

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Torquay United Supporters Trust held on Monday 21 May 2007 at Boots and Laces at 7.45pm.

Present:	Chris Fleet	Chairman
	Hayden Jones	Vice-Chairman
	Laurie Holden	Membership Secretary
	Phil Smith	Treasurer
	Jon Gibbs	
	John Lear	
	Maria Lunn	Acting Secretary

**Apologies**

For Absence: Stephen Breed and Simon Cavanna

CJ opened the meeting by saying how successful the Open Forum had been. However we needed to keep things positive in the light of the ongoing situation and until we know who would be in charge, When this was clear we needed to get our Agenda sorted out and meet with the owners.

CJ then went through the minutes of the Open Forum meeting. There were a few amendments to these minutes after which they were agreed.

CF then advised that after the Open Forum meeting he had received an email from a member of the Trust - copies of which were circulated and the comments made in that email were discussed.

Discussion then took place on the items listed in the email.

**GROUND MAINTENANCE**

The Pitch

It was submitted that as a Trust we could offer labour to help with this. It was calculated that if we could help with 10 people at £10 per hour for say 8 hours this would be £800 worth of work we could donate. Comment was made that this could be presented to the Football club in the form of a pro forma invoice. This could be done with other jobs the Trust could carry out. Jon Gibbs was delegated with the task of contacting Exeter City Supporters Trust to see how they helped in this way. Names to contact were Neil Lemillier or Denise Watts.

Guttering

There was a potential problem with replacing the guttering in that it is made of asbestos. Discussions would need to take place with the Club over this and the insurance issue. Hayden Jones was asked to liaise with the Club on this matter.

## **PARKING**

The parking was very limited around the ground and the suggestion was put forward that perhaps the Trust could run football special coaches to and from matches. It was suggested that an approach be made to Stagecoach via their General Manager who was based at Paignton Coach Station about running a bus service from the town centre to the ground. Discussion then continued about perhaps expanding this to Brixham and Teignmouth to collect people on the way through. It was agreed to liaise with Steve Breed about coaches. It was also mentioned that this would need to include disabled access.

THERE WAS A HALF TIME BREAK AT THIS POINT

## **GATE OPENING**

Concern was expressed with regard to the gate opening times on match days. However it was felt that this was a Club decision made by the Chief Safety Officer. It was mentioned that there was a very dark area just by the entrance to the Pop Side and it was mentioned that this could be utilised as an advertising area for the Trust with perhaps a desk or kiosk. This was brought up with the Club.

## **STEWARDING**

Comment was made with regard to this matter. CF mentioned having spoken with the people who ran the stewarding at the Proms in the Park. It was agreed to approach this firm to seek their views and find out costing for the training of stewards.

## **CATERING**

There was discussion on this subject and the possibility of the Trust running the catering. It was felt that this needing looking into as to the costings, etc. and needed to be discussed with the Club.

## **PA SYSTEM**

Again this was something that would be taken up with the Club.

CF then advised the meeting that he had asked Matt Williamson to do some costings on how much it costs to run the Youth Development and had asked him to attend the next meeting for discussions on this. It was suggested that perhaps we could organise a Working Party to take on this role and it was suggested contacting John Mole to ask if he would be willing to take this on. The Working Group would consist of members of the Trust plus one Board member to oversee the Working Group together with John Mole if he agreed to help. John Lear was asked if he would take this on and he said he would like a few days to think about it. It was thought that John Mole would need to be co-opted onto the Working Party and this was proposed by Chris Fleet and seconded by Hayden Jones and passed by the Board with one abstention.

It was felt that it would be a good idea to ask John Mole along to a meeting just to meet him and for him to get to know us and see what ideas he may have. It was suggested that Andrew F may agree to be the overseer on this.

CF then suggested that the Trust needed to meet the consortium as soon as possible. It was agreed that a delegation only should meet them and it was agreed this should consist of CF, HJ, PS, LH and ML.

Discussion then took place with regard to the Torquay United Supporters Club football team who had just been in the local Cup Final where they were runners up. This was the second year that they had been runners up. CF felt that this was a good opportunity for the Trust with regard to advertising, etc., as the team would be known as the Torquay United Supporters Trust. It was suggested that they had to be members of the Trust to be able to play in the team and that the Trust could help to sponsor them by way of balls, nets, etc. If the squad of 18 joined at a cost of £12.50 each this would raise approximately £230. There was a lot of discussion on this point with some concerns expressed.

HJ then proposed that CF asked the team if they would be prepared to join the Trust and that the Trust would support them where they could but that it should not exceed the amount of money received. JL seconded this proposal and it was agreed.

Other matters were then discussed with particular regard to Direct Debits and PS was asked to contact Lloyds at Taunton to obtain documents or leaflets with regard to setting up the direct debit system.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.45pm.

Signed: .....