

Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-operative

1. Meeting opens 7.45pm on 14 February 2013, hastily reconvened at Coton Liberal Club.
2. Present- Martin Ball, Dave Hall, John Hobson, Pete Burdett, Andy Briggs, Ray Miller, Jim Skuce and Mike Turner (Guest scribe). Apologies: Jim Astley, Roger Barnes, Mark Axon and Mark Mortlock.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Action Plan

- Contact the Club re Sportsman's Evening Committee – Roger has contacted Club with dates.
 - Contact SD about Fan on the Board. Jim A – See Agenda 8(a)
 - Contact Jim A if you wish if you wish to attend SD WM Regional meeting at Telford. Jim A, - done
 - Plan Newsletter. All- Martin to send e-mail requesting items.
 - Contact SD re fan ownership. - Jim- See main agenda
 - Send out email to Members concerning Store Room/Kit room. - Jim A- done, awaiting response.
 - Jim A to read through the minutes online and send over any missing ones – Done.
 - Jim A to have a look at the membership situation and report back- Done
 - John to contact John Rathbone about Life Membership. - Will endeavour to contact this weekend.
4. Chairman's Report – John had nothing to report.
 5. Secretary's Report- No report as Jim presented apologies.
 6. Treasurer's report – Ray had nothing to report.
 7. 200 Club update – Dave had nothing to report.
 8. Fan Ownership. - No update in Jim's absence. Mike advised that following a recommendation from Supporters Direct, he had sent an enquiry to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council re Localism Act 2011. Under this new legislation we are able to request that Liberty Way Stadium is registered as a community asset, particularly as it is in private ownership. Once registered the Council would be duty bound to consult NTS Co-operative in the event that the land was to be sold voluntarily or involuntarily. We would be given an initial 6 weeks to decide if we wished to express interest, followed by 6 months to raise funds and complete.

The initial enquiry has been acknowledged and is being dealt with by Mrs Katherine Morton, Head of Development Control.
 9. Fan on the Board. - SD has recommended that we do not proceed with this aspect for the time being, bearing in mind Board instability following resignation of Directors, leaving IN as sole Director.
Andy suggested that we should still offer to assist with fan representation in some other capacity, pending appointment of further Directors. Agreed to convey this to IN. We can discuss further at proposed meeting with him planned for early March.

Supporters Trusts Regional meeting at Telford. - Jim A, Mike and John (subject to availability), agreed to attend. Anyone else who wishes to attend should advise Mike ASAP, as names need to be submitted to SD by Monday, 18 February.
 10. Access/Rugby Club entrance. - Letter sent, not sure if we have had a response as Jim not present. In interim Ian Neale had e-mailed to say That Robert Ryan, Nun's Chair, knew nothing about letter. This may be the case as it had been sent to Secretary.
 11. FA Cup Bonanza/Sportsman's evening. - John stated we should tread cautiously with Sportsman's evening as we could get 'fingers burnt' bearing the outlay for such an event. Await further information from Roger re progress. John mentioned that he had just started a new job, which will impact on the time he has available for sub-committee.
FA Cup Bonanza feasibility postponed until next meeting due to length of Agenda.
 12. Store room/Kit room. - Mike reported that he had inspected site. Was under the impression Ian had requested that we convert the Gents toilets into Kit room. At present these toilets are in a terrible state with vandalised sinks and all urinal and toilets still in place. These would have to be removed by contractors, as water supply/drains would have to be sealed off. Similarly electrics would have to be removed, potential hazard with damp. This is a very large space and no doubt costly to convert.

The old Kit room still exists next door. Although much smaller, this would be a far easier project to undertake and may be a temporary solution. However, roof and joints to adjacent buildings need to be made watertight before we can move forward.

Agreed to contact Club for clarification and also check on progress re essential roof repairs.
 13. Any other business.

