

# NUNEATON TOWN SUPPORTERS' CO-OPERATIVE

Meeting opens at 7.15 pm, Liberty Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014

**Present:** D. Hall, R. Miller, M. Turner, J. Hobson, M. Ball, J. Skuce, P. Burdett, E. Stevens

**Apologies:** A. Briggs, D. Cook, R. Barnes, P. Davis

**Chairman:** Last minutes passed as a true record.

**Treasurer:** Nothing to disclose

**Youth Team:** Eddie Stevens thanked Co-operative for its continued support this season as last. 9 teams in their league starting with Wolverhampton Casuals at home on Thursday. Fixtures to be published shortly, possibly a small fixture card? Dave proposed printing next fixture on bottom of team sheet.

**Memorial Garden:** Work progressing on improvement work, bench, railings, and estimate to be got for 3G surface to replace turf.

**Membership:** Going well, some people to be chased, updated membership list in Dropbox.

**Heritage Project:** First meeting tomorrow of steering committee at Liberty Way, report in next minutes. Any work on project to go through local co-ordinator and co-ordinator.

**Fans Forum:** Any questions to be put by individuals as apposed to group questions.

**Financial relationship with club: re200 Club:** Co-operative still having to chase club cheque every month, this should not have to happen. To be brought up at meeting with Chairman later this evening.

**Letter from Club:** Co-operative has been offered a position of fan on the board of the football club. Supporters Direct had been contacted, and they advised caution on some of the details i.e.: financial responsibilities. Ray Miller suggested details in writing regarding the finer points, after a supporters' organisation had been caught financially in the past. Eddie Stevens suggested a positive approach at the forthcoming meeting. Mike Turner said we must move forward.

**A.O.B.:** Dave Hall pointed out that some members hadn't received a copy of recent newsletter, to be reviewed before next edition. Eddie Stevens of the Youth Team said he would like to know exactly the club's position regarding the Youth/U16 set-ups, after very little contact from the club. He was going on holiday so could not ask the question at the Fans Forum, but was willing to put the question via a letter.

Mike Turner reported on an email from diabetes charity for a possible meeting regarding support. It was agreed that they could come along and outline their case if necessary. John Hobson pointed out that we have our chosen charity, and could not support more. We would perhaps be prepared to help sell tickets etc., for raffles and any events, from the table.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September at Coton Liberal Club

**Meeting closed:** 8.10 pm

At the end of Co-operative business Lee Thorn joined meeting at 8.00 pm. He stated that anything he said could be recorded in minutes to aid transparency.

Lee commenced with offer of 'Supporters Co-operative Director'. Basically position on club board with voting position but no financial responsibility. Nomination to be made from existing Co-operative board to stand for 12 months, will be subject to the usual FA director checks.

While welcoming this offer, which is one of our core aims, it was mentioned that trust with the club need to be rebuilt as on 24 June, Ian had offered the Co-operative a minimum stake of 26% in the Club. We had agreed to progress the offer with first step of due diligence, however, necessary authority from club never received. We then learn of Lee's appointment without the courtesy of call to be told offer was being withdrawn.

Lee said he was not able to comment on aspects before his involvement but said that we should not rule out a similar offer from the new regime, although this would not happen in the short term in view of his substantial financial commitment. It was his intention to announce the new Director offer at the forthcoming Fans Forum.

He confirmed that Ian and self had purchased the ground on 50/50 basis and this was being rented to the club at £10k pa, being below market rental. He also produced share certificates confirming the ownership of Boro Leisure, ie Ian and himself.

Lee continued by expanding on his relationship with the Kettering Trust and felt that a similar relationship could be made at Nuneaton, he would assist in building up our membership. At Kettering the Trust assisted with voluntary work, including match day staff, eg turnstile operators, stewarding etc. Mentioned that at Nuneaton there were 64 paid staff, these needed to be replaced with volunteers to reduce costs, especially with the backdrop of reduced gates.

Lee mentioned that having obtained a Lottery grant for the Heritage Project, the Co-operative could possibly assist with obtaining Lottery funding for development of the land on the other side of the river.

Lee was thanked for his time and advised that the Co-operative Board would call an early meeting to fully discuss his proposals.



