

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

Monday 13 January 2014 at The Sperrin Brewery Stadium. Meeting starts at 7.10pm.

Present-Ian Neale CEO and Gemma Brown, Director 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** – a) Figures have been submitted to club in respect of 200 Club receipts and used in promotional drive.

b) Re Option for NTSC to be involved with presentations to ball boys, further clarification was sought from Club in respect of what they were looking for from the Co-operative. Ian explained he felt as more youngsters undertook the role it gave a further opportunity to engage with the community and the Co-operative might be able to explore ways of forging a relationship with the groups to retain their long term support for the Club.

c) Re availability of bands for end of season event, John said that there was to be a further meeting of our joint representatives this week . Once a date is finalised he will firm up with bands.

**2) Developments re ground sale and general overview of Club's viability.** Ian is expecting to sign off property description this week after which the ground will be placed on the market through agents, Shortland, Penn and Moore. Ian stated that his understanding was that although the Co-operative had registered the ground as an Asset of Community Value, they would not receive the luxury of having a set time to decide if they wished to bid due to the liquidation aspect of the sale. John confirmed, having spoken to Supporters Direct, that this was also our understanding. This should not preclude details being sent to the Co-operative as we had registered our interest at the outset.

Ian just hopes that any bids received are Club friendly.

With regard to the viability of the Club, Ian said that he had been seeking investment into the Club for sometime, without success. The Club does need financial support as income streams, particularly from sponsorship were insufficient. He stated that a press release would be issued tomorrow outlining his hopes for the Club going forward.

In respect of players being made available for transfer, Ian said this was not to reduce the wage bill which is running at the same level as last season. It was a realistic stance to raise some revenue from players who realistically will not be at the Club next season. Although they may receive some compensation for certain players, if left until the end of the season this would be negligible as some of the players have been with the Club for less than 12 months.

In the case of Kelle Roos, last week he trained with Ipswich and Bolton and this week with Liverpool. If any business is done with any of the key players it is likely to include sell on clauses so the Club may also benefit long term.

**3)Disabled shelter** – At previous meetings Ian had stated that this facility was to be incorporated in plans for ground improvement to meet FL status. The Co-operative felt that a more realistic approach was now required so improvement could be made relatively quickly as present arrangements were unsatisfactory with disabled fans exposed to the elements.

Ian mentioned further discussions had taken place with the Probation Service and Rainsbrooke STC and he felt that this is a project they could assist in constructing. Ian detailed proposals and said that plans would need be drawn up, although this could be done for around £500, he wondered if the Co-operative had any contacts who could assist. John felt this may be possible and will make enquiries. Cost could be kept down if materials were donated with final cost possibly being split between the Club and Co-operative.

**4)Rugby Club access and lighting-** John mentioned further potholes had appeared on the Rugby Club drive, these are new and not a case of repaired holes being damaged. Stewart Smith who did

original repairs has agreed to come and make good new holes, just a question of having right weather conditions.

As far as lighting is concerned, the electrician is to attend Co-operative Board meeting on Thursday. A quote is also to be obtained for moving light switch from kiosk to bar in respect of lights covering car park.

**5)200 Club-** In order to attract additional members, both parties had agreed to accept £100 less for December draw to boost first prize to £500. The subsequent cheque issued to the Club did not include a deduction, accordingly this will be adjusted in the January cheque.

**6)EPOS system-** Ian had previously mentioned this had been delayed due to Skrill withdrawing from the scheme. The Club are still very much involved as a showcase Club as it is hoped to roll out to all Conference clubs in due course. This week a survey has been undertaken for wireless connectivity. Realistically it may be next season before the system goes live, however, Ian hopes that some applications are introduced before the end of the season to obtain some trial experience. The Club are very much in the hands of the system providers although Ian did reinforce that when it does eventually go live there will still be a cash option to acknowledge those not wishing to use the technology.

**7)Updates from Club-** The Club has held a meeting with Vicky Fowler, Labour Parliamentary candidate for Nuneaton. Matters discussed included council tax charges at the Football Club, the Town plan and in particular the relief road between the Crematorium and Golf Drive, especially as this would introduce housing development in the vicinity. Finally, the Club expressed a wish to have closer workings with the Council. Vicki has undertaken to follow up discussions and report back findings.

Ian outlined an initiative in connection with the NSPCC Childline School Service. Ian and Craig Bird, Foundation Director and Club Chaplain, propose undertaking training and then going into schools to talk to pupils raising awareness of topics such as child abuse.

Craig Bird is also building up Community relationships with school visits and will be offering free season tickets for the remainder of the season following the successful initiative with local Youth teams.

**8)AOB –** Mike stated that he felt the Club and supporters should be exploiting and celebrating the fact that the Club, in various guises, will be celebrating its 125 year anniversary this year. The HLF bid in respect of proposed Heritage Project had been submitted on 20 December, we anticipate receiving a response by the end of March. During our launch we hope to promote the Club's anniversary and perhaps this should be raised with bodies such as the Council to reinforce the Club's rich heritage and the part it plays in promoting the town.

Mike mentioned that he was aware that Walsall FC were also celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and were promoting an anniversary beer on a limited edition basis. Ian felt that this is something the Club could take forward as an initial acknowledgement of the milestone.

**Date of next meeting –** Monday 10 February at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Action points for Co-operative –** Find contact to draw up plans for disabled shelter.