

## Nuneaton Town Supporters Co-Operative meeting with Nuneaton Town Football Club – 13/12/2012

1. Meeting opens at 8:05pm on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Liberty Way.
2. Present: Jim Astley, Pete Burdett, John Hobson, Roger Barnes, Ray Miller, Mike Turner, Jim Skuce, and Dave Hall (NTSC) and Ian Neale (NTFC).
3. Fan Representative on the Board.

Jim A began by asking Ian to run through the time commitments the position would require. Ian replied that on a daily basis, emails would be sent and the Fans' Rep would be expected to read them and reply when necessary. Ian runs the Club on a day-by-day basis and usually holds a meeting on a Monday with staff, where aims and targets are set. Emails are then sent setting out the week ahead. Board meetings are held monthly, although any urgent situations are dealt with by email.

Ian said that from the Club's point of view, they hope the Fans' Rep can give supporters access to details about the costs and effort that goes into running a football club. Ian said that the Fans' Rep would be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement. The playing budget was probably the most delicate piece of information that the Fans' Rep would have access to, but this is more important when the it is higher than lower. Jim A suggested releasing figures from twelve months previously? This would allow fans to see where money is spent, and should not have any effect on sensitive information relating to the playing budget.

Jim A asked what he would expect from the Fans' Rep on a typical match day? Ian said that he does not want the appointment to make the rest of the Board seem unapproachable and he hoped that the Fans' Rep could interact with the fans in some way (such as organising the Man of the Match voting/award) while still being present in the board room. Jim A suggested being in the board from 1:30pm until 2:15pm, then the Bar/terraces until kick off. Jim S said the Fans' Rep may have to find the balance between the Boar Room/Supporters himself.

Dave asked about the timings of Board meetings, as he understood these occurred during the day? Ian replied that they tend to be Tuesday or Thursday evenings but are booked well in advance.

Jim A asked if the Fans' Rep will be registered as a director with Companies House? Ian said he thought so as it was a public recognition of the role and responsibility. Jim A said that Supporters Direct have a document (a Code of Conduct) that outlines the role and responsibility of the Fans' Rep (this has been discussed previously and agreed upon by Ian and other Board members). Ian said that from the Club's point of view, they were looking for someone with no side agendas and had the best interest of the Club at heart (with no self-interest). They would be expected to support the Board even if they contradicts their personal opinions. Ian said they do not have many votes as they prefer to discuss things until an agreement can be reached. Jim A said that the Code of Conduct from Supporters Direct does state that the Fans' Rep first loyalty is to the Football Club.

Jim A said that moving forward, the Co-Operative would create a document outlining the role. The document would be sent to the Club's Board to discuss and agree (with or without alterations/additions/omissions). The document would be discussed at the Co-Operative's meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 and would be forwarded to the Club shortly after. Meanwhile the Club would prepare the confidentiality agreement. Once the Club and the Co-Operative had agreed on the Confidentiality Agreement at the Fans' Representative Role Document it would be sent to Supporters Direct for their opinion/advice. It is the Club and Co-Operative's intention to have the documents ready and prepared to send to Supporters' Direct on or before January 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.

### 4. Disabled Stand

It was u .Jim A said that some sort of protection from the elements is requirednfortunate that Andy Briggs' offer was not taken up. The Co-Op has provided wheelchairs and ponchos for fans to assist where possible. Some sort of permanent or long-term strategy is required. Moveable structure like at Telford a possible solution? of something by home turnstile/rugby club?

IAN SAID THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT ANDY'S OFFER WAS TIME-SENSITIVE. MIKE ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO UTILISE THE TARMACKED AREA BY THE MAIN TURNSTILES? IAN SAID THAT THIS WAS RUGBY CLUB LAND AND WOULD NOT BE A LONG TERM OPTION. MIKE ASKED IF MAYBE THE DISABLED SEATED AREA COULD BE MOVED ELSEWHERE IN THE STADIUM AS IN FRONT OF THE MAIN STAND ATTRACTED THE WORST OF THE WEATHER? IAN SAID THAT THE CLUB HAVE TO PROVIDE DISABLED SUPPORTERS WITH AN EYE-LEVEL VIEW. MIKE SUGGESTED A STRUCTURE IN FRONT OF THE RUGBY CLUB? IAN SAID THAT THE RUGBY CLUB HAVE A RIGHT TO VIEW, AND IN HIS OPINION, A STRUCTURE ON THE CURRENT SMOKING AREA WOULD BE BEST.

## 5. ACCESS TO GROUND ALONG DRIVEWAY/RUGBY CLUB/EASTBOROUGH WAY ENTRANCE.

MIKE SAID THAT MANY BORO' FANS HAD COMPLAINED THE CO-OPERATIVE ABOUT THE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE INTO THE GROUND. MIKE ASKED WHAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS, AND IF THE CO-OPERATIVE COULD DO ANYTHING, AS WE WOULD NOT WANT TO CAUSE THE CLUB ANY PROBLEMS BY DOING SO?

*but whenever they had a meeting and reached ,Ian said that he has a good relationship with the Rugby Club chairman Ian said that the Rugby .it was scuppered when put before the Rugby Club Committee ,an agreement on anything This work was guaranteed .ointly paid for the driveway to be fixed around a year agoClub and the Football Club had j The Rugby Club have contacted the contractor but they are .for several years but has started to break up already have offered to pay for the Rugby Club to turn on their training Ian said the Club .taking their time resolving the issues The Rugby Club have also refused .lights during darkness to aid access but the Rugby Club have failed to do so by Club accepting money for fans Ian said that with the Rug .to allow the changing of any signs on their property Mike asked if the Club would object to .they do have a duty of care to their customers ,parking on their property ed Ian said he would not and wish ?Operative contacting the Rugby Club or the Council about the situation-the Co .Ian said he had tried in the past and many conversations had been had .us luck*

WITH REGARD TO ACCESS FROM EASTBOROUGH WAY, IAN SAID HE THOUGHT THE COUNCIL WOULD ALLOW IT, BUT IT WOULD BE COSTLY, AND MONEY IS ALWAYS TIGHT. ONE THING THE CLUB WOULD LIKE TO DO IS BUILD A PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ONTO EASTBOROUGH WAY WITH A BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER, BUT THIS WOULD COST BETWEEN £30-£40,000.

