

Bristol City Supporters Trust
Board Meeting
Bar BS3

Present: Miles Hendy, Marie Day, Jon Darch, Andrew Marshfield, Gavin Mapstone, Stuart Rogers, James Nicholls

The board granted permission for Gavin to purchase the SAGE Instant Accounts finance system at a cost of approximately £170.

City Til' I Die

Contributors have until the sixteenth of February to submit stories.

Ipswich put a pre-order scheme in place where purchaser's names were entered in the back of the book for pre-ordering. They charged £10 plus £2 p&p.

Bristol City has agreed to sell the book in the club shop and take no commission. 600 free copies will be produced for distribution to school children.

Jon asked whether a preview of the book would be available so that those pre-ordering could get an idea of what the book was all about.

Mark Tovey said he would try and plug the book on the radio at the weekend if he could get through to Geoff Twentyman.

In total the book will cost £2100 of which £1500 has already been paid. Any profits will go towards the Atyeo Statue.

Player of the Year

The club has communicated its intent to manage the player of the year evening this season. The Trust & Supporters Club will play a peripheral role and have been told that if they are able to raise sponsorship then they can use this to reduce the ticket price for their members.

The event will be a seated dinner with no standing fans. The Trust was told that this was on the recommendation of Gary Johnson who wanted to use the evening as a sit-down meal for the players and their wives. Something he used to do at Yeovil.

Miles said he was wary of putting too much energy into an event that would not be financially beneficial to the Trust and the boards view was that given the need to raise funds for the statue that other priorities ranked higher in the next twelve months.

1909 FA Cup Final Re-enactment

The game will take place on Friday 24th April at Crystal Palace Stadium in London. Mark has secured some funding for the event from Kevin Mabbutt and was hoping to be able to contact E-on to see if they will contribute anything.

Costs of the kit (less socks) are estimated at £333 and it was agreed that players would be asked to contribute £20 towards the cost.

MUST have agreed to underwrite the cost of the pitch hire if sponsorship is unable to cover it.

TOFFS will produce a replica shirt and the Trust will receive 15% commission on any sales made through its websites. (£5.25).

U-16 Travel

Stuart & Marie were hoping to get the U-16 travel off the ground for the Reading match and Marie had obtained quotes for coach hire and estimated that travel would cost around £10 per person.

Reading will offer 50 free children's tickets but had stipulated that these would only be made available when purchased with an adult ticket.

An adult/child ratio of 1:7 must be maintained for the away travel to comply with legislation and the Trust will need to obtain insurance cover.

OTIB

Jon presented a report he had produced that summarised income received for OTIB since the Trust had taken over running it. This showed a loss of £1,460 of which £1,283 had been incurred in the first year.

John's forecast estimates that the loss should reduce by a minimum of £400 to £1,060 in 2009 and could be more if a sponsor for the site can be found.

Atyeo Statue

It was estimated that £100,000 will be needed to fund a statue and at present the Trust is able to contribute £15,000 from its reserves and hopes to raise £5,000 from sales of the City Til' I Die book which will leave £80k to be made up. Fundraising ideas to help achieve this were discussed.

Sponsored Walk

It was thought that this could take place on open day with a route taking in the site of Bristol City's new stadium, Ashton Gate and the site of the new stadium. Possibly done in conjunction with a charity to increase fund-raising efforts.

SR will project manage.

Atyeo Evening – Auction

An evening to celebrate & promote John Atyeo was discussed as many fans do not know much about him. This could encompass a quiz and an auction. Terry Hamlin will compile a list of players who played with Atyeo and make enquiries as to whether they would support such an event.

Miles Hendy will project manage.

Other ideas discussed included:

- On-line sale of virtual seats or pixels of the pitch.
- Asking celebrity fans to contribute a unique prize. (T-Shirts with personalised drawing).
- Asking fans to place a pound on the outside of the Ashton Gate pitch.
- Charging £5 for fans to score a goal on the Ashton Gate pitch.
- Crossbar Challenge

Stadium Consultation

Stuart was concerned that there had been no further input from fans since the questionnaire was submitted and that time was running out to influence the design of the stadium. The Trust has been invited to view the latest plans on the 29th of January and will need to clarify what scope is available for changes to be made.

The club have asked the Trust to release a statement supporting the stadium plans and redevelopment of Ashton Gate but the board felt unable to commit until they have received more information on both developments.