

Meeting of Nuneaton Town FC and Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-operative

Monday 10 February 2014, at The Sperrin Brewery Stadium. Meeting starts at 1.10pm.

Present – Ian Neale CEO, Jodie Faries and Kelly Clarkson of Nuneaton Town FC.

John Hobson, Jim Skuce and Mike Turner of Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-operative.

Apologies- Andy Briggs NTSC.

1)**Action points from last meeting-** Find contact to draw up plans for disabled shelter.

John stated the Co-operative had found someone who was prepared to assist. A discussion was now required with the individual to firm up. Once finalised Ian will meet and explain proposal.

2)**Developments re ground sale** – Ian confirmed ground was now on the market and that there were 2 or 3 interested parties. He was unable to reveal any further information at this stage.

3)**Rugby Club access and lighting.-** The Co-operative have held a further meeting with the Rugby Club to discuss. Steve Smith, who undertook temporary repairs to the driveway surface, is to excavate a trench for cable and new lamp posts. The installation is not likely to take place for a month or so as the electrician is extremely busy at present and is working away from the area. Steve Smith is also to undertake repairs to further potholes that have appeared in the drive, although at present the weather is too wet to complete.

Steve recently had some surplus tarmac which could have been used on the drive, unfortunately, he could not contact a key holder to gain access. An arrangement has now been made via the Rugby Club to save losing any future opportunities

.4)**125 Year celebrations.** - Co-operative still awaiting outcome of Heritage Lottery Funding, should know by end of March. Ian asked if the Club could be provided with snippets of archive information, as and when discovered. John explained that this may be difficult as most information will be passed to project partners, eg St Thomas More School and we would not wish to 'tread on their toes'. There may be further issues in respect of copyright. However, we will do our best to keep Club and supporters updated .

With regards to Co-op's previous suggestion of having a celebration bottled ale, Ian advised that Sperrin's are interested in assisting. Ian has asked Scott Renshaw to come up with a label design. John added that it would be good if this initiative was ready to go by the launch of the Heritage Project.

The Co-operative has been looking at the possibility of entering a float and stall at the carnival on 8 June. We have had only a limited amount of support to date and wondered if the Club could assist, possible involvement of Youth team and a couple of first team players. Ian stated that because of close season, in between contracts etc, it may prove difficult to get any first team players along.

Mike mentioned that he was aware a couple of pre season friendlies had already been organised against FL teams and that Kevin must have some influence, however, looking at other teams formed in 1889, the most attractive would be Sheffield United. This could possibly be classed as 'The anniversary friendly'. Ian stated there may be scope to incorporate such a fixture, he personally knows the Managing Director and will make an enquiry. On a more local level, Rushden were also formed in 1889 and accordingly, there may be an opportunity to assist them if they are in a position to consider.

5)**Updates from the Club – 50/50 tickets** - Jodie explained that the girls who had been selling Golden Goal and 50/50 tickets were not continuing and enquired if the Co-operative could take over. John explained that he personally had other duties to undertake on match days. An option may be to make tickets available at the NTSC table in the bar. This will be discussed further at next Board meeting on 12 February.

Programme notes - Jodie mentioned that no programme notes had been received from the NTSC for the Aldershot game on 28 January. John explained that as game was rearranged at relatively short notice we had not been able to cover. We had anticipated including updates from our previous joint meeting with the Club but these had not been signed off.

Season tickets -Ian explained that although his future involvement at the Club was not known, he felt it was essential to continue to plan for the future. He is currently looking at season ticket pricing for 2014/5 and would like to be in a position to announce cost by the end of February. He outlined possible pricing structure, based on a modest increase, and asked the Co-operative to consider and return with comments/suggestions. He would like to launch 'early bird' offer towards end of April. Ian mentioned that he was looking at issuing free tickets to local schools, the intention was for these to be allocated on a reward basis, eg 100% attendance, outstanding achievement.

Another option being considered is that a free Child season ticket be issued with an Adult ticket, subject to conditions, the Club want to maintain the season ticket gifts as a high value, so any gifts need to be considered.

New kit -Ian passed around 4 possible kit designs for the forthcoming season and asked the Co-operative to consider and come back with 2 favoured designs. Ian would then conduct a poll via website for fan involvement so they have final say. The new kit will incorporate 125 anniversary, 1889-2014, under badge. Ian will send samples to Co-operative when design narrowed down.

The Club anticipate offering a discount, above the usual 10% , if Supporters purchase a shirt as and when they purchase a season ticket. The Club have to place a minimum order of 300 shirts but it is anticipated that demand will be high bearing in mind added anniversary celebration badge.

Ian asked if the Co-operative could do some research into the Club's kits, also the original kit as he could consider using the colours in next seasons away kit. It was explained this was on the Heritage Project wish list. We may have more information on the original 1889 kit and will report back.

Discussion with Council- Ian has recently held a meeting with N & B BC. This was based around what the Club had to offer the local community. It has just been announced that the operation of local leisure facilities is to be handed by a business based in Hinckley. The Club could offer facilities, especially, in healthy living projects.

Also discussed was Local plan which included possibility of relief road from Crematorium to Golf Drive. Going forward this would mean that the Club would be well placed to accommodate leisure facilities such as 3g pitch.

Other aspects discussed including 'green transport'. The cycle way from Attleborough Road has never been completed and this would assist with cycle/pedestrian access to the stadium. This is to be reviewed by Council, along with pedestrian access onto Eastboro Way. The discussion also touched upon a vehicle exit onto the main road if the Local Plan was implemented.

U16 team- Ian advised that the Club was in talks to run an U16 team next season. An existing U15 team has agreed to come under the Boro wing. Presently trying to locate a suitable pitch they can use. This will fit into policy of providing young local children opportunities with the Club.

Stadium Improvement Group- Club would like to set up a group to investigate and implement improvements over the coming years. The group would ideally comprise of fans with skills in architecture, building, grant application etc, he would also look to incorporate Co-operative involvement.

Priority work would be floodlights and changing rooms. Ian envisages that improved floodlights would be erected in 4 corners, likely cost £25k, although grants available up to 60%. Work has recently been undertaken to changing rooms, however, further work is required for FL ready status.

A positive from such a stance is that we could obtain 'Capability Status', thus assisting in any future opportunities if promotion was a possibility.

E ticketing - Still in discussions to progress.

World Cup – Ian asked if the Co-operative had any plans to run an event at Liberty Way around the World Cup competition. John advised that with Mark Axon's assistance, we are running a competition along the lines of the successful Euro2012. We had not considered any Club based event as this may be difficult due to time differences re ko times, however, we would look into this aspect. The Club will look to run events for all England games.

Former players -Ian was looking for assistance in setting up a data base, especially to get some of the personalities along in the anniversary season. It was suggested an existing supporter already had many of the contact details. If any new names are unearthed during the Heritage Project then these could be shared with the Club.

Players attending forthcoming games include Kirk Stephens (v Luton) and Alan Dulleston (v Tamworth).

Date of next meeting – 10 March 2014 at 12 noon.

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.

Action points for Co-operative -

- a) Discuss options to assist with sale of 50/50 and Golden goal tickets.
- b) Review 4 kit options and return with 2 preferences.
- c) Obtain feedback re colours/design of 1889 kit
- d) Investigate possible World Cup event.

Action points for Ian:-

- a) Submit 125 year badge designs to Co-operative as and when available.
- b) If possible, would also like to see Celebration beer bottle designs before final decision.
- c) Club will also ask kit designer to add '1889-2014' on the back of the shirt neck, provided there is not a significant cost increase.