## 6. EVENTS.

### A. SPORTSMAN'S EVENING.

JIM A SAID THAT THE CO-OPERATIVE HAD DISCUSSED THIS EVENT AND WERE LOOKING AT AN EVENT IN MARCH/APRIL TIME. HELP FROM DARRYL THE KIT-MAN (WHO HAS EXPERIENCE OF ARRANGING SUCH EVENTS) AND THE CLUB. FOOD WOULD BE DONE BY THE CLUB. ANY TICKET PROFIT IS SPLIT FIFTY FIFTY BETWEEN THE CLUB AND THE CO-OPERATIVE. THE CLUB WOULD TAKE THE BAR TAKINGS WHILE THE CO-OPERATIVE WOULD GET ANY MONEY FROM A RAFFLE (OR MAYBE AN AUCTION).

IAN SAID THAT WAS ALL ACCEPTABLE. FOOD WOULD COST ABOUT £10 PER HEAD FOR A THREE COURSE MEAL. IAN SAID THAT THE GUEST WAS IMPORTANT AS IT WOULD ENCOURAGE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS TO ATTEND. JIM A SUGGESTED FORMING A SUB-COMMITTEE OF TWO OR THREE CO-OPERATIVE BOARD MEMBERS, DARRYL AND A CLUB REPRESENTATIVE TO MOVE THE EVENT FORWARD.

### B. FA CUP DAY

JIM A SAID THE CO-OPERATIVE HAD DISCUSSED SOMETHING SIMILAR TO LAST SEASON'S BONANZA BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE WITH A BUFFET. IAN SAID THE CLUB WOULD SUPPORT, POSSIBLY BY ARRANGING A PLAYER TO BE PRESENT.

### C. PLAYER OF THE YEAR DO.

THE CO-OPERATIVE HAS ALSO DISCUSSED HELPING TO PUT THIS EVENT ON AT THE CLUB (POSSIBLY WITH HELP FROM THE BISC OR BISC MEMBERS). JIM A SAID THAT CHEAP TICKETS WITH A BUFFET INCLUDED AND A BORO FAN'S BAND HAVE OFFERED TO PLAY FOR FREE. OBVIOUSLY AFTER THE PRESENTATIONS WITH PLAYERS AND MANAGER. IAN SAID THAT HE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE PLAYER OF THE YEAR DO SHOULD BE LIKE A CHEAP SPORTSMAN'S EVENING, BUT HE LIKED THE IDEA OF MUSIC – ESPECIALLY IF BORO' FANS' BANDS WERE TO PLAY.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Mike said the door into the bar was causing the area to be cold and people were leaving early (possibly costing the Club money).

MIKE ASKED IF IAN HAD CONSIDERED THE IDEA OF FAN OWNERSHIP MOVING FORWARD? IAN REPLIED THAT THE CLUB NEEDS BIG INVESTMENT TO COMPETE AT THE TOP OF THE CONFERENCE (APPROXIMATELY £500K A

YEAR JUST ON THE PLAYING BUDGET). PETE ASKED IF IAN HAD ANY IDEA WHERE THIS INVESTMENT COULD COME FROM? IAN SAID HE HAD NO COMPUNCTION WITH HANDING OVER THE GROUND/CLUB IF THE RIGHT PARTY WAS TO COME FORWARD.

IN RESPONSE TO AN EMAIL FROM THE CLUB, JIM A SAID THEY HAD LOOKED AT FROST COVERS FOR THE GROUND BUT THEY WERE JUST TOO EXPENSIVE. THE CO-OPERATIVE SUGGESTED BORROWING A SET FROM CCFC'S TRAINING GROUND OR MAYBE RUSHDEN AND DIAMOND'S OLD GROUND? MIKE ASKED IF IN HAD SPOKEN TO THE FA ABOUT ANY AVAILABLE GRANTS?

IAN SAID THAT THE OLD TOILETS HAD BEEN OUT OF USE AND THE CLUB WOULD LIKE TO TURN THEM INTO A STOREROOM AND A KIT ROOM AND ASKED IF THE CO-OPERATIVE COULD HELP WITH BOTH THE COST AND MANUAL LABOUR OF THE PROJECT? JOHN ASKED IAN TO SEND HIM A SPECIFICATION/DRAWING AND WE WOULD LOOK TO MOVE THIS FORWARD.

IAN SAID THAT THE CLUB HAD RECENTLY FORMED A FOUNDATION THAT WAS LOOKING TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH SCHOOLS AND NURSING HOMES. HE ASKED IF THE CO-OPERATIVE COULD SUPPORT THIS VENTURE MOVING FORWARD.

MEETING ENDS AT 10PM.

#### ACTION POINTS

1. Co-Operative create a document detailing role of Fans' Representative. Forward to Club for approval.  
CLUB SEND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT TO CO-OPERATIVE FOR APPROVAL.
2. *.2013January<sup>St</sup>31Direct on or before 'Both documents to be agreed and sent to Supporters*
3. Co-Operative contact Rugby Club regarding access way.  
Sportsman's Evening – form sub-committee to move event forward (after Christmas holidays).  
Co-Operative organise FA Cup Event – liaise with Club as necessary.  
Ian send Co-Operative specification and work etc to be done in old toilet block.