



# NOTTS COUNTY SUPPORTERS TRUST



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting No.	52
Date	Tuesday, 21 March 2006
Time	8 p.m.
Venue	Horse & Groom, 462 Radford Road, Nottingham.
Version	1

### **Present**

Keri Usherwood, (Chair), Eric Kerry, (Treasurer), John Collin, (Secretary), Ken Carter, Jurgen Halligan, Martin Naylor, Stuart Rolley, Alan Scott, Cheryl Thompson, Steve Thompson, plus Gareth Marklew, Dave Rimmer, Glenn Rolley (Board Members following Item 5.)  
Richard Stanton for Item 4.

### **1 Apologies For Absence**

John Armstrong-Holmes, Nigel King, Carole Stapleton.

### **2. Meeting Agenda**

With the consent of the meeting, the Chair said he would deal with Item 4 when Richard Stanton arrived and to progress the rest of the agenda around that.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **5. Consideration of Co-Options**

With the consent of the meeting, KU agreed to consider the co-option of Gareth Marklew at the meeting. Gareth Marklew, Dave Rimmer and Glenn Rolley had all submitted written applications which had been circulated before the meeting.

**It was proposed by KU and seconded by CT that Gareth Marklew and Dave Rimmer become co-opted Board Members. This was carried unanimously.**

**Glenn Rolley joined the meeting and it was proposed by MN and seconded by CT that Glenn Rolley become a co-opted Board Member. This was carried unanimously.**

KU welcomed the new members and emphasised that a lot of the discussion had to be confidential.

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### **6. Supporter Director**

ST gave his report.

At this point, KU invited Richard Stanton to join the meeting to talk about further encouragement for youngsters.

### **4. Marketing the Club to Younger Supporters**

Richard Stanton addressed the meeting about an initiative called “Fans for the Future”. He said that at the moment there were only around 40 Junior Magpies and it was important that young fans under 11 were given encouragement and he welcomed the free season ticket initiative. He said he was working on a package to support this and asked for the Trust’s assistance.

He showed the meeting a pack used by Preston North End (with 1100 junior members) which contained “goodies” and included birthday cards. PNE had 5 sponsors who were enthusiastic towards the Club and the initiative.

RS said that historically, Notts County were not good at collecting a fan data base. He said Southend had 19,000 fans identified including mobile phone and e-mail info on 11,000).

**The Board agreed in principle to assist and would try to identify particular areas to be helpful with. Action All**

### **6. Supporter Director (Continued)**

JC reported that three elected Board Members had expressed an interest in being the SD. He outlined the procedure for electing a SD used last time, circulated previously, and outlined the potential difficulty regarding any possible veto on the Trust’s selection.

**It was proposed by KU, seconded by MN the selection procedure should be the procedure used last time. Action JC**

ST said he would not be involved in any discussion of the selection.

**This was carried nem con.**

### **7. Officers’ Reports**

#### **a. Chair — Keri Usherwood**

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KU said the recent events have made organising the Fan's Forum difficult. He has made the Directors aware that we want to do this but said making firm plans at this exact moment is impossible as you can imagine. He is still hopeful though that current issues must be resolved soon and we can still aim to hold a forum on a Wednesday night on either 5th or 12th April. I will continue to pursue this. (ST phoned HW and he said he was available on 5<sup>th</sup> April).

KU reported that it is the Trust's 3rd Birthday on 4th April. Hopefully, we can use this to get some positive PR and emphasise our aims and achievements.

KU said that the Trust will soon be able to assume the role of "Critical Friend" towards the Club. The recent appointment of further Directors means that the Trust's representation has been diluted. KU asked the Board to think about whether there should be an extra Trust Director.

KU reported that since the last meeting he had followed up a problem at the Mansfield game on behalf of a member. And had given a talk on the Trust to a meeting of the Nottingham Eastern Co-op. He said he had also asked Geoff Davey to explore whether we can have a representative on the Lifeline Committee.

### **b. Treasurer – Eric Kerry**

EK reported that available funds were £2561.10. He said that he had a donation cheque for £250 from a member and asked whether ST had any news of the possible legal fees budgeted. ST said he had dealt with them and they would be no cost to the Trust. The Board thanked ST and EK said that the available funds were now about £2,000 greater. EK also reported that Inland Revenue returns were being completed and need to be in before end of May. Regarding the more significantly changes proposed by the regulators as to how the audit will have to be carried out next time, the feedback he was getting is that there are increases in the rigorousness of the audit will add auditor time and therefore cost. He has asked another accountant that he knows and he would not even touch this type of work.

### **c. Secretary – John Collin**

JC reported that he had contacted GD to ask for a date for a meeting in April.

## **8. Sub-Group Reports**

### **a. PR Stuart Rolley**

SR went through his report. Lifeline – Lynn has confirmed that she has received 16 new members as a result of the newsletter (mostly annual payments)– relatively small but worthwhile progress.

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SR asked the Board to consider what might go out in the mailing for the Supporter Director. He said the last newsletter has received some positive feedback and some potential articles for future editions. The next newsletter will be the anniversary special about the formation of the Trust. He asked all Board Members to contribute.

JS portrait – SR reported that the painter has been back in touch and sent through some examples of his work. These were looked at by the Board.

### **With regard to a notice board, it was agreed to buy one. Action SR**

SR asked for suggestions for items for the PR sub group to discuss.

#### **b. Community Cheryl Thompson**

CT reported on the Fairtrade day at Notts where quite a bit of promotion took place.

CT reported that the Community sub group had started to plan a 5 a side tournament in May, which they hope will be both a 'community' event, and also a fundraiser. The plan is to ask a Notts veterans team to take part, and possible also Stags and F\*\*\*\*t. Plans are also afoot for the Open Day - this year's provisional date is July 30th - more to follow over the coming months.

CT also reported that the cartoonists involved with the Big Draw will be doing some caricatures of the players; hopefully we will be able to sell these and raise funds.

#### **Strategy Alan Scott**

AS said that the latest sets of figures were well presented and certainly a vast improvement on what has been seen before.

He had questions regarding the role of the new Club Board Members which would be discussed on another occasion.

#### **c. Membership, Recruitment, Retention Jurgen Halligan**

JH reported that the current total of members is 1386.

#### **d. Fundraising Ken Carter**

KC explained that he could not devote as much time as he would like to the fund raising and so he would be standing down as the lead of fund raising.

Board members thanked KC for his work on fund raising.

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### **9. Supporter-Director Report – Steve Thompson**

Dealt with earlier.

### **10. E.M. Supporters' Trusts Meeting(s)**

Some debate about availability for the next meeting at Rushden & Diamonds.

### **11. Any Other Business**

None.

### **12. Minutes of Previous Meetings, for approval and signing**

The Minutes of Meeting 51 were accepted as a true record and signed.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

To be fixed.

The meeting ended at 10.23 p.m.