject, a few of you have asked about who pays the player fines. Gary Caldwell appears to have changed the rules and since his arrival the players fined (£10 per caution/sending-off) have the amount deducted from their wages.

With respect to time added on, this used to be 30 secs per goal, 30 secs per substitution. Each are now 'actual time' taken.

To note: Championship referees are assessed by an independent panel and not, as per L1/L2 by a single assessor. The independent panel have the advantage of multiple camera's covering the game.

Current EFL performance measures of referees are:

Championship:	75.39
League One:	75.99
League Two:	75.39

Trust Strategy 2024

The working group leads, and I met last Tuesday to commence a review of our strategy for the next three years. We will continue the conversation during April with a view to presenting our thoughts and ideas to the Trustees at our May Trust Board meeting. Core to the strategy will be, post 20-year anniversary, how we project as the guardians of the club and indeed, how we deliver this. In addition, we noted several operational improvements which we felt could make the Trust more appealing to people who have yet to join as members.

VeryConnect (Impact of new ticketing system)

Season ticket holders will have all had notification of the new ticketing system in the past week. Prior to the new season I will schedule, with Ryan and Richard, time to explore the systems integration with the Trust VeryConnect solution. This is reference to members who pay their membership via SPEKTRIX, on auto-renew, but also the maintenance of members' priority status.

Nick Hawker – 5th April 2024.

Update at Meeting.

CH gave update on part B paper submitted

Trust office proposal – proposal handed out to view

Matchday ticketing booth in full use currently, queried why we would downsize. NH to ask JT about this

Trust window will be in use within the office

NLM had queries on the new ticketing system along with SD

No objection from Trust Board on use of the office space

Working Group Updates

Trust Finance Group Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 18th March 2024, 5.30pm

Location: Board Room

Attendees: Steve Chudley, Pete Holding, Nigel Banks, Richard Knight

Apologies: Jamie Pelmear, Nick Edwards

1) Apologies (SC)

Jamie Pelmear and Nick Edwards

2) Approval of minutes from 19/02/2024 (SC)

Minutes approved subject to two minor amendments.

3) Matters arising (SC)

The proposal to amend the working capital minimum reserve from three months to two had been approved by the Trust Board at its March meeting.

A review of the Articles, CTA and Governance Manual has not yet started.

4) Club updates (SC)

i. MACCs (SC)

The MACCs had been circulated prior to the meeting and questions responded to. The Group is content that the Club remains a going concern.

ii. Payment authorisations (All)

The Group had been asked to consider a proposal to formalise payment authorisation limits within the Club and to cover those which are not subject to the CTA.

iii. OTR paper (All)

An update around OTR was provided to the Group.

iv. Recent Club proposals to the Trust

The Group discussed the process through which recent proposals had been presented to it through the CTA and will provide feedback.

v. Other updates

- Club sponsorship deals.
- The appointment of a new Club auditor, as agreed at the recent AGM.

5) **Trust updates (SC)**

No significant updates.

6) **Date of next meeting (SC)**

TBC by email.

7) **AOB**

None.

March 2024

Opening balance	357,993.84
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Receipts

Subscriptions/donations	13,050.82
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Total	13,050.82
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Payments

Payment to club	8,333.00
Wages/Tax/Expenses	2,332.14
Membership refund	45.00
Zoom	15.59
Bank charges	50.80
Fasthosts	6.60

Total	10,783.13
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PayPal	225.86
Deposit account	611,938.41

Total	972,425.80
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Ownership and Membership Group

No meeting but a couple of updates

Fans' forum on the 17/04

Bake off is cancelled due to lack of media presence

Senior Reds meeting this month

Volunteers lunch on 22/04

No Trust window for Oxford game

Communications and Engagement Working Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on Microsoft Teams

Invited: Julen Beer Ayo, Clive Harrison, Nick Hawker, Dean Matthews, Jed Penberthy.

Apologies: Clive Harrison and Nick Hawker

1. Matters Arising

JBA has made contact with Phil Burden for access to the enquiries email address. Login details have now been received.

2. Upcoming Pieces

Ability Counts piece discussed in Item 6.

Progress being made with first 'How it works' piece. Decision made for these pieces to go live over the summer when there is less football content.

3. Update on Upcoming Votes

Order of votes discussed.

Potential extra vote: Women's Young Player of the Season.

4. Website Rethink Progress

Small further changes made, most notably a more prominent VeryConnect login in anticipation of upcoming votes.

JBA and JP to meet to discuss next steps and further changes.

5. Big Bank Signage

JBA now taking the lead on renewing the signage at the front of the Big Bank from Owners and Members Working Group.

Decision made to replicate the design of the Trust flag, with an updated set of surnames.

6. Ability Counts Tournament

Comms strategy for upcoming Ability Counts Tournament discussed:

- *Social media and brief website piece in the lead up.*
- *JBA to take photography on the day*
- *Longer piece with quotes to be released the week after.*

7. AoB

NH asked to publish newsletters on website and social media.

JBA to speak to Nick Wilde about Retro Shirt Day as the theme for the final game of the season and promoting retro shirts in the shop.

Date of next meeting: 15th April 2024

Community Working Group

Next meeting 18/04

Supported Ability Counts tournament and thanked volunteers who attended

John Street attended and was impressed

12/05/2024 – Half Marathon being held. WB to sort a gazebo

Respect Festival discussed

12k community fund target nearly reached. Currently sat at 11.4k, hope to beat before Oxford game
Devon County show discussed
Doug Gillard – been in touch with Torquay United Supporters Trust regarding initiatives
CCT Gala Dinner in the Trust Suite discussed for 6 charities. 04th July date set for this.

Any Other Business.

PF – Primrose Bank behind cowshed to be created depending on plans for that stand.
Trustees – EFL safeguarding course complete which NH will put in next newsletter
SD queried whether we run a podcast. Digital Marketing Manager appointed and will be looking at monetising this

Date of next meeting: 13th May 2024

Future meetings

10 June
8 July
12 August
9 September
14 October
11 November
9 December