Bristol City Supporters Trust
Board Meeting
7th August 2008
Bar BS3, Ashton, Bristol

Attendees: Stuart Rogers, Marie Day, Gavin Mapstone, Andrew Marshfield, Miles Hendy, Jon Darch, Mike Adams.

Membership Cards

A quote had been received but it had been seen as quite high so Nick was going to contact another supplier who he believed to be cheaper. Highest member number is 448 so cards numbered 1 – 500 will be needed.

CRM System

Mike is waiting for a member spreadsheet so he can populate the system. Stuart believes that his version is near complete now following work on it as part of the 06-07 accounts closedown.

Club Communications

Stuart reported that things had been quiet over the Summer with little coming out of the club. Dave Lloyd had sent an e-mail thanking the Trust for issuing a statement condemning the damage caused in the East End. Steve L has agreed to do Ask the Chairman again but finer details have yet to be agreed.

Steve L had also provisionally approved holding an event for charity celebrating Scott Murray's & Louis Carey's service to the club. This is likely to be a panel based quiz evening titled 'Never Mind the Testimonials'. Miles had asked Dave Lloyd to sound out Gary Johnson and the players about the idea but nothing heard in reply.

Finances

Stuart reported that work on completing the 06-07 finances was on-going. He had reconciled the membership data to the finances and discovered that of 448 members only half were still paying.

There is £14k in the bank and £2k in paypal with a further £3k due to be received. Of this £1k will be spent on producing the annual newsletter.

AG8 Plaque

Dave Hedges is no longer progressing the production of the plaque so Andrew Marshfield has agreed to see the project through to completion. Mike had suggested that the AG8 commemoration be stalled so that it could be incorporated into the new stadium but the view was that the stadium was too far in the future for this to be an option.

Share Purchase

Stuart asked the board whether he should contact Steve L again in regards to a new share purchase. Jon D said that he liked Miles idea where the Trust raised funds to finance a statue of John Atyeo at the new stadium in return for more shares in the club. Gavin asked what Steve L's current views on selling shares were given his previous worries about what would happen to the Trust's shareholding should it wind up. Stuart said that he had passed on that any Trust shares would pass to a local charity and that if he wanted Steve L could then look to purchase the shares from them, should they wish to sell.

East End

Terry was concerned that the East End might be closed if standing persists. Jon Darch said that the club needed to appease Bristol City Council and the Football Licensing Authority and so had to oppose standing and to warn fans that they could be penalised for standing. If the club did not do this then it could leave itself open to sanctions with the Council having the power to reduce the capacity at Ashton Gate.
Jon said he thought that the Club would do enough to satisfy legislation but no more and that the Club had been very helpful in fans efforts to make the East End more vocal: Allowing storage of flags and drums, allowing early entry to the East End for fans to layout flags and permitting use of a megaphone on a trial basis.

Communications

The Trust has been given an open invitation to put articles in the matchday programme.

Mike has been putting together Trust Life on a monthly basis.

The newsletter is currently in progress with a CD going to the printers on Monday. It will be 24 pages and solely dedicated to the Trust with minimal advertising. Distribution is planned for the Doncaster game on the 20th September. It was agreed to print 5000 which will cost approximately £2k. Last year 15 – 20 new members were made following distribution of the newsletter.

Events

Stuart detailed that the club had proposed making several changes to the Player of the Year event. These included the club running the event themselves and making the event a corporate dinner without any low cost alternatives for fans. None of this had been communicated to the Supporters Club. Stuart had offered Dave Lloyd the chance to come and discuss this at tonights meeting but had not received a reply.

It was felt that the above was not a positive development given that it rode roughshod over both fans and the Supporters Club however it was also felt

that if the club would work with fans groups to hold a separate event aimed at fans that there might be a win-win solution. If not then an alternative might be to go it alone and to hold the Player of the Year awards away from Ashton Gate and to publicly invite the players to attend.

Mark Tovey suggested holding an event to mark the centenary of Bristol City's only FA Cup final appearance in 1909. He would like to hold an event with Manchester United Supporters Trust (MUST) and to get ex-players from both teams involved. One possible idea being a match between two teams representing the clubs played out in replica shirts from 1909

Stadium Development

Stuart said that the club had been stalling on offering the Trust a wider remit and that the club were proceeding with the stadium move but keeping their plans to themselves at this stage. Miles said that the reason for this may be due to the cost involved holding meeting with architects and project managers and that the club was minimising these until such time as there was value in holding a meeting, Jon Darch suggested that Stuart ask Steve L when the next involvement from the Trust was likely to be.

OTIB

The Trust is still not covering its costs. Stuart suggested whether the Trusts attitude to on-line advertisers should be relaxed to allow gambling sites. Miles voiced his concerns about encouraging users to gamble to help fund the site. However it was agreed by the board that there was little option but to proceed down this route if other methods to fund the site were not being successful.

Wedlocks

Mike believes that the new owners are happy to sell the site but would prefer to sell to another developer. He would like to send them a letter in order to try and open dialogue with them but felt he didn't have the skills to write it to the appropriate standard.

AP - Miles to contact supplier who produced the Supporters Club membership cards to see if they would be suitable for producing similar for the Trust.
AP – Miles to get sequential cards produced.
AP – Stuart to arrange a meeting with Steve L to update on the Trust and discuss share purchase.