

NOTTS COUNTY SUPPORTERS TRUST



BOARD MEETING OPEN MINUTES

Meeting No.	88
Date	Monday 22 December 2008
Time	8.00 p.m.
Venue	Plough Inn, St Peters Street, Nottingham
Version	1

Present

Glenn Rolley (Chair), Nigel King (Vice Chair), John Collin (Secretary), Peter Dennis (Treasurer and Supporter Director), John Armstrong-Holmes (Supporter Director), Eric Kerry (Supporter Director), Margaret Cobb, Paul Gibbs, Stuart Rolley, Mike Scott, Cheryl Thompson, Stephen Thompson, Keri Usherwood, Paul Whitby, Trevor Woolley.

1. Apologies For Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

JAH, EK and PD as Directors of Blenheim 1862 Ltd.

3. Strategy Group Report

PW said that the documents for this meeting were the same as for last time. In addition there had been suggestions at the last meeting.

Among things to be discussed are issues regarding the interface between the Trust Board and the Club Board, improving the process to make things work. There were suggestions about joint Trust/Club project groups, aligning the Community side with the Club and what type of football club the Trust wishes to see. There is also the "Exeter City" model to examine.

CT said she had found an Exeter document with their way of operating outlined.

EK said that strategy implied having objectives and then working out how to get there.

PD said there was a need to concentrate on what is trying to be achieved and identifying the barriers.

KU asked if it was the Trust Board that decided what sort of Club it should be.

MS said that maybe there was too much concentration on the nuts and bolts. The objectives should be to try to build a community club where Notts County gets to a position where it has a different relationship with the people of Nottingham, possibly a Community Interest Company.

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TW said that the fundamental questions of the exercise are “Where are we? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? What resources do we need to get there?”.

JAH said that the majority shareholder should have a strategy. The community aspect is very important- FITC is a Charity. The CIC idea is worth exploring. JAH said that information about the Club is available for the Trust, just as it is for the other shareholders as well.

ST said that he did not understand the current set-up. He favoured the Club and Trust Boards being one.

SR asked if such a model existed anywhere.

ST said he did not know but no-one cares about the Trust any more.

PD said that if there is a fundamental problem then transferring to the Club Board would make no difference.

ST said we need to define what sort of Club we want.

MS felt some things could be done at the meeting.

PG felt the Strategy Group should look at the things talked about.

MC said she did not know what a CIC was and that there was no sense at the moment of us knowing where we want to be.

JC said he wished to throw in a few things; the Business Excellence Model helps to describe where a Company is and should be considered. He felt the Club should have a structure for on-going dialogue with all fans and felt that the Trust Board should establish a mechanism for advising the Club Directors.

JAH said that fans have been involved, for instance the proposals for the KOP were helped by work done by a fan.

KU said that he wished to propose “that the Trust Board take the strategic decisions regarding the direction of the Club”. This was duly seconded.

MS said that it was sad that it was difficult to pull together. He said there were two possible models: a “political” one where Club Directors were elected and then had degrees of autonomy (as MP’s, Councillors etc.) and a model where Directors were delegates.

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MC said that if Club Directors became delegates, would that mean that the Trust Board would not be able to make any decisions without referring to members?

PG said that he would like to take other shareholders along.

PD said that if things were not working, that is everyone's fault. We need to define the important issues that the Trust needs to get involved in.

SR said he wished to echo what PD had said. He said the people from *another Trust* had told him that they never make a decision.

ST reiterated his thoughts on amalgamating the Boards using the Shareholder Agreement.

CT said that a lot of good had been done but fans who had been away would not have seen a big change over the last ten years. Need to define if we need a different football club.

EK said that he agreed with CT and highlighted the amount of "fire fighting" which had been done.

SR said that at Exeter, anyone in the ground knew that it was a Trust-run Club.

KU said that we need to get an agreed position.

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

JAH moved an amendment so that it would read "that the Trust Board take the strategic decisions regarding the direction it wishes the Club to take." This was duly seconded.

On the amendment, JAH said that the Club were working on a business plan and he welcomed any input. PG asked for the Community Strategy to be taken as input and JAH took it. JAH said there had not been a Business Plan and there was a need to go forward.

KU accepted the amendment and so the amendment became the substantive motion "that the Trust Board take the strategic decisions regarding the direction it wishes the Club to take." On being put to the vote, it was carried nem con (12 in favour, 3 abstained).

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MC said that changes need to be made. NK said that a Memorandum of Understanding needed to be produced. EK pointed out that a CIC can still go bust.

It was agreed that the Strategy Group should continue with any input by the end of January 2009 and a report by the end of February 2009. **Action All.**

With the consent of the Chair, the following were brought up

KU asked about cash flow forecasts.

(Matters referring to a court action)

(Matters referring to a tenant)

Beer Festival

The Chair reminded people that sponsorship was needed.

PW agreed to become the main sponsor.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 January 2009.

The meeting ended at 11.15 p.m.