

Supporters Trust Board meeting minutes

5.3.09

Present

Present: Stuart Rogers (chair), Mike Adams, Jon Darch, Marie Day, Miles Hendy, Andrew Marshfield, Gavin Mapstone, James Nicholls, John Cosh, John Croker, Terry Hamlin, Dave Hedges, Mark Tovey, Diane Rowland, Wendy Rowland.

Apology: Nick Tomkins

All actions from previous meeting complete except for writing to Birmingham congratulating them on the price for City's recent game there.

New stadium

MA supplied copies of handouts picked up at the exhibition. General feeling is that fans' response is good. Exhibitions were useful as gave an opportunity to talk to the architects. Taking Mike Trice around the stadium's all 4 stands was also beneficial for all parties. Feeling is that the stadium does lack "an end". Recent game at Birmingham highlighted that if there is no defined end then the atmosphere can suffer.

The architect is keen to do the best job.

The roof will be lowered and not fully translucent.

Possibility of an acoustic reflector panel. JD produced some "scribbles" of what could be done re lowering roof and acoustic reflector panel – will go to CS for thoughts.

There is a feeling that there is a general guideline / requirement that the ball must be able to be seen at all times.

Another way to make it look more like an end could be to take the upper tier back a few rows which will separate it from the lower "bowl"

Next steps

?liaise with Federation of Stadium Communities – they are a charity and their remit is to integrate clubs into the wider community. Advice from them is free – if required to do any work they would charge a fee.

SR asked if we need another survey – Yes an on line poll / survey

Action - ask club (CS or Ed Furness) if they would be prepared to circulate the link to 14,000 fans as previously to ensure consistency and getting to as wide a range of fans as possible

Communal areas

One corner has a huge concourse which may be enclosed and part of it may be sectioned off.

Possibility of using this for ST / SC / Community

Need something for U16s & juniors – need a communal area / meeting area

Also need to think of the wider Ashton Vale community

Satellite building could work – could be run as a pub / community venue
STAR (Supporters Trust at Reading) had a container for their office. Our preferred option is to be separate from the main stadium.

Action ST & SC go to the club jointly with a proposal / requirement.

Action – talk to a couple of local operators re partnering up for a combined venture.

JN expressed concern around financing – we still don't know the sources of funding and our aim / concern has to be to safeguard the future of Bristol City football club. The future of Ashton Gate is not yet known.

We have asked questions before re funding and need to caveat any future comments with words along the lines of “we don't know the status / sources of funding”.

City Til I die books

900 books to be delivered to the club for 5.4.09

270 pre orders

200 to club shop

350 to Marie

Book launch – trying to get a room at AG – club reluctant.

To invite contributors, local schools, ST members, celebrities / ex players

Action – ask Supporters Club to use their room

Possibility of using DEH / room alongside for the launch and then as a shop

National Literacy Trust will do most of the work for the launch

Marie is happy to do the fulfilment of pre orders (stuffing envelopes)

The books need to be counted as they arrive

JD to get the shop to sign for the ones they have.

MH to do a speech at the launch

AG8 plaque

The club have given the OK for the design and material.

The club preference is for the plaque to be situated at the back of the Atyeo stand.

Action – AM to give HpH the green light to start production on the plaque.

Elections

Mailshot in the next couple of weeks re elections

2 board member places available

MD to be put up for re-election

Need to advertise / invite applications from members for positions

Action – MH to put together an impassioned plea for more ST members to come forward

2/52 notice required for the AGM

06/07 accounts audited – just a couple of questions

07/08 accounts can be updated when 06/07 accounts complete – they can then go to John Fitzgerald.

Some ST board members have not received their new membership cards. Current spreadsheet is the one GM worked on – this lists all fully paid up members. Needs reconciliation as a number of the ST board have not received membership cards – how does this correlate with members?

Action – MA to take names of board members without membership cards and check on spreadsheet

On line CRM system has the ability to have 5 people with secure passwords to manage it 214 names (fully paid up members) to go to the CRM system (from GM's spreadsheet) – write to the others advising them that they are not paid up members and would they like to be?

GM proposed that Luke Jones has access to a 2nd copy of SAGE (cost around £130) – the benefit is that John Fitzgerald takes comfort that Luke is a Chartered Accountant (as is Gavin but different qualification).

JD expressed reservations, MD abstained – passed.

GM will be disappointed if accounts not with auditor by end November 2009

Resource planning

All to volunteer when able to as pressures will fall to all

Di & Wendy Rowland are happy to help with distribution / envelope stuffing etc

1909 FA cup final

MT trying to get Edwardian costumes for launch

SR trying to get AG available for press launch

MT has a sample of the shirt from TOFFS but unable to bring with him

Need to pay for St John Ambulance – need to manage numbers as they may walk if too many.

Public liability will cover up to 500 fans

Website has been constructed with MUST

GM asked how we will get funds for shirts – Pay by PayPal in advance for the shirt to ensure attendance

Action - MT/GM/JD to discuss PayPal

Will have 11 a side with no substitutions

Shirts to go in the Club shop in a commemorative box

We will receive a commission from TOFFS

FA / Lord Triesman will endorse the game – may be able to use their logo

Press launch to take place during the day as may get current players to attend after training.

Next trust meeting 9.4.09