

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

Monday 10 March 2014, at The Sperrin Brewery Stadium. Meeting starts at 12.10pm.

Present- Ian Neale CEO of NTFC, John Hobson, Jim Skuce and Mike Turner of Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-operative. Apologies – Andy Briggs NTSC.

1)**Action points from last meeting (NTSC)**– a) Discuss options to assist with sale of 50/50 and Golden goal tickets. - At a subsequent Board meeting it had been agreed to assist by selling tickets from NTSC table in main bar, this was confirmed in an e-mail to Club, along with request for some admin notes. John stated several Co-operative Board members had arrived early for the Hyde game only to be told that the Club had managed to find a couple of replacement sellers and our services were not required.

Ian stated he was not aware of this but stated the Club do not help as sales at present are poor and losing out on valuable income. It was agreed we would assist but would appreciate some administration notes so everyone knows process, eg who is responsible for handing tickets over to Co-operative, any paperwork to be completed for balancing cash to tickets and arrangements for handover prior to kick off.(Jodie to undertake this role).

b) Review four kit options and return with two preferences. -This was undertaken with two options now dependent upon fan vote. Ian mentioned there had been a problem with registered fans not being able to vote. He spoke to 'Pitchero' during the meeting and they confirmed problem had now been fixed. Mike confirmed he had experienced problems with this issue and agreed to report back. (Following meeting he was able to confirm to Club the problem had indeed been resolved).

c)Obtain feedback re colours/design of 1889 kit. - Mike stated that from research it has been established first colours of Nuneaton St Nicholas were amber and black. Unfortunately there are no photos available nor any confirmation of the design of the kit. One of the researchers has written to Bukta, who are based in Stockport, to see if they were involved, this is a very long shot, however, they did make Nottingham Forest's kit back in 1884.

d)Investigate possible World Cup event.- This was discussed at last Board meeting. Bearing in mind first game against Italy does not kick off until 23.00 on Sunday 15 June, it was felt it would be difficult to organise a specific event. Only suggestion was that perhaps the Club could consider doing a food themed supper and Co-operative would encourage members to support event.

(NTFC) – a) Submit 125 year badge design to Co-operative as and when available- This has been actioned.

b)If possible, would like to see celebration beer bottle designs before final decision- Not yet available.

c)1889-2014 to be incorporated on the back of shirt neck, provided there is not a significant cost increase. Ian anticipated that this would add a further £2 per shirt but felt this would be worthwhile. In any event, he anticipated offering a discount on shirts when purchased with a season ticket or for early orders.

2)**Developments re ground sale**- Ian stated that at this point in time, he was not aware that the ground had been sold. Closing date for bids was last Monday, 3 March. Matter now in the hand of the Administrator who will no doubt make a statement in due course. Ian was then asked re implications for FL application if extension on existing 7 year lease was not sorted out promptly with any new owner. Ian stated he had provided other supporting information to the Football League who have been very helpful.

Ian had no comment to make on investors or sale of Club but he continued to work and plan for the future in the best interests of the Club to continue ongoing progression.

Ian took the opportunity to expand on FL application. Following the initial application to the FA, some 102 issues need addressing, this has involved discussions with local emergency services and a meeting will be held with the FA next week to review requirement list. Improved 500 lux floodlights will be required and quotes are to be obtained based on lights on new pylons in each corner of the ground. The major requirement is provision of an additional 2000 seats, this needs to be completed within 2 years of promotion to FL. A new players lounge and extended dressing

rooms is another requirement, hence appeal for portable building.

**3)End of season player of the year award event.** - Tickets are going extremely well with some 200 already sold. Although both lounges will be used for the event, maximum capacity will be 250, and it is anticipated that all tickets will be sold over the next week or so.

