

Boston United Supporters' Trust Acting Board Meeting

12pm, 23rd December 2006

UNITARIAN CHAPEL, SPAYNE LANE, BOSTON

Meeting minutes

In attendance: Melvin Moxon (Chairman), Richard Tupper, Andrew Chapman, David Whittle, Matthew Barker, Mark Isaac (minutes)

- 1. Apologies for absence:** were received from Messrs Ron Coley, Lee Overton and Terry Taylor.
- 2. Matters arising.** The issue of the meeting minutes was raised. It was agreed that in future meeting minutes would be agreed at the next subsequent acting board meeting. Currently they are agreed by email before the next acting board meeting.
- 3. Minutes from 25th November.** These were proposed by David Whittle as correct. Seconded by Richard Tupper.
- 4. Membership cards and renewal of memberships.** Adam Upsall had produced the membership cards in the past and it was agreed to approach him. **ACTION: David Whittle**

Renewals. A discussion took place on whether prospective members who might consider joining part way through the year might be encouraged by paying a pro rata sum. It was agreed to review the membership policy more fully when time permitted. In the meantime, more information was required on direct debits and standings orders and the cost of these. **ACTION: Richard Tupper**

5. Conduct of business standards policy. This had been circulated to the acting board in November for comment. The document is an important policy document and sets out how the acting board will treat hospitality and gifts etc, from future business sponsors and the like, to ensure that there is not even the perception of any impropriety or seeming obligation on the acting board when dealing with businesses/sponsors. The policy follows the public sector guidelines in line with the relevant Fraud and Corruption Acts. It was agreed to permit acting officers until 15th January 2007 to provide any further comments.

6. Save Our Club – the Options

Andrew Chapman was invited by the chairman to share his research on the matter with the rest of the board. In summary:

1. The matter is out of the Trust's hands for the time being. The directors of BUFC can determine the future of the football club.
2. If the mooted sale to a London property developer falls through, a corporate voluntary agreement (CVA) could follow. This would require 75% of creditors by value (HMRC and Lavaflow Ltd) to agree to accepting a certain percentage in the £ (4p in the £ has been the level in some other cases).
3. If creditors cannot agree this, then administration could follow provided there is enough money to fund the costs. AFC Telford could not find an administrator for less than £50,000. This could mean fans/trust/local businesses getting involved in raising funds urgently. If, say, £125,000 could be raised, this would put fans/trust/local business in a strong position to influence matters.

7. Fundraising. The Trust's agreed aim is to achieve a membership of 500 (25-30% of the average home gate). The acting board can then be recruited to in full as can the sub-committees by able individuals.

An approach has been made to BUFC to request a list of all current season ticket holders. However, there is a data protection issue potentially and unless the club can obtain the permission of season ticket holders this information cannot be shared

It was proposed that the Trust write to James Rodwell with a view to sending letter from BUFC and BUFCST to season ticket holders to ask them if they would authorise the sharing of their contact details. **ACTION: Melvin Moxon**

It was also proposed that the transferability (sale, proxy and gifted) of Boston United shares be investigated with the football club: **ACTION: Melvin Moxon**

It was agreed that the letter to BUFC shareholders would be deferred for a month.

8. Correspondence sent and received

Andrew Chapman reported back on his recent correspondence with the Football Association, The Football League, Supporters Direct, Mark Simmonds, MP and the Professional Footballers Association.

1. The Football League has confirmed that a ten point deduction would result if a CVA or administration were opted for. If this happens before the last game of the season, the 10 point deduction happens in the current season. If this happens after the last game of the season the 10 point deduction is carried forward to the next season. If the team is relegated by right at the end of the season and goes into administration after the last game of the season, the 10 point deduction is transferred to the next season. It is not clear if the 10 point deduction is carried over the Nationwide Conference. **ACTION: Andrew Chapman to verify.**

2. If the club is liquidated, and points gained are deducted and the team is relegated. The Football Association will deal with any reincarnation that might occur.

It was noted that the club's 5 year ban from the conference is now lapsed according to the press.

3. Would the PFA step in and pay the players' wages? The PFA told the trust that every case is judged on its individual merits.

It was confirmed that Mark Simmonds, MP had been kept informed of all developments regarding the football club including the non-payment of wages and the potential new buyer.

ACTION: Mark Isaac to write (before the 14th January) to Mr Mick Gallagher, CEO, Boston Borough Council to request a meeting with him and the Trust.

9. Treasurer's report. Richard Tupper reported the following:

Cash at bank of £1,866

Comprising:

Income:

Balance b/fwd £730

Individual donations £573

Promotions including the Golf day, and Indian Queen gig £1,564
Membership subscriptions £644
Total income: £3,511

Expenditure:

Hire of rooms £143
Golf day £792
Leaflets, posters, advertising £610
Education and Courses £100

Total expenditure: £1,645

The Trust is entitled to claim 50% of its gross expenditure (subject to a maximum of £1,000) from Supporters Direct. This funding stream does not appear in the above income and expenditure as it has yet to be realised.

10. Updates from BUFC

Justin Rushworth, BUFC Accountant, has advised Melvin Moxon that the potential buyer of BUFC had a three week “exclusivity” clause and that if this fails then the football club will go into liquidation. It is also understood that the potential new owner has also contacted the current owners of the York Street stadium.

11. Any other business.

The acting secretary wished to thank the acting board (past and present) for its hard work over the past 10 months. It was also agreed to co-opt Mr Neil Johnson on to the acting board (proposed by Richard Tupper, seconded by David Whittle). Mr Johnson will be taking on the role of Trust press officer.

Meeting minutes approved

Signed by Melvin Moxon, Acting Vice-Chairman