

## MEETING SUMMARY

of the Pompey Supporters' Trust Board Meeting on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 6.30pm  
held at Pompey Study Centre, Anson Road, Portsmouth

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**Board Members present:** Ashley Brown (AB), Eric Coleborn (EC), Simon Colebrook (SC), John Kimbell (JK), Clare Martin (CM), Bradley Saunders (BS), Mike Saunders (MS), Mark Trapani (MT), Pam Wilkins (PW)

**Officers present:** Secretary Mark Farwell (MF), Assistant Secretary/Legal Advisor Jo Collins (JC), Membership Secretary Steve Hatton (SH)

### 1. Welcome by the Chair

AB welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Board Members: Johnny Ertl (JE), Scott McLachlan (SMc); Officers: None

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were approved and signed.

### 4. Matters arising from Previous Meeting

- MF will inform the Board Members on the information required to complete the 5 year strategic plan
- AB has replied to a member's email with questions following the open meeting
- A draft policy on reserved matter voting has been prepared (See item 8)
- A joint statement by the Club and Trust on supporter behaviour was published
- JK is continuing to look at whether the Trust should continue to sponsor the manager for the 2016-17 season or look at alternative sponsorships for the same amount

### 5. Correspondence

- Pompey's LGBT fans group has invited the PST to participate in the Portsmouth Pride Day. Further details are being sought
- A member asked for information on whether PFC pay the living wage. The query was passed to Mark Catlin to respond to, and he has since confirmed that the club does.
- A member has asked for redemption of his share. The Board agreed that this is not feasible at the current time.
- A complaint was received from a member that those with email do not receive all correspondence from the Trust. AB has responded. (also see AOB)

### 6. Audit Report action progress

As part of the final wrap up, the audit group are having follow up interviews with MS, SC, SMc. After this MF and AB will meet them to finalise the process.

### 7. PST Strategic Plan 2016-17

In order to make the meeting more efficient, Board members reports will now be tied in with the Strategic Plan element that they relate to.

- i. AB will meet with members of the Don's Trust at the forthcoming Wimbledon match to see if anything can be learned that would be useful to the implementation of our strategy and also fundraising
- ii. **Future Investment Model**

SC has written a discussion paper on the future investment for the Club. EC advised the board on the current thoughts of the Presidents' Advisory Board on the matter. There was a discussion on the likely

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investment required over the next few years, particularly at Championship level and the appropriate purposes that the investment should be used for.

The discussion then concentrated on a few key topics:

- The Trust, the Presidents' Advisory Board and the Club Board need to work together closely to ensure that key issues facing the Club are dealt with in the near future. This will be something that will be looked at closely once the season is over.
- It was recognised that the Club will need future investment to underpin its long term future, particularly if the Championship is viewed as the minimum level in the longer term. The view was expressed that the Trust cannot wait until the Club needs investment to start raising its funds for a share offer. Unlike other shareholders, the Trust needs a longer period of time to raise its funds.
- The Trust cannot just accept money and hold it on deposit as that would be deemed as banking and would not be allowed by the FCA. Therefore, the Trust would have to either accept donations or issue new Community Shares.
- SC will therefore draft a proposal for issuing new shares, with the money held in a separate account, to be refunded if not invested in the club after a certain period. He will also include proposals for other mechanisms of funding to allow the Trust to directly fund certain activities of the club, eg the academy.

### iii. **Stadium Development**

The stadium sub group has now been formed by MS. The numbers involved are large and managing this effectively is a concern. There are a number of people involved with a great deal of professional experience in development and planning.

The group has been split into three to look at short, medium and long term issues. AB and MS also met with the Head of Facilities at Twickenham to gain further insight into some of the issues with redevelopment and relocation.

### iv. **Academy**

The possibility of PST funding of Academy operations was discussed, although no firm conclusions were decided on. We also need to understand what is required by the Academy and how far their commercialisation initiatives have progressed, as well as the Directors gaining a better understanding of other elements of the Academy operation.

### v. **Youth support**

Work is continuing on the potential for a singing section of the ground and groups from other team that have formed singing sections have been consulted. The NG twitter is active and is gaining some good engagement with younger fans.

The Board will also look to find ways to communicate with the youngest members who may not yet have an email account.

### vi. **Community**

A funding bid has been made on encouraging people to go to football that don't usually attend.

### vii. **Membership**

Membership is continuing to increase following recent initiatives.

## 8. **Voting on reserved matter**

A policy has been drafted on how the Trust Board would obtain the views of the members on certain matters relating to the Shareholders Agreement of PFC and then apply that to a vote of PFC shareholders. This would also cover any

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vote about the ownership of the shares in the club. SC will place further information on the Board Forum so that BMs can think about this prior to the next meeting.

Recent events at Swansea where the club was sold without their Trust's involvement were discussed. Under the present Shareholders' Agreement, this would not be possible in Pompey's case.

### 9. PCFC report

A report of the last PCFC board meeting has been posted on the Forum.

### 10. Other Reports (as far as not covered in items above)

#### i. Communications and Marketing (JK/SM)

The Trust and Club has issued a joint statement regarding the various incidents of bad behaviour by supporters

Detailed web profiles are requested for several BMs

A number of events and items of publicity have taken place and resulted in some good feedback and increased members

The Fan of the Year award appears to have been a success with the winner enjoying the hospitality

#### ii. Membership (SH)

The membership report was circulated prior to the meeting. All shareholders now contacted re Wall of Fame. 2,456 confirmed names and 600 non-replies, who will have their Certificate name on the wall.

#### iii. PST Secretary's report (MF)

MF is to make a proposal for an Inclusion Advisory Board as a sub committee

The risk management policy has been forwarded to the audit group

MF will draft a safeguarding policy

#### iv. Treasurer's report (SC)

SC and SH will write up a business continuity plan

### 11. AOB

- The winner's medals for Bert Barlow from the 1939 FA Cup and 1949 Championship are coming up for auction. A body separate from the club is being formed to own key pieces of memorabilia, such as these medals and the Board decided they would support the purchase of these items. (NB some board members have been asked to be part of the new body and abstained from the vote)
- Further to the complaint about not sending out general communications by post, it was decided that members who wish to receive general comms from the Trust by post will be asked to contribute £10 per year to cover the costs of the postage.

All members will continue to be sent the official, statutory communications such as election notices free of charge