

# NOTTS COUNTY SUPPORTERS TRUST



## BOARD MEETING OPEN MINUTES

Meeting No.	81
Date	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2008
Time	8.00 p.m.
Venue	Meadow Lane
Version	2

### **Present**

Nigel King (Vice Chair), John Collin (Secretary), Eric Kerry (Supporter Director), Margaret Cobb, Gareth Marklew, Glenn Rolley, Keri Usherwood, Trevor Woolley.

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

Stuart Rolley, (Chair), Peter Dennis (Treasurer), John Armstrong-Holmes, David Hindley, Mike Scott, Cheryl Thompson, Paul Whitby.

### **2. Meeting Agenda**

Agreed.

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

EK as Director of Blenheim 1862 Ltd.  
GM as an employee of HMRC.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

KU made comments regarding the discussion on the Club Budget and whether the Trust Board should have input into the Club Budget.

**The Minutes of Meeting 80 were accepted as a true record, subject to the venue being correctly stated.**

### **5. Supporter Director Election and Ratification**

The results had been declared by the Returning Officer, Phil Tooley.

*“There were a total of **556** ballot papers returned.*

*As returning officer, I am totally satisfied that the ballot has been conducted within the rules of the Trust and has been fair. There were a few late papers received after the deadline. These would not have made any difference to the result and **HAVE NOT** been counted.*

*For the ballot for the appointment if a supporter director, the votes were cast as follows:*

<i>Eric KERRY</i>	<i>255</i>
<i>Glenn ROLLEY</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>Paul WHITBY</i>	<i>100</i>

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*Incorrectly submitted* 18  
*Received after deadline* 5  
**TOTAL** 556

*I therefore conclude that ERIC KERRY has been elected to serve as a Director on the Club Board as specified in the election documents.*

*For the ballot to ratify the decision to appoint Peter Dennis & Jon Armstrong-Holmes to the Club Board, the votes were cast as follows:*

**FOR** the appointment 496 90% of all votes counted  
**AGAINST** 43  
*Incorrectly submitted* 12  
*Received after deadline* 5  
**TOTAL** 556

*I therefore conclude that the decision of the Trust Board to appoint the two above named members has been ratified by the membership as specified in the election documents.*

*Could I thank John Collin and Trevor Woolley for their part in the process to get the ballot papers out to members and to my wife Sylvia for helping with the count.*

*Phil Tooley  
Chesterfield Football Supporters Society”*

Comments were made on the quality of the candidates and that it was good for democracy within the Trust.

Comments were made regarding whether hustings and any other similar events would be appropriate for next time.

KU put forward a publicity strategy.

## **6. Trust Office**

Before the Board Meeting, everything had been moved out of the old office. MC is progressing the rota. **Action MC.**

There was discussion on signage and décor.

Mike Scott has sent a report outlining his contacts with Pete Dredge.

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### **7. Trust AGM and Board Elections**

JC reported that there were decisions that needed to be taken for the Board Elections.

The following retire this year: SR, JAH, PD, NK, DH, CT, TW, GM, GR.

Two years ago there were 9 declared vacancies. All of those elected then are still members of the Board.

An Election Supervisory Group needs to be appointed.

**It was agreed to defer the decision on the number to be elected.  
It was agreed that P Tooley, JC and KU would form the Supervisory Group.**

### **8. Strategy Sub-Committee Meeting**

It was reported that Tom Hall from Supporters Direct had met with the Strategy Group and had discussed things such as the definition of "community", the relationship with FITC and the need to do things of mutual benefit (synergy) by the Club, the Trust and FITC. Comment was made that PD, the Club representative, had not been invited to the meeting.

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

### **9. Officers' Reports**

#### **a. Vice-Chair -- Nigel King**

NK confirmed what he had already reported, that he had signed up on the Trust's behalf to the Supporters Direct Survey of current and past members. SD were asking that we send out a link to a questionnaire.