**4) Disabled shelter/parking access.** - John mentioned that a supporter had offered to draw up plans for the new shelter. John said he had already looked into the project but needed more information. Ian said that if this avenue was closed then he would have to find someone else. John will make a final approach at Tamworth game so a final decision can be made. Ian mentioned that the Club had rejoined the regional 'Level Playing Field' organisation, with the intention that they will be involved with all aspects of disabled facilities at the Club.

Jim mentioned that from time to time he had experienced problems when trying to park adjacent to the entrance, despite having a car park season ticket and blue badge. Ian checked to ensure that Jim was on Stewards list, this was the case. Club are quite prepared to assist with other supporters with similar problems.

**5)Rugby Club access and lighting** – Although a quote has now been received, electrician was waiting to see impact of security lighting at Pete Savage's yard. We have also received a quote for digging a trench for cabling, this has escalated the cost of the project and we are looking to review this aspect. Ian will look into cost of trench and discuss requirements with Pete Davis, Board member and the electrician.

In the meantime, the Co-operative have accepted an estimate from Mark Mortlock to improve lighting at entrance to main bar, fit replace lamps over car park with LED lights and move operating switch from kiosk to bar.

Ian asked if the Co-operative would consider diverting funds set a side for improving lighting on Rugby Club drive towards the cost of replacing floodlights, this would then attract matching grant funding. John explained that we could not use funds for capital expenditure and funds needed to be spent improving supporter facilities. A possible compromise might be worthy of consideration if new floodlights incorporated lights covering driveway.

**6) 125 Anniversary celebrations** – The HLF heritage project response is now expected in April. When outcome known then we hope to be in a position to arrange launch event. Other aspects of celebrations covered in item 1). Ian mentioned the Club will be ordering additional items for the shop, including an anniversary mug and mobile phone cases.

**7)Update from Club/matters for NTSC information** – Ian mentioned that plans are well in hand to hold the 'Big Boro festival' at the ground on 31 May. Announcement will be made shortly re well known International DJ and band line up, which will include some acts appearing at 'V Festival'. The event will not impact on pitch as work for next season will commence on 1 June  
.-PA system has been subject to many comments recently. Realistically there is no point in moving/replacing speakers at this point as if floodlights are replaced then the system will be subject to full review. Ian explained that ideally a new PA base needs to be set up in the main stand. Mike suggested that the Co-operative discuss at next board meeting and consider meeting up with Mark Mortlock to see if anything can be done to make a more balanced sound without major expenditure at this stage. Ian suggested that it would be helpful if Jules (PA announcer) could also come along as and when testing takes place.

**8)Any other business.** - Question of season ticket prices and possible return of concession for over 60's paying at the gate was raised. - Ian mentioned that he hopes to announce new prices and early bird offers shortly. With regard to concessions, Ian expanded on recent correspondence on subject. This set out reason for abandoning previous arrangements, mainly because of abuse of the system. The Club had made a concession season ticket available and had also offered flexible payment terms so that as many over 60's could take advantage of what equated to a basic admission cost of £7.82 per game, which represents outstanding value.

No change of policy is anticipated this year as emphasis is on keeping down cost for all supporters in the hope that this will encourage them to bring along children who are the future of the Club.

- Further supporter feedback received re the fact that Luton fans had been allowed to go right up to perimeter fence. Ian responded stating that each game is managed according to safety policy. Ahead of the Luton game such problems were anticipated and it was acknowledged that this would be an issue and impossible to enforce. If stewards persisted and made everyone move back then this could have antagonised the crowd. Dealing with one or two supporters is easy to deal with, however, the Luton match required a measured approach. Each game is individually risk assessed prior and during matches.

**Date of next meeting** – 7 April 2014 at 12 noon, subject to confirmation nearer the time.  
Meeting closed at 2.00pm.

**Action points for Co-operative -**

- a) Approach supporter who may be able to assist with disabled stand.
- b) Discuss possible short term solution to PA system.

**Action points for Club-**

- a) Firm up administration details for Co-operative assistance with 50/50 and Golden goal tickets.