
Boston United Football Club Supporters' Trust

“By the Fans, for the Fans”

Acting Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 1st April, 2006. Time: 12pm

Venue: Haven Online, Boston

1.00 Apologies were received from :-

Richard Tupper - Treasurer
Pete Brooksbank

Present at the meeting were :-

Ron Coley - Chairman
Mark Isaac - Secretary
Rob Pick
Mick Taylor
Lee Overton
David Whittle
Adam Upsall
Melvin Moxon
Andrew Chapman

It was agreed that the meeting minutes of 18th March 2006 were a true and accurate record of the proceedings, and the Chairman duly signed the Meeting Minutes.

2.00 Matters Arising

2.10 Staffsmart UK Limited

2.11 A statement is to be drafted after the meeting, circulated to all board members for comment and agreement, before being issued to the general public, through the local newspapers and Trust website. It was noted that the threatened legal action by Staffsmart UK Ltd against one of the Trust's acting officer's was still awaited. The acting officer concerned confirmed that he would be defending any such action personally and vigorously.

2.20 Recent meeting between representatives of BUFC and representatives of the BUFCST

2.21 It was agreed by the board of the BUFCST that it was disappointing that the management of BUFC Limited had decided to issue a statement to the local press regarding this meeting, before the meeting minutes had been distributed to all the parties involved, or before the representatives of the BUFCST had had the opportunity of reporting back to the board of the BUFCST.

2.22 It was noted that the meeting minutes for the above meeting had not yet been received, and it was agreed that the secretary of the BUFCST should write to BUFC Limited requesting a copy of these meeting minutes, for discussion at the next board meeting.

2.30 Pilgrim's Patter

2.31 It was reported that the BUFCST Pilgrims Patter experienced around 20,000 "hits" per day. It was noted that many BUFC fans had made friends via this discussion forum established by Dr Ken Fox, and that it had and will serve an invaluable purpose for fans and exiles fans. In the face of past threats to close it down, it was agreed that any such attempts in the future would be rigorously defended.

2.32 Adam Upsall was thanked for the work undertaken in respect of the Usage Terms, and for the fact that it was not possible to access the Pilgrim's Patter section unless the terms and conditions were accepted.

2.33 Moderation rights had been granted to a number of the board, and two additional people to try and ensure that the board was capable of being moderated 24 hours a day.

2.34 It was stated that one particular user had been banned from The Pilgrim's Patter previously and that as the BUFCST welcomed everyone to participate within the organisation and to share in discussions about their football club, that this ban should be removed provided a full and unreserved apology is made to a current member of the Boston United Board. Should the terms and conditions of the site be broken, by anyone, there would be no hesitation in issuing a ban.

3.00 BUFCST Aims

3.01 It was agreed that the BUFCST should adopt both a short term, and long term aims, which are:-

"The Boston United Football Club Supporters Trust look forward to working together with the Board of Boston United Football Club Limited, the committee of the Boston United Supporters Association as well as the local community, to try and ensure the future financial stability of Boston United Football Club Limited, over the coming months to allow Boston United Football Club Limited to maintain their position in the Football League for the 2006 / 07 season".

"However, the long term aims of the Boston United Football Club Supporters Trust, is that eventually the club can be owned by the fans for the fans. Any proposed changes regarding where the club plays must be formulated on the basis that the move must leave the club debt free, playing in the Football League and controlling its own destiny through the ownership of its own football ground".

4.00 Correspondence Received

4.01 The Secretary informed the Board that Mr Pat Everitt had submitted his resignation. Pat, as a founder member of the Trust will leave a significant void and was thanked in his absence by the board for all his hard work over the past 9 months. It is with great regret that his resignation was accepted by the board. Pat has stated that he will continue to support the trust as a member.

4.02 It was agreed to leave the position (of BUFC liaison officer) vacant until the next meeting.

Mr Ron Coley handed the chair over to Mr Melvin Moxon, and left the meeting at 1.30pm

5.00 Report from Supporters Direct Meeting

5.01 David Whittle confirmed that he had attended the Supporters Direct Meeting, on Thursday 30th March 2006, held at the home of Rushden & Diamonds Football Club and that the meeting had been very informative, and productive, with 30 representatives from 13 Supporters Trusts attending the meeting.

5.02 It was reported that the next Supporters Direct Meeting is arranged for Thursday 18th May 2006, at Chesterfield and that there is also a meeting arranged for 15th July at Leicesters City FC's ground.

6.00 Planning Applications

6.01 It was reported that an individual had contacted a BUFCST board member through the Pilgrim's Patter informing them that they were aware of a bogus letter of objection having been sent to Boston Borough Council, regarding the current planning application in respect of the club relocation's proposals.

6.02 All the board present confirmed that they were not aware, or involved, with any bogus letters being sent to Boston Borough Council regarding the submitted planning applications, and it was agreed to leave the individual concerned to resolve the matter with Boston Borough Council.

