

# NOTTS COUNTY SUPPORTERS TRUST



## BOARD MEETING OPEN MINUTES

Meeting No.	66
Date	Tuesday 22 May 2007
Time	8.00 p.m.
Venue	Plough Inn, St Peters Street, Nottingham
Version	1

### **Present**

Keri Usherwood (Chair), Nigel King (Vice Chair), John Collin (Secretary), Peter Dennis (Treasurer), Eric Kerry (Supporter Director), David Hindley, Gareth Marklew, Glenn Rolley, Stuart Rolley, Cheryl Thompson, Trevor Woolley, Steve Adcock (Blythen's) for item 4.

### **1. Apologies For Absence**

John Armstrong-Holmes,

### **2. Meeting Agenda**

Agreed.

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

EK as a Director of Blenheim 1862 Ltd.

### **4. Majority Shareholding Accounting & Audit Implications**

KU welcomed Steve Adcock who had come to the meeting to advise the Board about accounting requirements following the Trust's acquisition of a majority shareholding in Blenheim 1862 Ltd.

SA said that in order to comply with the law, consolidated accounts (Trust and Blenheim 1862 Ltd.) will probably need to be presented to members at the AGM.

SA advised that a sensible approach would be for one audit to audit both accounts and hence the consolidated account.

SA also advised that the accounts do not need consolidating this year for this year's AGM.

Financial years will need to be brought into line with each other and arrangements for audit need to be agreed. **PD agreed to look at what needs to be done for the forthcoming AGM with regards to any change in the Trust's rules.**

### **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of Meeting 65 were accepted as a true record.

### **7. Report of Strategy Sub-Group**

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NK reported that DH had now joined the group. The MOU had now progressed and was in a form for consultation with the Club.

**Prop NK, sec DH to approve the MOU for discussion with Jeff Moore. This was agreed nem con – EK abstained. Action NK.**

The strategy document was now in a form for consultation with other stakeholders.

### **8. Officers' Reports**

#### **a. Chair -- Keri Usherwood**

*"In the past few weeks I have attended meetings of the Trust strategy sub-committee (big thanks especially to Nigel for the work he has put into this). I have attended the Player of the Season awards, answered messages on the Trust website and by email, met with the proposed new Marketing Director and I took part in the trip to Macclesfield for the 1862'ers which seemed to go extremely well. And I will be attending the meeting tomorrow about the Open Day - again thanks to Dave and Cher especially for their efforts on this.*

KU reported that he and NK had met Jo Adams, the then proposed Marketing Director. The Trust's consent was therefore given.

The Macclesfield trip with the 1862 Club was very successful.

**It was duly proposed, seconded and carried that the meeting may proceed after 10.30 p.m.**

#### **b. Treasurer – Peter Dennis**

PD circulated his report.

The bank balance at 21.05.07 is £13,373.70.

Looking at the current situation, the available funds stand at £8,668.82. JC reported that JAH had now estimated raffle prizes to cost £3,000. PD reported that a £500 donation towards the JS portrait had been received from a member.

**Expenses of £44.49 to SR for postage and £8.25 to TW for stamps/envelopes were approved.**

#### **c. Secretary – John Collin**

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JC formally reported the resignation of Carole Stapleton from the Board. He also pointed out that the SD Conference would be in Manchester on 19<sup>th</sup> October, with the next regional meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July at Coalville.

### **9. Supporter Director's Report – Eric Kerry**

EK reported:

In response to questions, EK reported that a deal with the Rugby Club for next season should be concluded soon.

### **10. Sub-Group Reports**

#### **a. PR**

#### **SR**

SR went through the list of actions for the next newsletter.

SR reported that a place to put the JS portrait had been identified. The artist had come to the view that in that position, a larger portrait would be required and he agreed to do one for no extra cost.

