

Minutes of Torquay United Supporters Trust Meeting
12th November 2007

Present:

Hayden Jones (HJ)) in the Chair
 John Mowl (JM)
 Laurie Noble (LN)
 Andrew Fiderkiewicz (AF)
 Phil Smith (PS)
 Chris Partridge (CP)
 Chris Fleet (CF)

<p><u>1. Chairman's Opening Remarks</u></p> <p>HJ opened the meeting by welcoming CP who had agreed to being co-opted to the Board. The committee confirmed his co-option and it was agreed that CP would take on the role of Secretary from the next meeting.</p> <p>HJ and the Board also congratulated JM on the hard work that had been done by him on the disabled area plans since the last meeting. It was noted that this had been well received by the Club and that it was covered by a separate agenda item.</p> <p><u>2. Minutes of last meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting (22nd. October) were read, approved and signed.</p> <p><u>3. Matters arising</u></p> <p>No progress had been made on the Capital Gulls cheque which was still outstanding despite a call to Alan Merson. To be followed up.</p> <p>HJ reported on considerable progress on the web site design following a meeting with Danny Corder. HJ and Danny Corder were also looking at e mail communication with the membership.</p> <p>AF had drafted the notes of the SGM and he stated that he would file it for formal ratification at the next AGM. HJ to contact Dr Treharne regarding his costs in attending the SGM.</p> <p>Following the co-option of CP, the Junior Gulls proposals were discussed.</p> <p>Agreed that he and JM would absorb relevant paragraphs into the Business Plan from the work already done by Doncaster Rovers. AF to furnish them with the number of junior members.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>HJ</p> <p>HJ</p> <p>AF</p> <p>HJ</p> <p>CP/JM</p> <p>AF</p>
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<p>Any reprint of the SO form will need modification to allow for a fixed start date.</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>HJ noted that he had now received a letter of thanks for the TUST involvement in the paint the ground events from Alex Rowe. He agreed to check with Alex that publication on the web site was in order.</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>Agreed that the pop side well “presence” would be progressed via the TUST architect and the plans for disabled access.</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>No response had been sent to Lloyd Bristoe of the Stevenage Supporter’s Club (AF had been given a copy of a spreadsheet tabulating the Clubs in the BSP League which was now with HJ for consideration as to how TUST respond).</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>No progress had yet been made on the issue of formalizing the accounts as at a particular point in time in relation to the SGM.</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>HJ reported on the apparently successful fireworks display. Following input from LN (who had spoken with Daryl Batten) TUST had supplied stewards for the event at short notice. It was noted that if this event is repeated, insurance and training would need resolving.</p>	
<p><u>4. Finance Report</u></p>	
<p>PS reported that a balance of £3,700 was at bank after printing costs of £652 had been paid. The Board ratified the costs of HJ’s attendance at the recent meeting of trusts at Manchester.</p>	
<p>PS reported little further progress on new SO’s.</p>	
<p><u>5. Membership Report</u></p>	
<p>LN reported that applications had continued to be slow. Membership now stands at 442 with only one new member since the last report.</p>	
<p>The two members for whom the payment cheque had been referred to drawer had not responded to a request for payment so LN noted that he would give them one final chance to pay.</p>	<p>LN</p>
<p><u>6. Trust Business Plan</u></p>	
<p>JM tabled a further updated version of the Plan. On 9th November JM/LN/HJ had met with Alex Rowe to discuss the plan. Alex had been impressed with it and was to copy it to his own Board for discussion. LN had written notes of the meeting</p>	

<p>which would be circulated separately.</p> <p>Items touched on included raising the TUST profile, impact on the environment, stewarding, and involvement in the community/engagement with young people.</p> <p>Agreed that CP would liaise with a contact in Doncaster re stewarding and the pros and cons of TUST involvement.</p> <p>Agreed that HJ would add notes on publicity and that the web site as a method of communication should also be included.</p>	<p>LN</p> <p>CP</p> <p>HJ/JM</p>
<p><u>7. Feedback from Manchester Trusts Meeting</u></p>	
<p>HJ gave further feedback on his attendance and agreed to encapsulate his thoughts on items to progress in liaison with JM via the Business Plan. He also noted that the matter should be publicized via the new web site.</p>	<p>HJ/JM</p> <p>HJ</p>
<p><u>8. Disabled Access Project</u></p>	
<p>Having written the project into the Business Plan, JM spoke on the progress and current possibilities which seemed to point to an area at one end or the other of the Family Stand. He highlighted the discussion with Alex Rowe (as noted in item 6 above) and noted that one issue is that the 1995 DDA and subsequent amending legislation might be a considerable burden for the Club.</p>	
<p>Alex had been very supportive of the concept and had asked Daryl Batten to furnish plans of the stand so that the TUST architect (Andy Smith) could proceed to draw up specific plans for detailed costing. Outline costs might total £20k including say £12k for a lift.</p>	
<p>It was noted that the blind fans' hearing equipment is in urgent need of renewal. Derrick Bradd and Pete Wiley were the contacts for this and HJ agreed to speak with PW to see what might be done to include this in the overall project. HJ to ask PW to write an article on this matter for the next magazine.</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>CF asked that the possibility of including an area for prams also be considered in the overall project design but it was agreed that this should not prejudice progress.</p>	<p>JM</p>
<p>It had been agreed with the Club that a possible timespan would be to do the work in the close season next summer.</p>	
<p>9. Any Other Business</p>	

<p>HJ noted that the parent body, Supporters Direct wished to carry out a liaison visit around the time of the Altringham match and that this might be achieved by holding the next meeting on 10th December.</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>Agreed that, apart from the above and the Christmas break, future meetings should be on a three weekly cycle.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>CP raised his concerns about the anonymity of TUST. It was agreed that he should draft a press release highlighting recent activity for HJ to include in some form of communication, either through the next magazine or separately. Various ideas for raising the profile at home and away matches were also discussed.</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p>Agreed that HJ should canvas members in the next magazine to see if they would agree to their e mail addresses being used for direct communication to save postage.</p>	<p>HJ</p>
<p>HJ noted that the next magazine was imminent and that articles were needed.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>The possibility of a junior fans Christmas party was mooted by CP. Agreed that unless firm proposals were quickly drawn up the chance might be lost this year</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p>10. Venue, Date and Time of Next Meeting.</p>	
<p>Next meeting will be at B & L at 19.45 on <u>10th December 2007.</u></p>	<p>All</p>