

NOTTS COUNTY SUPPORTERS TRUST



BOARD MEETING OPEN MINUTES

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|-------------|--|
| Meeting No. | 74 |
| Date | Wednesday, 7 th November 2007 |
| Time | 8.00 p.m. |
| Venue | Plough Inn, St Peters Street, Nottingham |
| Version | 1 |

Present

Stuart Rolley, (Chair), Peter Dennis (Treasurer), John Collin (Secretary), Eric Kerry (Supporter Director), John Armstrong-Holmes, Margaret Cobb, Gareth Marklew, David Hindley Glenn Rolley, Mike Scott, Trevor Woolley.

1. Apologies For Absence

Nigel King (Vice Chair), Cheryl Thompson, Keri Usherwood, Paul Whitby.

2. Meeting Agenda

Agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest

EK, JAH and PD as Directors of Blenheim 1862 Ltd.
GM as an employee of HMRC.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of Meetings 72 and 73 were accepted as a true record.

5. Trust Survey

DH reported on the results of the recent Trust Survey. There had been 202 responses of which 10% were non-members.

Of the members, 93% said they will renew membership and 70%+ agreed with the positive statements.

The newsletter was identified as the preferred method of communication.

With regard to the football club, 50% agreed there was poor or very poor football with two thirds saying season ticket prices were right and one half saying the matchday prices were right.

60% prefer Sunday afternoon football when matches have to be rearranged and 34 volunteers were identified.

6. Officers' Reports

a. Chair -- Stuart Rolley

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SR thanked the Board for appointing him as Chair and welcomed the new members of the Board. He said that telephone communication was going to have to be a primary method.

SR emphasised that collective responsibility had to apply.

He said that the SR/JAH interface is good and that he will disseminate information as soon as he physically can.

A newsletter is planned by Keri before Christmas and KU is also looking into setting up a blog.

The web site needs a revamp.

KU has interviewed SR for the next programme.

An Office rota is needed.

SR asked if he could be invited to all meeting of Sub-Groups.

There are several people making contact with the Trust, notably Phil French from Supporters Direct.

b. Treasurer – Peter Dennis

PD went through his report. Available funds amounted to £9,088.22.

PD reported that he had obtained an exemption (1 year) from the FSA from having to publish consolidated reports.

The following items of expenditure were proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

Auditor Fee £1192

DH travel to SD Conference £39.40

NK travel to Conference and other expenses £166.41

JC AGM £680.18

TW Postage etc. for renewals £137.83

c. Secretary – John Collin

“AGM

As a matter of report, the appropriate reports and accounts were approved at the AGM on 18th October 2007.

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Election

The following were elected at the AGM to the Trust Board.

Margaret Cobb

John Collin

Eric Kerry

Mike Scott

Keri Usherwood

Paul Whitby

Supporters Direct

Trust Board members attended the Supporters Direct Conference on 19th October, 2007.

*The next East Midlands Meeting is on Thursday 15th November 2007 at Meadow Lane. Jacqui is looking for a Trust Board Member to chair the meeting and to give a **brief** report at the start on the Notts County Trust.*

Ratification of Trust Club Directors

At the AGM, it was floated that a process for ratifying the two newly appointed Directors should be undertaken and that a system for appointments should be ready for July 2008. This was welcomed by the members."

JAH agreed to address the Regional Meeting with PD chairing.

There was discussion around the appointment of Supporter Directors. **It was felt that this fell into the remit of the ad hoc Strategy Sub-Committee. Action: SR to talk to NK.**

JC reported that he would be away from 4th to 11th December 2007.

It was moved and duly seconded that the meeting be empowered to go on after 10.30 p.m. This was agreed.

7. Supporter Directors' Report – JAH, PD and EK

JAH reported.

8. Sub-Group Reports

a. PR

KU

"Sorry can't make the meeting but here is a brief report.

Early days yet but beginning to get into the swing!

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I have met with JAH and Terry Bowles to plan how we will approach the production of the Trust page in the programme. We have agreed to try to keep this as interesting and varied as we can and I have some ideas which I hope to develop over the coming weeks. I have also done an interview with Stu as the new Chair which will appear in the Histon programme. As ever, any contributions, suggestions gratefully received.

I have distributed a couple of press releases and will try to work alongside the club to look for media opportunities to promote the Trust.

I am also working on the idea of a regular "blog" feature for the website.

Next step is to hold a PR sub meeting. Any volunteers to join me on the sub-committee?"

Most of the content was dealt with by SR earlier.

b. Community

DH

"Things are 'ticking over' on the community front, with a number of existing projects underway and the opportunity for new areas on the horizon.

Many thanks to everyone that helped with promoting the Kick it Out Week of Action at the Wrexham game. We must have distributed 350+ publications, badges, keyrings etc that were purchased with the Community Grant money. It was particularly pleasing to see a positive reaction to what we were doing, which is in contrast to previous years when we have been on the receiving end of some negative comments.

Cartoonist Brick is currently setting up a 'focus group' to look at possible storylines for the anti-racism comic. I'll keep you posted of any developments. PR-wise it was good to see the comic pilot project get some coverage in the NEP as well as on the Official website. Thanks Keri.

The storytelling project is continuing to attract interest. I don't know if many of you have looked at the stories being compiled by Pete Davis (there is a folder with them in in the Trust office) but they are excellent and capture a variety of viewpoints. Pete's diary also makes entertaining reading.

Could we look at running a piece on this in the programme? It would also be good to flag up the project again in the NEP/Radio Nottingham - perhaps ask fans to send in their own stories?

The writer-in-residence idea has stalled - apologies for this. I really need to spend a couple of days working solely on this to develop a business

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plan/funding bid but this isn't going to happen for a few weeks yet due to work commitments.

Aside from my community role, in the last month I have also been to the Supporters Direct National Conference (report sent to the list and on the website), and represented NCST at a Supporters Direct Task Group. I'll say more about this at the meeting.

I have also inputted all the paper copies of the fans' survey (what a fun weekend I had). Donna is now going to provide me with the 'results' which I will disseminate in report form and if I've time put together as an article for the newsletter.

Thinking ahead - given that the Board has now expanded - I wonder whether it would make more sense for someone that hasn't got other responsibilities to take this on? I suspect I only got lumbered with it because it was me that kept asking about the survey and stressing its importance. What other mechanisms do we have for getting responses from over 200 members? It might be worth, for example, looking at developing a more comprehensive survey in conjunction with the Club, which can look at a greater array of issues. Or how about running more than 1 survey a season (cost permitting) that can focus on specific issues, such as home fans in the Kop, a skills audit of our members etc.

Finally, like Keri I will be looking to arrange a meeting of the Community Subcommittee fairly soon. Any volunteers?"

PD handed over to DH a prize he had won for DH to make use of. EK reminded the Board that there were places for lunches for sponsors.

c. Membership, Recruitment, Retention **TW**

TW reported that renewed members are 1071 plus 164 juniors.

d. Fundraising **GR**

Beer Festival, commencing 31st January 2007. GR made a request for sponsors and for assistance.

JS Portrait, date 22nd January 2007.

Ink Jet/Phone Recycling, now in operation.

9 Any Other Business

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It was agreed to have a table at the Lifeline Christmas Dinner.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th November 2007

The meeting ended at 10.45 p.m.