

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A

Meeting held in Boardroom

Date: Monday 14 April 2025

Trustees present: Nick Hawker, Will Barrett, Julen Beer, Steve Chown, Nick Edwards, Latoyah Egerton, Pete Ferlie, Clive Harrison, Richard Knight, Neil Le Milliere, Debra Noble, On Zoom. Doug Gillard,

Apologies: None

Officers Present: Dean Matthews (Secretary), Pete Cordwell (Minutes Taker), Steve Chudley (Finance Officer), Sarah Ford (Membership Secretary)

Apologies: None

On Zoom: None

Trust members present, Josh Annettes, Billy Heal, Quinn Elliott, Nelson Taylor, Spike.

On Zoom. Mike Summers, George Martin, Pete Harding

No conflicts of interest were declared

Approval of minutes from March 2025 meeting

Matters of Accuracy

None

Approval of Part A minutes for March 2025, proposed by RK, seconded by NE.

The minutes were approved with one abstention

Matters Arising

Change of date for Party in the Park, now 28th June.

Following the results of the programme survey, the programme will continue as hard copy next season. The following season, it will move to digital copy. This issue may still be discussed.

Chair's Update

Membership cards (Update)

These are now available for both Android and Apple devices. The roll-out of links is imminent, subject to the correction of two small amendments.

Trust Strategy & Financial Plan (Update)

Critical to this are three elements:

- i. The conversion of all members to pay their subscriptions via VeryConnect
- ii. Acquire new member benefits
- iii. Distribution of new membership cards
- iv. Decision on modest increase in payments

The £100,000 which is given to the Club could be increased to £200,000, possibly to fund all the first year professionals.

Rebranding Update

There is no update available at present.

Club AGM

Following the publication of the 2023/24 year-end accounts we can now proceed with the Club's AGM.

This will be held on Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 12:00.

The accounts have been uploaded to Companies House

Update on vote regarding LCD Pitch side Boards

The Trust Board approved the purchase and installation of pitch side LCD boards remotely.

(For – 11,

Against – 0, Abstentions – 0, Not Vote – 1). These will be delivered in the summer.

EFL Conference / Independent Regulator (Update)

This year's EFL Conference incorporated the EFL in the Community conference, with half a day overlapping. What I'm writing about is entirely on the 1.5 days held without the EFL in the Community.

The conference began with an update from the Shadow Independent Regulator and progress thus far. There was very little of substance to relay as the Bill made its way through parliament. One thing has become clear, is that the forerunner, as perhaps the trigger for the Bill, the Fan Led Review, is spoken as though it were a separate workstream.

Increasingly, football authorities are being defeated in law courts across Europe, by players and teams, since often regulations are at odds with statutory law. The latest being the Diarra case ([Lassana Diarra: Fifa transfer rules break EU law - top court rules - BBC Sport](#)).

This highlights the difficulties football authorities are experiencing and without question, the review is now much more about the sharing of football fortune (predominantly TV rights) than it is about supporters.

Fan Engagement Boards (FAB) are spoken of cautiously, despite the importance the IR seems to place on them. However, there is no suggestion that they will have any actual power, simply they will be 'consulted with'.

The rest of the day featured numerous overseas TV distributors presenting how EFL matches are presented in the US, Asia, and Europe. There was a heavy emphasis on the razzamatazz of US consumers. Videos predominantly feature Wrexham and Birmingham City. There was a short discussion around whether clubs would start to buy players from certain countries simply to enhance their brand power in those places.

Presentation from Howard Webb of the PGMOL (Professional Game Management – i.e. referees) spoke about the quality of refereeing, the development of referees, and financial matters. Officials for a league one game cost approximately £4k per match.

For many years now 'sustainability' has been a key word at conference, but its interpretation is perhaps, not what it should be. It appears, to me at least, that a sustainable club is one whose owners can cover expected losses. For example, in L1 a team below us, this season, is being allowed to lose up to £3m, whilst a Championship Club (former L1) presented sustainability as a £5m loss.

