

Bristol City Supporters Trust  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Bar BS3  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**Present:** Miles Hendy, Jon Darch, Mike Adams, Gavin Mapstone, Andrew Marshfield; James Nicholls

Jon Darch asked whether the Trust had a strategy for investing cash surpluses. Gavin replied that all money was currently held within the Trusts current account and paypal.

**AP** – GM to investigate options for investing the Trusts surplus funds.

Jon reported that affiliate income for OTIB was up in the run up to Christmas and the site was recording 4,900 unique visits a day. Jon estimates that the Trust has spent around £1,200 subsidising OTIB since it took it on in July 06 but hopes to recoup some of this following the renegotiation of the hosting costs. Jon estimates that OTIB is one of the top three busiest web-sites in Bristol.

**AP** – Jon to supply Mark Tovey with the usage data for OTIB for Mark to use in attracting advertisers.

The play.com vouchers have now been used in promotional offers and a new initiative is needed to boost affiliate income. It was suggested that every forum user who buys something through an affiliate be given a gold star on their avatar for three – six months. The same process could be used to highlight users who have made a donation towards the Atyeo statue.

### **Bristol City AGM**

A vote was passed to abolish the AGM from next year. Mike asked whether you would still be able to ask questions that could have been asked at the AGM at the General Meeting that will replace it. Mike was concerned that shareholders business would be diluted and that there would be less opportunity to ask searching questions of the board. Jon thought that as the press would still be in attendance that attendees could still put the chairman under pressure if they wanted. Miles added that the 23% of shareholders holding the remaining shares in Bristol City outside of Keith Dawe and Steve Lansdown were now redundant as there is nothing they can do legally as you need a minimum 25% share-holding.

**AP** – Miles to write an article for the web-site detailing the implications of Steve Lansdowns shareholding.

## **New Stadium**

A latest artist's impression has been released. This shows the two ends of the stadium will be lower than the stands. It was noted that the response on OTIB had been muted. James was concerned that the stands were far from the pitch but Jon said that the stands were as close as they could be to comply with UEFA regulations for hosting international matches.

Paul was concerned that there was no dedicated space for fans groups and wondered what the Supporters Club view was. Miles agreed that it was important to lobby for an area where fans could hold a meeting but thought that it might still be early days to be discussing the inside of the stadium.

It was thought that if the club was designated as a community space for use by the local populace and fans then that could lead to positive benefits for all parties. The need to agree on a concerted approach was agreed.

## **Centenary Match**

Hire of the Stadium at Crystal Palace will cost £200+VAT per hour. Total cost estimated to be £690 which will be split 50/50 with Manchester United Supporters Trust (MUST). Jon was disappointed as he'd been led to expect that MUST would foot all of the bill.

TOFF's will make replica shirts for the players to wear. 12 shirts will be needed for the players at £22 each plus extra for shorts and socks. Mark reported that he was looking at potential sponsors of the event and for pictures to put into a commemorative publication. The board were disappointed that the Trust was being committed to larger sums than they anticipated and urged Mark to find sponsorship to bring the cost to the Trust down.

Mike asked whether BCFC were doing anything to commemorate the game. Mark had made contact with Colin Sexstone in regards to this and said that Manchester United had declined a first team game between the two sides but it was possible that a reserve team game might go ahead.

Andrew asked whether the event would be insured in the event that something went wrong.

**AP** – GM to contact Jacqui at SD to enquire about insurance.

## **AG8 Plaque**

Andrew reported that he'd made contact with a sign maker and passed around a sample of what the plaque could be made of. The company is based in Bath and will give a 50 year guarantee. The cost was originally over £2,400 but Andrew had negotiated and agreed a flat fee of £2,400 on the promise that the company will be promoted when the plaque is released.

Approximately £2,500 was raised from the events commemorating the AG8 and so the plaque will be covered from those funds.

**AP** – AM to summarise proposal for siting of the plaque for discussions with the club.

### **City Til' I Die booklet**

Fans will be asked to submit short stories giving their memories of the club. All articles will need to be forwarded by February so there is a need to start promoting this now. Leaflets will be distributed at the next home game and also the Evening Post and the match programme will carry articles on the book.

The Trust will commit £1,500 but the potential return could be £6,000. All other Trusts that have made the book have returned a profit.

The book will focus on ordinary fans but it was thought that a couple of City's more famous fans could be asked for quotes. Names suggested included Tony Robinson, Jonathon Pearce, Mark Watson and Robert Del Naja.

### **Fund Raising**

**AP** - JD to investigate on-line raffle software (with a view to selling tickets for some of our store of raffle prizes).

**AP** - MH to investigate and draw up an Atyeo Sweep stake game (last goal scorer with doubling up on some players) for use on the CATS coaches to Portsmouth (50% to winning ticket(s) / 50% to Atyeo appeal).