



West Ham United Supporters' Trust

Board Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: 23rd January 2024

Location: Virtual by Zoom

Present: Nick Drane, Kevin Hind, Mark Inskipp, Rachel McFetridge,
Terry Reynolds (until 7:10pm), Chris Wheal

Apologies: Richard Elliot

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2024 were agreed as a true record subject to some minor changes.

Actions: MI to make agreed changes and publish the minutes.

3. Annual General Meeting and Election Process

MI gave the following update on the AGM election process:

- Neil Le Milliere is co-ordinating the election process on behalf of the Board and will act as returning officer. This is to ensure that the election process is completely independent.
- Neil is a founder of Exeter City Supporters' Trust and has a lot of experience running elections for other trusts.
- MI and Neil have agreed to use software called Election Runner to run the actual voting in the event there is a contested election. Election Runner enables confidentiality and prevents double voting.
- Nominations close on 6pm 29th January. Neither MI nor any Board

member will know who has been nominated until that time.

- A Zoom registration process needs to be set up with details of nominations and how to vote.

Approval of accounts

- The Board needs to approve the Annual Accounts before they are laid before members.
- Proposal: To approve the Annual Accounts (proposer: MI, seconder: ND) - carried unanimously.

Actions:

- MI to set up the Zoom registration process and send out details of how to vote in the election on 7th February.

4. Annual Report

A discussion took place on the contents of the Annual Report to be sent to members. This will cover activities during the year preceding the AGM.

Actions:

- MI will write a section on Football Supporters' Europe and Broadcasting.
- ND will write a summary of progress and discussions on the Fan Led Review and the subsequent Bill before Parliament.
- RM will discuss her work on women at the game and Violence Against Women and Girls. She will also write about her interview with the police.
- TR will write a report on the work of the diversity committee.
- KH will write about the work of the Metropolitan Police Independent Advisory Group on football.

5. Offers of help received

MI has received and replied to e-mails from people who are interested in joining the Board, explaining that they must approach Neil with any questions regarding nominations. It was noted that Sue Watson had been approached by someone when she was Chair regarding standing for the Board. MI agreed to contact her.

Actions:

- MI to speak to Sue Watson about the potential nomination.

6. ISC/FAB progress

KH gave a report on the ISC and the negotiations towards the creation of the FAB.

Day-to-day ISC business

- Stephen Applebee resigned as ISC Chair and subsequently the Bondholders' Committee issued a statement that they would not take any further part in the ISC or the FAB.
- It was agreed to elect a new interim Chair from among the remaining ISC members. WHUST nominated Andy Payne, the Hammers' United representative. This was seconded by WHUSC. With no other nominations, Andy became Chair.
- Minutes of the ISC/club meeting on 18th July 2023 have been agreed between the ISC members and published on the ISC website by MI.
 - KH reported that the reason for the delay was that the Club would not agree as fact statements made during the meeting, especially around FAB independence from the Club.
 - The Club would not enter any further discussion around minutes. The ISC agreed to publish the Club's version of the minutes as the dispute had now lasted for over 6 months.
 - In publishing the minutes, the ISC issued a statement explaining that the content could not be agreed.
- Minutes of ISC internal meetings have also been agreed and have been published on the ISC website by MI.
- Subcommittees:
 - KH reported that the ISC ticketing subcommittee had been abolished and responsibilities folded into the main ISC. Discussion took place on how some groups are more affected by ticketing matters than others, so there needs to be a subcommittee when the FAB is created.
 - There is currently no input into Newham SAG as the SAG subcommittee has been abolished. This was because pre-meetings between the Club, the ISC and the Newham SAG Chair are no longer happening.

FAB negotiations

- A meeting to discuss and hopefully finalise the FAB documentation will take place either on 26th or 29th January. This will either be in person or on Zoom. The ISC Chair is trying to confirm a mutually agreeable date.
- KH reported that a meeting took place on 22nd January to discuss the ISC response to the Confidentiality Agreement and to change the Code of Conduct to make it consistent. On behalf of WHUST, KH asked for amendments to the Confidentiality Agreement to establish the following principles:
 - The general principle that anything discussed at FAB meetings will not be confidential, subject to exceptions.
 - The principle that anyone requesting confidentiality will be required to state the nature, reasons and time limits for confidential information.
 - KH reported that these amendments had been agreed by the remaining ISC members.
- A change has been made to the Code of Conduct so that a breach will be

investigated by a committee of the FAB. Any appeals from this process will be referred to the Football Supporters' Association.

Finally, the Board discussed recent social media activity around the ISC and its member groups. It was agreed that the Board was actively taking measures co-operate with other fan groups and present a united front to the Club.

Actions:

8. Date of next meeting

6th February 2024