

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A

Meeting held in RGB Legends Lounge and on Zoom

Date: 12 February 2024

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

Apologies: None

Officers Present: Dean Matthews (Trust Secretary), Steve Chudley (Finance Officer), Pete Cordwell (Minutes Taker), Ryan Iltott (Membership Secretary), Carrie Gillam, Chief Commercial Officer

Trust Members present: Spike, Quinn Elliott, David Thompson, Ray Thompson, Tony Balcott, Brett Lines, Al Yates, Paul Mills, Stephen Dart, George Hunter, Michael Higgins, Gary Quick

Approval of minutes from January meeting

Approval of Part A Minutes for January proposed by WB, seconded by DN.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Matters arising

From Stephen Dart. The minutes don't explain why there are no minutes from the December meeting which was declared null and void.

Nov 23 minutes still need to be approved (NH. This will be covered later)

Some of the Working Groups' minutes are missing. Agenda states CWG Interim meeting in December minutes in pack and F and G minutes but unavailable to members.

Stephen Dart also questioned if F&G role includes governance of minutes as he had concerns over compliance with Trust Rules / Manual. NH stated write to Trust Sec who will pass on concerns to appropriate person.

There is a need to monitor / respond to messages left on Trust web portal and set response times given he was still awaiting response after 2 months.

Rerun of election.

SD. Suggest adding, in advance of feedback "NH stated that there would be no questions for legal reasons.

SD. Questioned why NLM's suggestion that members' questions submitted for but not asked at hustings could be answered after hustings had not been acted upon ?

Reply from CH: 7 questions because there are 7 candidates and they had to be sieved down to fit into an hour.

SD requested that details of sieving criteria be made transparent to members.

Gary Quick. Was present at meeting but not listed in members present.

Al Yates. Wrote an email to Trust secretary on Jan 10th and again on Jan 19th. Was giving information on "best practice frameworks". Asked multiple questions relating to candidates and to questions from first election.

Part B Summary

Under Part B of the Trust Board meeting, the Trust Board:

1. Heard a detailed presentation from Gary Caldwell and Marcus Flitcroft on the events and outcomes of the January transfer window.
2. Looked at some proposals for next season's away and third kits.
3. Considered early plans to purchase Old Tiverton Road buildings and the Clifford Hill training ground.

Update of Part A matters from Chair.

Fan's Forum (15th February 2024)

This Fan's Forum feels as though it's been an age in the making. However, we've finally managed to confirm player attendance. The 1st half will feature Gary Caldwell and Marcus Flitcroft speaking on the transfer window, as well as a Q&A with permanent signings, Ben Purrington and Millenic Alli.

The 2nd half will feature Jeremy Tipper and Joe Gorman presenting on the club's current state, following on from their review of 2023/24 at the Trust AGM.

Half Marathon Debra, Richard, and Steve attended the half marathon on Sunday. Thanks to others who turned up to make it such a success

Membership (as of 4th February 2024)

Total Number of valid Trust Members: 4,342 (Including Corporate Members)

Made up of:

Corporate Members: 46

Members in Grace Period: 309

Fully Paid Up: 4,033

Newsletter

I have scheduled a newsletter to be despatched on Saturday 10th February. Could I ask for group leads to each prepare a newsletter piece commenting on their specific working group. It would be helpful to allow members to understand the breadth of work we commit to.

Something on the SW Supporters' Trust group, would be useful please?

EFL All Clubs Meeting

I'll be attending this meeting on 29th February alongside Julian Tagg and Justin Quick. No agenda has been received at the time of writing but it seems almost certain that it will not include detail of any proposed Premier League/EFL funding model.

Questions and points from the Chair's Update.

SD. Thanks for resurrecting the newsletter

Q. AY. Why don't whole of BOS put their names to the newsletter and other documents.

A. No particular reason

TB. Can we discuss Project 6,000 at next meeting?

Could we have an update please from election review group?

Meeting to review documentation is next week. More consistency will be needed.

Is there a timescale for the review and can we ensure it doesn't happen again?

CH. Should be done as quickly as possible

NH. Need to remember that nothing was done deliberately.

AY. Will the review be of first election?

NH. Yes and then the second.

BL. Could we make the audio for this meeting any clearer, please?

Working Group Updates

Finance and Governance Group

Hasn't met since last meeting. Next meeting is Monday.

January2024

Opening balance	355,611.63
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Receipts	
Subscriptions/donations	14,285.69
PayPal transfer	300.00
Cookbook	868.77
Total	15,454.46

Payments	
Payment to club	8,333.00
Wages/Tax/Expenses	3,385.52
Election costs	3,564.00
Recycling bins	100.87
Cookbook costs	519.80
Campaign Monitor	80.67
Bank charges	56.24
Zoom	31.18
Website domain	199.87
Fasthosts	6.60
Total	16,277.75

PayPal Deposit account	136.33
	609,499.50

Total	964,424.17
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Chefchenko profits are around £600. Some cost to rerun election. Paypal numbers are wrong way round.

AY. Q. Could we have a display on the screen?

A. The accounts are in the meeting pack which the Trust secretary sends out.

Ownership and Membership Group

No meeting held since last TB.

OMWG now coordinating matchday Boardroom host to look after Director of the Day. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. Chaser to be sent to fill the roster.

Elaine Davis has announced as at 9.2.24, following seed money from OMWG: Christmas sale of aprons and cook books:

ChefChenko income £1870.77

" costs £1287.00

Leaving £583.77 profit for Trust funds.

With books still available to sell in the shop, online and at any future events to boost this figure.

The Badgeman who we use for all our badges has 10% off all orders placed in February.