7.00 BUSA's Letter to Boston Borough Council

7.01 Although it was appreciated why BUSA had chosen to provide a letter, for signing by individual supporters, regarding the proposed relocation proposals there were concerns raised regarding the contents of the letter because the letter stated that it was not financially viable for the existing York Street ground to be upgraded to meet current / future Football League requirements. For BUSA to make these statements it was felt that BUSA should be able to confirm not only the works that are required to be carried out to the ground to reach the Football League requirements, but also the costs for these particular works.

7.02 It was reported that at the last Fans Forum held at The Assembly Rooms, Boston that Lavaflow's agent, Mr Evans stated that it was physically impossible to upgrade the existing York Street ground to meet Football League requirements, as the existing site was too narrow. Therefore, from the BUSA statement it would appear that this previous statement by Mr Evan's was incorrect.

8.00 Acting Officer's Reports

8.10 BUFC Liaison

8.11 There was no report available as the acting officer had now stood down from this particular position, within the trust. However, it was suggested, and agreed, that the Chairman of BUFC should be invited to attend a board meeting of the BUFCST, and address all the acting officers, with all the information that BUFC had already presented to BUSA, regarding the relocation proposals.

8.20 BUSA Liaison

8.21 It was suggested, and agreed, that the committee of BUSA should be invited to attend a joint meeting with the Board of the BUFCST, on a convenient date and time and at a suitable venue, to allow both the BUFCST and BUSA to discuss, and hopefully agree, what each organisation is able to offer to the supporters of BUFC, as well as how both organisations can work together in trying to support BUFC.

8.30 Community

8.31 It was stated that the acting officer intended to make contact with various organisations, such as the Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Spalding Chamber of Commerce, the Grantham Chamber of Commerce, the Sleaford Chamber of Commerce, the Spilsby Chamber of Commerce and the Skegness Chamber of Commerce before the next meeting of the BUFCST board.

8.40 Membership

8.41 The membership secretary confirmed that applications had been received already, and that a personalised acknowledgement letter would be sent to each new member, and that a membership card would be designed and printed. Trust Share certificates will be designed as soon as possible. The membership drive will be maintained over the coming weeks giving as many potential members as possible the opportunity to support the future of BUFC and have an influence on this.

8.50 Publicity & Marketing

8.51 The Publicity & Marketing acting officer stated that activities had been quiet since the publication of the fanzine two weeks ago, however the Lincolnshire Echo was still awaiting a formal reply from the BUFCST board regarding the recent press releases by the Chairman of BUFC.

8.60 Supporters Direct

8.61 The acting officer stated that he was unable to attend the recent Supporters Direct meeting at Rushden and Diamonds Football Club, but was endeavouring to make contact with various personnel who had personal experience of assisting Football League clubs that had had to undergo financial restructuring.

8.70 Treasurer's Report

8.71 As the treasurer was unable to attend the meeting all acting board members had been informed of the current financial position prior to the meeting being held. A full update will be made at the next Board meeting.

8.80 Youth

8.81 The acting officer reported that he looked forward to being actively involved with the youth membership of the trust once the applications recently received had been processed.

9.00 Fundraising Strategy

9.01 All acting officers had previously received information regarding a fundraising strategy, and it was suggested that the BUFCST need to try and produce a programme of events which compliment the events already taking place in the local community, such as the Party in the Park which it is believe attract 60,000 participants over the whole event. It was suggested that local events like this would be an ideal platform to stage fundraising, such as raffles, prize draws, etc which could not only provide a prize to the winner, but also raise the profile of the BUFCST in the local community, and providing income to the BUFCST. It was suggested that two of these events could be promoted each year.

9.02 It was also suggested that fundraising events such as Sponsored Walks, Sponsored Cycle rides etc could be arranged, and that it was thought that up to 4 of these events could be promoted each year.

9.03 Furthermore, it was discussed, and generally agreed, that public open meetings should be incorporated with fundraising events, and that these public open meetings should be held around every 3 months, with the next public open meetings being scheduled for around Saturday 6th May 2006, Saturday 5th August 2006 and Saturday 4th November 2006. Obviously, these dates may need to be amended slightly once a suitable venue, and event had been determined.

9.04 The Punk Rock concert at the Indian Queen public house held on March 18th was very successful, and £150 was raised for the Trust. The Board wishes to thank the organiser and the Licensees of the Indian Queen for their support.

9.05 It was reported that the proposed AM - AM Golf Day had been well received and a number of entries had been submitted.

10.00 Voluntary Sector Meeting

10.01 It was proposed, and agreed, that the BUFCST should join the Boston District Council for Voluntary Service following a long meeting with CVS in January. The secretary confirmed that he had the relevant application forms and that a cheque for the relevant amount would be raised from the treasurer.

11.00 Any Other Business

11.01 The Acting Trust Board would like to thank Haven High Technology centre for the kind use of its facilities.

12.00 Next Meeting

12.01 The next meeting is to be held on Monday 17th April 2006, at 24 York Street, Boston, Lincolnshire commencing at 12.00pm.

Circulation

All those present plus:-
Richard Tupper - Treasurer
Pete Brooksbank
Trust website

Signed
Chairman of the Meeting

Date