#### **b. Community**

#### **DH**

*"It has been a busy month on the community front. I have posted a number of updates over the last few weeks, so will just try to summarise here the latest developments.*

#### *Open Day*

*I have previously posted the minutes of the last Open Day meeting to the list. There is a meeting at Meadow Lane on Tuesday to discuss the Open Day, so I should be able to provide a verbal update on the current state of play at the Board meeting.*

#### *Storytelling*

*I have had a productive meeting with Pete Davis from the Storytellers of Nottingham, who are a not-for-profit collective whose ethos is to help promote the art of storytelling. The group performs regularly at the Trip to Jerusalem pub in Nottingham, as well as at various fundraising/charity events, and working in schools, running workshops etc.*

*I contacted Pete initially to see if they would be willing to perform at the Open Day, but following our meeting there are lots of other ideas, which may be*

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worth pursuing.

1. They could do a performance - a Notts County themed night at the Trip or Meadow Lane - once they have collated fans' stories about supporting the Pies.

2. Pete has worked with a number of local community groups to produce collections of stories which are then published. He showed me some examples - they are cheap to print (£700 for 1,000) but help to bring people together in a collective project. I think there is huge potential in this idea and if we could secure sponsorship could pay for the production costs and be a decent fundraiser.

3. The group are happy to come along to the Meadow Club a few times next season to go round and speak to fans, encouraging them to recount stories of past players, memorable matches etc. These could feed into 1 and 2, or possibly a column in the programme which in turn could trigger other fans to contribute.

4. We could run a storywriting competition (with age categories) to encourage younger supporters to get involved. Pete suggested that he could invent a character which they could then write about or set up a scenario for them to finish (this is called 'fragments' apparently).

5. The storytelling group have established really good links with Radio Nottingham. One idea is to use this to raise awareness of whatever project(s) we decide to pursue and get fans to ring in with their stories. I wondered whether we could tie this in with the Portrait and get fans to contribute their recollections on the great man.

6. The final idea is to get the storytellers working with the 1862 Club. Pete thinks this group would be a rich mine of material and could possibly produce a book on their own. One other idea is to present the stories in an exhibition - enlarge the narrative to A3, include a digital photograph of the fan and have a collection of these on display.

In order to start firming up plans for next season can you please let me have your comments on this. I have had no responses to my original e-mail to the list so currently have little idea whether this is something we should be pursuing or not.

*The Art Organisation*

*I have had 3 meetings with Rob who runs the Art Organisation, a new gallery/community arts facility on Station Street. He is really keen on getting*

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*involved and has got a lot of (sometimes off the wall) ideas about how we can work together, as well as some useful contacts. For example, he is keen to work on decorating the stadium to make it more inviting/attractive i.e. painting/drawing the drab walls under the stands.*

*One proposal is for the Trust to sponsor a month-long community/open submission exhibition in August, which could be a spring board for other activities (we are looking at a number of workshops at Meadow Lane over the season). Cost wise we are looking at around £500-600, but could provide some decent PR as well as developing some excellent community links. I'll talk more about this tomorrow.*

### *Newsletter*

*I have submitted 2 articles for the newsletter. One looks at issues of sustainability/ethical/green issues, the other highlights some of the storytelling ideas. I will try and cobble something together on the Open Day once I know what is actually going on!*

### *Other stuff*

*I have also had an input to the Trust strategy/MoU, and put together a draft set of questions for the survey (see previous posting).*

*Finally, just on a personal note I am going to be struggling from the end of this week to devote much time to Trust activities. It is fast approaching marking time and given that I will have over 200 assignments to turn-around as well as numerous exam boards it won't leave much, if any, spare time for other things for the rest of May and most of June."*

The Open Day is on 15<sup>th</sup> July from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The players will be doing a training session from 11.30 to 12.30 before going off to Devon.

DH went through some aspects of the report.

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

**TW**

TW reported that the data base is up to date and that all the queries have been resolved and the members involved informed. Thought is being given to the reintroduction of a membership card or receipt of some kind, together, possibly, with a car sticker.

Membership numbers are about 4 more than the last report.

### **d. Fundraising**

**GR**

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GR offered, on behalf of his team, to organise a Beer Festival in 2008. This offer was readily agreed. The organisation will start in August.

GR also mentioned the recycling, awaiting a base and the book manuscript, awaiting any finance.

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

DH asked for any comments on his draft survey.

### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 28th June, 2007

**The meeting ended at 11.00 p.m.**