RESOLUTION TO BE SENT BY EMAIL:

In line with our strategy to prioritise increase subscriptions as opposed to seeking new members' funds were put in the OMWG budget. To use the current season ticket renewal flyer (with any amendments) and offer a prize draw for dinner with Gary, Nick and Clive to 11 members (and their guest) who increase their subscriptions.

Dates for Diaries

Tomorrow night is FvH evening.

Feb 15 Fans' Forum

Feb 23 Club has been nominated for an Award at a ceremony at the National Football Museum in Manchester.

February 24 Level Playing Field match (week of action) – Dementia theme

April 28 – Awards Evening

March 9/10 "Her 2" weekend

July 7 – Family Fun Day

Match Experience post (Adam Spencer) has started allowing Club to bring Match day experience in house.

Communication and Engagement Group

Trust Communications Group Meeting Minutes

(Monday, January 29 2024, @6pm)

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

Apologies: Nick Hawker and Jed Penberthy.

1. Upcoming Comms Pieces/Strategy

JBA spoke about the main upcoming piece of content for Trust Communications: a series of pieces under an umbrella of 'How the Trust Works'. There's a lot of confusion amongst the fanbase about how the Trust and Club work. The aim being to make this information more accessible to fans and members. Will Barrett has agreed to help with this and JBA is due to meet him in February to discuss this further.

Trust Newsletters to recommence now that Nick Hawker is Trust Chair again. JBA has had comments from members saying that they were useful and that they were missed.

2. Green Football Weekend

Green Football Weekend is taking place this weekend. JBA to liaise with Steven Chown and Jed Penberthy to promote joint project with ECI that is being launched on Saturday.

3. Upcoming VeryConnect Votes

There are a number of matters that will need approval from the membership. Voting for these will be done through VeryConnect:

- *The Big Step*
- *CAPEX (x2)*
- *The White Paper, position with EFL deal*

The Trust needs more of its members to register on VeryConnect (around 50% currently registered). Thinking is that one of the above votes will encourage people to register. 10 DM cannot access enquiries@weownexetercityfc.co.uk, need to gain access to be able to monitor going forward. JBA to chase Phil Burden, who previously had access.

JBA to give DM access to Wix to help monitor inbox.

4. Website Rethink

JBA updated on all the work done updating the website so far (Trust Board pages) and talked about potential future changes and ideas proposed by Neil Le Milliere.

5. AOB

DM suggested using Teams for Trust Board meetings. Up to the Board to decide if this is preferable. JBA suggested uploading Part A minutes to website as soon as they are approved during Trust Board meetings and asked DM to have the uploadable version prepared for JBA ahead of the next meeting.

6. Date of next meeting: February 19

Points from meeting

JBA outlined some of the proposed improvements to website. Hoping to make distinction between Club and Trust much clearer. More details to follow.

Thanks to NLM for help with more website improvements. Move to teams to be debated by Trust Board.

Could we have more content on YouTube channel, please? JBA. The work on Club/ Trust clarity could certainly go on there.

GQ. Still appears on website as a Director.

AY. Need to increase use of VeryConnect. It includes event management. Does JBA need more help?

Community Working Group

Has been no meeting. EFL Green weekend has been covered elsewhere. Thanks given to Carrie for organising the bins for sports kit collection for ECI. Still working on this with JBA.

DG updated the meeting on work of South West Supporters' Trust. Taunton has joined. They have a GoFundMe page. Discussions took place about SkyBet sponsorship.

AY. In the January minutes he suggested we look for increased revenue from friendlies with the likes of Motherwell or FC United. Any update? Athletic Bilbao would love a joint event.

Any Other Business

Members Agenda Item – Steve Dart

Given meeting was running past 2100 cut off, SD suggested to Chair that he was happy to postpone his item to allow full discussion of this item. NH agreed.

"Should the Trust's public support of fans at another club who caused abandonment of a game by throwing balls onto the pitch, invaded pitch with large "Owner Out" poster and flares be expanded to Trust members undertaking peaceful protests at SJP like the one during Shrewsbury game which was stopped by Club Staff ?"

David Thompson addressed the meeting regarding his two agenda items.

Request: ECFC Trust to take early formal action to encourage the club Board, ECFC being a subsidiary company trading for the benefit of the community and acting under its control, to urgently issue instructions to all staff and agents acting in the club's behalf to ensure that all supporters attending matches at SJP , who abide by EFL Ground Regulations, are treated in accordance with published Trust Rules and Objects without fear or favour.

In this regard, it is further requested that the club issue a statement to this effect which makes it clear that peaceful freedom of expression is permitted.

Breaches of the Peace (Debate)

He suggested that a police officer should be present to act as a final arbiter.

The Chair proposed a March meeting with the Safety Officer, Police Liaison Officer and Justin, the Club's Chief Operating Officer.

SD. Is it true that at the Shrewsbury game the stewards' briefing included instructions that "Caldwell Out banners and the like will be tolerated?"

Spike expressed the opinion that the Club had handled the issue perfectly reasonably.

Other items of Any Other Business

PF asked for questions for the upcoming Fans' Forum

WB conveyed thanks to all involved with the Exeter Half Marathon

DT Thanks to all involved with the Green Weekend.

Are we considering solar panels at Cliff Hill Training Ground? Do we need to get someone like Travis (a green awareness campaigner) in to increase awareness of green issues. A meeting with Utilita, a green energy company, has been arranged.

AY. Modulek, our CHTG contractors were involved at Cambridge United with green issues so perhaps we could talk to them.

Date of next meeting: 11th March 2024

Future meetings

8 April

13 May

10 June

8 July

12 August

9 September

14 October

11 November

9 December