- Mike mentioned the Carnival committee are running a quiz in The Sports Bar on Friday 1 March, starting at 8.00pm. Max 6 per team, £2 each. They promise loads of prizes and fun. Ross Kenny, King of Mirth, is keen to build up a relationship with us. This can only be a positive for developing community relations. Please try and get a team together and pass details on to other quiz goers. Ross has promised to reciprocate support for our events.
- Invitation received, via SD, to attend Co-operatives West Midlands Network Lunch on Friday 22 March, 12noon for 12.30pm at Birmingham Council House Banqueting Suite. Jacqui Forster advises that this is an excellent event with a superb lunch. Anyone interested in flying the flag for NTSC please advise Mike.
- David raised concern at the substantial numbers who had not renewed their membership. Felt a review was needed, including the possibility of appointing a Membership Secretary, as Jim A already has a considerable workload. Agreed to discuss at next meeting.

- A wish list has been received from Ian Neale. This was discussed as follows: -

Leaflet and Posters – With regard to Match day posters, Mike pointed out we would struggle to undertake unless someone was willing to step forward. Suggested we requested Club to forward a list of retailers etc so we could identify locations close to members. Bearing in mind 'green issue', question was posed if some posters could be sent by email.

With regard to flyers, numerous concerns were raised to proposal, including possible need for CRB checks, agreement needed with Supermarkets, Council etc, may lead to payments for litter picking. Felt club may be advised to approach organisation such as Scout Group, especially as they are offering payment.

200 Club – Dave has already forwarded update, for inclusion on Club website, to Jim A.

Rugby Club Roadway- Requests a copy of letter sent to Rugby Club. Mentions Robert Ryan has not seen letter. Check to see if Jim A. has forwarded.

Kit room/Improvements – Already covered in main agenda.

Ground Grading- Lists work which needs to be undertaken by 31 March, to enable Club to obtain A-grading, presently Grade B- Step 2 level. Work mainly relates to changing rooms and provision of two additional turnstiles for the away end. Cost of work around £7500. Unanimously agreed that this was not within our remit and in addition our available finances would not make a dent in the figure quoted..

Floodlighting- Contractors to undertake renewal of Floodlight Certificate. Hope to realign lights to spread light evenly across playing surface. States may need access equipment, Andy confirmed he has already made necessary arrangements to provide access platform.

Business Leads- Mentions Triton has ended their Stadium deal. Requests any business leads are sent to Club with view to obtaining replacement sponsorship.

Member on the Board- Requests an update. Action per Agenda item 8(a).

Fans Forum: To be held on 12 March, with Kevin and Ian fielding questions. Ian asks if we wish to have a representative on the panel. Board felt that we could answer any questions from the floor, as majority of questions are likely to be addressed to Kevin and Ian.

Brainstorming Night: Looking for Supporters to discuss ideas to take the Club forward. Asks if would like to manage and Chair with our own members. No one on the Board felt qualified to undertake role. Needs a strong and experienced Chair to conduct otherwise could be wasted evening. We will be happy to attend.

Foundation- Asks if we wish to engage and work with the Foundation. Concern was expressed re time constraints for many Board members. Nevertheless, we would be keen to learn more and suggested we ask suitable reps, e.g. Steve Farmer/Chris Riley, to attend future meeting to present proposals moving forward.

The future of the Club: Ian mentions that to progress the Club in BSP and beyond requires serious investment. He is looking at different ways this could be achieved and asks how we would like to be involved. Ian finishes by stating that he would welcome the Co-operative to move things on with the Club as a partner. Members were not sure of implications of this statement, e.g. Partnership agreement, financial implications. Agreed to request clarification from Ian, also suggesting his thoughts could be discussed at meeting proposed for early March. Also agreed to approach SD re advice for tentative approach to see if Club for sale?

Mike stated he would prepare responses to be addressed to Club and send to John for confirmation. John in turn mentioned Jim A. had been the intermediary for e-mails with the Club and felt Jim should forward, having had a chance to add his own thoughts on any aspect.

14. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 28 February 2013 at Liberty Way. 7.30pm start. Meeting ends at 9.10pm.

Action Plan.

1. Contact Jim/Mike if you wish to attend Co-op Networking Lunch, 22 March.
2. Plan Newsletter – All
3. Contact SD re Fan Ownership – Jim
4. Response from Council re Localism Act 2011 – Mike
5. Response to Membership skills list for projects – Jim
6. Add 'Membership' to agenda for next meeting – Jim
7. Respond to Ian Neale's 'wish list' / Arrange early March meeting – Jim