



Board Meeting (virtual)

MINUTES

7:30pm – 27 November 2023

Present: Ian Bennett (IB), Paul Smith (PS), Peter Bradbury (PB), Richard Marsh (RM), David Lee (DL), Neil Seepujak (NS), Tom Scott (TS)

Apologies: Phiroze Mackenzie (PM)

Guest in attendance: Mark Johnson (MJ), a Trust member

Minute		Action
1.0	<p>Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The Minutes from the Board meeting held on 7 November 2023 were approved. PS is to send the Minutes to TS for loading to the website.</p>	PS
2.0	<p>Action log</p> <p><i>'Thank you' gifts for Miranda Clark and Victoria Shin:</i> IB confirmed that he had sent the gifts to Nick Hopewell.</p> <p>It was noted that all other 'in progress' and 'outstanding' actions were to be covered by later agenda items.</p>	
3.0	<p>Chair's update</p> <p>IB stated that it has been a good couple of months, noting IB's recent appearance on the Martin Saggars Talk TV Sunday Night Club and a recent article in the 'i' newspaper.</p> <p>IB mentioned that The 1867 Group had issued a statement earlier in the day regarding the sale of SWFC to a consortium, and it was noted that the statement refers to the Club's Chairman allegedly blocking the sale.</p>	
4.0	<p>Secretary's update</p> <p>The Conflicts Register was noted. IB, PM, TS and RM are to complete the Conflicts of Interest Questionnaire.</p> <p>The Director Training Log was noted. It was noted that PB had completed all four training sessions, and that the FSA has deferred all future training until February 2024. PS is to send the links for booking on the February training sessions to IB, TS, DL, RM, PM and NS.</p> <p>It was noted that 136 responses had been received to the recent member survey. PS summarised the results and these were discussed in detail as part of the FSA update section of the agenda.</p>	<p>IB, PM, TS, RM</p> <p>PS</p>

<p>5.0</p>	<p>FSA update</p> <p>The following items were discussed in the context of the results of the member survey:</p> <p>Emergency Financial Planning sub-committee: it was noted that c96% of responses to the member survey were in favour of setting up this sub-committee and that 9 members had indicated that they have relevant finance and business experience and would be willing to help. It was agreed for PS to provide the results of this section of the member survey to James Silverwood (JS) and to agree next steps with JS regarding the formation of the sub-committee.</p> <p>Some discussion took place regarding providing an update to members regarding the formation of the sub-committee as well as a broader media news / press release.</p> <p>Umbrella fans group: it was noted that c93% of responses to the member survey were supportive of forming an umbrella fans group.</p> <p>PS stated that he had received some brief guidance from Jane Hughes (JH, EFL Network Manager, FSA) as follows:</p> <p><i>“With an umbrella group, it is really down to the groups involved to decide how it is going to work. I would advise that all groups keep their independence within the structure and a clear set of objectives or ‘rules of engagement’ is agreed. I am sure lead individuals will emerge from the group, but the key will be working the diplomacy of it. It will start to break down if one group begins to try and dominate the umbrella group.”</i></p> <p>PS stated that he had received an offer of help from a few people, including MJ, regarding the umbrella group idea. MJ introduced himself and stated that he originally got in touch as a result of the Trust’s recent post on Owlstalk and is starting to retire. MJ stated that he has experience with dealing with regulators and has skills in governance, regulation and engagement; MJ is current interim Chair of a large housing organisation, Berneslai Homes and is definitely interested in getting involved with the Trust’s work.</p> <p>PS stated that he has also recently spoken with the following individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Otto Brookes (OB) and David Scothern (DS) from The Adelphi Group, a recently set-up fans group that meets online, and that they had expressed interest in drafting a Terms of Reference for the umbrella group. As such, PS had asked OS and DS to draft a ‘starter for ten’. - Jeffrey Roy (JR), a member of the Trust who lives in Canada, and has offered to collate contact details of the SWFC fan groups in America. - Liz Rickett (LR), who is a member of both the Trust and the SWFC Women’s Supporters Group; LR is a Civil Servant with experience in diplomacy, planning and negotiation. - Sarah Turner (ST, Chair of the Supporters’ Trust At Reading), who had provided some commentary to PS regarding the organic nature of forming the fans protest group at Reading FC. 	<p>PS</p>
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	<p>TS is to draft a 'position statement' regarding the principles of the Trust supporting protests and circulate this to the Board for comment.</p> <p>Early Bird season tickets: MJ mentioned that the Club has made Early Bird season tickets available in December in recent years, which is tied to the Club's cashflow issues, and that the fanbase should be insisting that sale of Early Bird season tickets should go back to May / June. It was agreed that this could be linked to the Trust's 'position statement' on protests; NS is to draft something in anticipation of the news of Early Bird season tickets being released in early December.</p> <p>The 1867 Group: regarding an email received from The 1867 Group, it was agreed for PS to offer a meeting later in the week.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>NS</p>
6.0	<p>Communications update</p> <p>Website: TS stated that the domain for the website has changed from Squarespace to WordPress, the latter of which is cheaper and more customisable. It was noted that Seven Hills Creative had carried out the work at no cost, which was much appreciated by the Board. TS stated that a member's area is next to be released and that a few members of the Board could be added as Administrators. It was noted that emails can be sent automatically to new members and also automatic reminders regarding upcoming renewal payments.</p> <p>Social media recruitment: TS is to post something on X to advertise the social media content creator role.</p> <p>Email update to Members / Associates: it was agreed that an email update should be sent to Members and a welcome email to Associates. TS / PS are to draft these emails.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>TS / PS</p>
7.0	<p>Community update</p> <p>Home match day stalls: IB stated that the off-licence on Penistone Road will allow a table to be put up on their premises. IB also stated that the Council had indicated that if the Trust is going to take any payments on the stall (e.g. new members / sale of items / leaflets), then a market traders licence or a donations licence is required.</p> <p>Following some discussion, it was agreed to hold the first stall at the home match against Hull City on 1 January 2024 and for the stall to be an 'information table' only for signing up Associates and providing some 'freebies'. DL and IB are to liaise with each other regarding the logistics for holding the stall on 1 January 2024, including contacting the members that have offered to help.</p> <p>Murals: TS reported that he had a conversation with the member (Paul Wells) who had offered to fund a mural of Fred Spikesley regarding the location and the costs of the mural.</p>	<p>DL / IB</p>

	<p>In addition, TS stated that he was involved in arranging a mural in conjunction with The Wednesday Week podcast – TS made it clear that this is nothing to do with the Trust.</p> <p>‘Evening With...’ event: IB stated that the venue hire for an event at The Railway in January 2024 would be at no cost. It was noted that the capacity is 100 people. IB was asked to provide some proposed costings and structure for the evening. RM suggested £15 per head and that the speaker should be a former SWFC player.</p>	IB
8.0	<p>Treasurer’s update</p> <p>PB stated that the bank mandate is with IB for signing and IB stated he would sort it tomorrow.</p>	IB
9.0	<p>Diversity & Inclusion update</p> <p>RM stated that he will circulate a note regarding the incorporation of the ladies section into the Club.</p> <p>Regarding the principles of being an inclusive Club, RM referred to Blackburn Rovers FC and the former Managing Director, Tom Finn (TF), who now works at the Premier League. It was noted that TF had arranged for prayer rooms, halal food etc at Blackburn Rovers many years ago. RM stated that he is trying to get in touch with TF to obtain some guidance on how the principles should be formed and how this can be taken forward with the Club.</p>	RM
10.0	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to hold the next meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 7:30pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:20pm.</p>	