NK said he had written on behalf of the Trust a letter to JAH congratulating the Club on the Open Day. Thanks had been passed on to CT who did a marvellous job.

#### **b. Treasurer – Peter Dennis**

PD had published his report. Available funds amounted to £5460.80.

PD was now convalescing.

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JC reported that PD and he had met with the Auditors on Wednesday of the previous week.

### **c. Secretary – John Collin**

*“I attended the AGM on behalf of the Trust on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008*

*A late item to spend £ for works to comply with the Safety of Sportsgrounds was carried. (I did not see this as a controversial matter).*

### **Open Minutes**

*After a lot of debate, I will circulate a (large) tranche of Open Minutes for approval for publication.*

There was some debate regarding an “open” AGM. The current position is that JAH agreed to sort something out for next year.

### **10. Supporter Directors’ Report – EK**

EK reported that a lot of work had been done on the stadium. TW expressed his disappointment about the PA system.

Commercial sales are going ahead.

Catering has been re-branded with simpler menus and improved till operations.

Marstons are supplying different beers to the Meadow Club.

C of E assessments are complete and parents have an advantageous season ticket deal. MEDOC are sponsoring it.

Rugby: an advantageous deal for 12 months.

*(Discussion about a tenant).*

*(Discussion about a potential court action by the Club).*

G Davey is working on a long term business plan.

Unaudited “loss” for the last financial year around £.

Stoke attendance low but dining sold out for the Forest match.

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Open Day a great success with £ worth of stuff sold at the Shop.

Season tickets, around 2,500 plus 2 "Ambassador" tickets.

### **11. Sub-Group Reports**

#### **a. PR**

**KU**

Election to publicise.

The Open Day leaflet went down well.

Programme notes will be some personalised stuff, some national stuff, some junior stuff and anything else.

#### **b. Community**

**DH**

*"Firstly, apologies for not being able to make tonight's Board meeting.*

*Please find attached two documents for your perusal, and ideally, comment/feedback. The first is my first stab at a community strategy and action plan. The second is a write-up of a meeting I had with the Head teacher at Riverside primary school about the First Steps project.*

*Since the last BM I have attended my first Trustees meeting at FiTC and had two seperate meetings with Steve Hill as well. Ordinarily when I am present I would like to give a brief verbal report of FiTC's activities but to be honest there is so much going on that there is too much to write it all down here (and they post out the reports, minutes etc. No electronic copies).*

*Steve and I have also given some thought as to how our represective organisations can work more effectively in partnership, with complimentary roles rather than in isolation and with possible duplication. We had a really positive meeting about this prior to the Stoke game - some of which needs to be fed into the draft action plan.*

*If you are wondering about what has happened with the storytelling book - fear not, it is in hand. Pete Davis has passed on an abridged version of the fans' stories, as well as his match by match diaries of last season. It does need a good proof-read which I have started and hope to get my Dad (ex-head of English at a secondary school) to help with too.*

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*With a bit of luck it'll be ready before September and we can launch it alongside a performance at the Club of the stories.*

*Finally I would like to say a very big thank you to Cheryl for all her hard work with the Open Day. I will be honest and state that I was sceptical at the beginning - indeed at a previous BM I had gone on record to say that I think such events should be every couple of years unless we can offer something different and new. Well, I thought the Open Day this year was excellent. The weather obviously helped but it was great to see so many people down the 'Lane and the buzz about the place was very positive, so well done to everyone involved."*

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

TW reminded members that 31<sup>st</sup> July is the cut-off date for membership.

### **d. Fundraising** **GR**

In view of the changed circumstances at Meadow Lane, the Beer Festival for 2009 will go ahead and will be held from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

## **12 Any Other Business**

None.

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

19 August

9 Sept

14 Oct

23 Oct (at the rising of the AGM)

Also need to agree "Club-focussed" dates with SD's and rest of Trust Board.

**The meeting ended at 11.05 p.m.**