

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

Monday 9 December 2013 at The Sperrin Brewery Stadium. Meeting starts at 7.10pm

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

Apologies - Gemma Brown, Nuneaton Town FC.

**1) Action points from last meeting.** - End of season player of the year awards - Provisional date set for 10 May, price agreed at £10, which will include buffet and entertainment. John Hobson is to contact the 2 bands, who have offered their services, to check availability. Further meeting of sub-committee to take place in new year.

-Disabled shelter/parking access -Ian explained he had not progressed design/costing at present as a return had to be submitted to the Football League at the end of November. This was basically an audit to see if the Club has facilities to meet Football League standards.

If promoted, the Club would have up to 3 years to carry out certain improvements, eg seating to be 1,000 min. Although certain works would have to be completed in year 1, such as floodlights which would have to be improved from present standard of 280 lux to 500 lux. Ian is currently reviewing improvements required which includes the disabled shelter. Present thinking is that this would have a metal base with sheet roofing, based near segregated area on Rugby Club side.

The Co-operative had undertaken to see if they could obtain matching grant support to any grant obtained by the Club. Enquiries were made via Supporters Direct but to date no response has been received. However, the feedback from board members, who had previously applied for a grant, is that, dependent on cost, the Co-operative may be able to obtain the majority of the costs by way of a grant.

Matters now to be left until Ian has reviewed and drawn up plans for various improvements, as some areas will require planning permission.

Ian stated that FL status would require the provision of frost covers and felt that this is an area the Co-operative may be able to assist with as we could retain ownership, in accordance with our rules.

- Match Programme update for Nuneaton Library as part as Heritage project. - Andy Pace has started to go through surplus programmes in the shop so bound collection at Library can be updated, from 2005/6 season to date. Andy has already put together last seasons programmes, with exception of Wrexham game, however, Mike has managed to source this programme

**2) Developments re ground sale** – Ian stated that the valuation has now been completed and understands the ground will be placed on the market sale very soon. Apart from same names being banded around, Ian has heard of no concrete proposals to bid. He was very surprised that no interested party had contacted the Co-operative.

The Co-operative confirmed that no approaches had been received from interested parties.

**Items 3 & 4, namely end of season event and disabled shelter- Covered in 1) above.**

**5) Rugby Club access and lighting.** - The holes have now been filled in by contractor as an interim measure. He has undertaken to do any repairs as and when required.

Further meeting to take place with the Rugby Club in the new year to explore funding for permanent solution.

With regards to lighting, the electrician is waiting for work at Peter Savage's yard to be completed as he feels the security lights being installed may well cover the top end of the drive, meaning just one lamp post will need to be erected half way up the drive, he could then install a stronger light by the entrance gates which should enhance safety aspects.

The electrician is unable to connect to the Rugby Club's power supply as it is near capacity.

**5) cont'd.** Accordingly, he is seeking permission to connect to kiosk by main entrance. Ian explained this would not be suitable and he would need to run cable from Club as this has 450v capacity from power station.

Electrician is also to supply a price to move light switch , operating car park floodlights, from kiosk to bar.

**6) Heritage Project-** Project Co-ordinator, Judy Crabb, had visited Nuneaton on 7 November, and had undertaken a number of meeting, along with John and Mike, at The Heritage Centre and NW & Hinckley College. These had been very successful and we already have 6 or 7 pledges to join the Steering committee.

Judy has indicated that she hopes to send final bid request to HLF by 20 December. She has already received 3 letters of support from potential partners and is awaiting final 3. Ian mentioned that the Club's letter of support had been sent to Judy.

Following a lead from the Club, John and Mike had visited Individual Support Systems, who help customers with learning difficulties. This had been a very positive experience and the Co-operative are hoping to involve them in some way in the project. In the meantime, they have liaised with the Club to arrange a stadium tour for the group, this is set for 10 December.

**7) Updates from Club-** Ian stated that he and Jodie had visited Rainsbrook Young Offenders Institution, near Rugby. A number of young offenders have already assisted with painting at the stadium. The Club are now trying to set up a scheme whereby a number of young offenders will be able to come along with supervisors and learn various skills leading to a qualification.

-Craig Bird, recently appointed Chaplain and Community Director, is now working at the Club 2 days a week. Mike has a meeting with Craig on 12 December, to get a better understanding of the new role and to expand on the work being undertaken by the Supporters' Co-operative, especially the Heritage Project which is community orientated.

-Ian asked if we need any assistance in giving the 200 Club a membership boost. The Co-operative will send some figures on prize money etc, the Club will then promote on web site.

With the regular use of ball boys, Ian asked if the Co-operative could get involved by, say, presenting the youngsters with, say, a commemorative badge. This will be discussed at our next Board meeting.

**8) Any other business** – Jim expressed disappointment that the Club had arranged Christmas parties on Saturdays when the team were playing away. Ian stated that, unfortunately, these had now been cancelled. He was mindful of the Co-operatives desire to support the events and advised that Jason had put together an excellent match day package, which is heavily discounted, in an attempt of offset our disappointment.

**Date of next meeting** – Monday, 13 January at 7.00pm. (Subject to final confirmation)

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**Action points for Co-operative.**

-Submit up to date figures to Club re 200 Club.

-Consider option to be involved with presentations to ball boys.

- John to confirm availability of bands for end of season event.