Questions from Trust members. Where does the other supporter owned club, AFC Wimbledon stand on this? A. They are more distant from EFL and are focussed on the debt created by moving back to Plough Lane.

Why are projects, such as the recovery room, delivered so late? NH. It is a question of priorities, which we haven't got quite right yet.

Working Group Updates

Trust Finance Group

Minutes were circulated in the meeting pack.

Our new CFO was present at the meeting. She stressed the importance of MACCS and would diarise them to become a regular routine. The La Manga trip finances were discussed and reforecast mentioned. The donation to F.C. United was for help with the election. The Directors and Officers liability insurance has been renewed.

The disciplinary policy is now complete. It contains an appeals process and the right to bring someone for support. Trustees were asked to view the policy.

The two loan agreements, Clifford Hill and OTR are now held by the Club. They have been signed by NH and are awaiting a signature by a Club Director.

Finances March 2025

Opening balance	224,253 .73
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Receipts	
Subscriptions	14,217. 90
Donations	164.17
Total	14,382. 07

Payments	
Payment to club	8,333.0 0
Wages/Tax/Expenses	2,419.0 0
ECI stall	15.00
Refunds	84.00
Bank charges	38.50

Zoom	15.59
Fasthosts	6.60
	10,911.
Total	69
	422,670
Deposit account	.57
PayPal	358.12
	650,752
Total	.80

Owners' and Membership Group

The group will meet on Wednesday.

Membership has hit the 5,000 mark. Membership secretary has used extra hours converting members' Standing Order payments to VeryConnect. FM is helping.

Dates

Thursday April 17, start of Early Bird Season Ticket offer.

Good Friday is Kids in Charge game. T. Ross will be doing "keepy uppies"

April 23 S.E.C and Supporters' Round Table will be meeting.

April 26. Final game. 27th Women's team play Watford.

May 4 is the Awards evening.

May 11 CCT Marathon.

Supporter's Experience Committee

Met on 26 March

Plans for Women's football next season were discussed.

JQ updated on building projects e.g. away end bar. Centre spot improvements are due to take place during close season.

The Club has taken over the catering at Coach Road.

The issue of rebranding was discussed. All surveys have to go through the University Ethics Committee and as owners, the Trust Board should view questions before they go out.

Next week's Round Table is oversubscribed.

Communications and Engagement.

Minutes of the 18 March meeting are in the meeting pack.

The important post of Communications Officer will be advertised.

LE is looking at VeryConnect. 70% of traffic to Trust website comes through tablet or mobile and changes have been made for this.

LE has made changes to joining the Trust page and has met with MH to work on ways to make the website reflect the Trust Owned Club.

It was decided that the Club and Trust websites should be kept separate for the time being.

Community

Trust members' and officers' presence at the ECI volunteers' fair and the Ability Counts tournament was very much appreciated. Our Trust Chair presented prizes, kindly donated by all three Devon Clubs after a programme prize draw.

Next event is the Respect Festival on 7 and 8 June at which CCT and Trust work together. Volunteers, please.

DG reported the SWSG meeting had been deferred to mid May.

Any Other Business

NH reported that RAMM is hoping to do a history of the Trust and Supporter Ownership. It would be a few years from now. SMQ is talking to the museum.

CH. Please contact WM if you wish to attend Awards evening. The Trust would be providing awards for Young Player of the year and hosting their parents.

WB. In the marquee, on the Thursday before the Awards evening, will be a Danny Bailey event to raise funds, to promote awareness of prostate cancer and to celebrate the Championship win 1989/90.

NLM expressed regret that the Club didn't publicise the U11 and U13 tours to Greece. Local supporters would have loved to be involved.

Trust member George thanked everyone for their time and hard work
Trust member Mike said that the work of Trustees was always much appreciated.

Josh raised the issue of payments for younger fans. Revolut was suggested as a possibility

Date of next Meeting: Monday 9 June 2025. In part B, trustees voted not to meet in May.

Future meetings

14 July
11 August
8 September
13 October
10 November
8 December