

Meeting of Nuneaton Town Football Club and Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-Operative

1. Thursday, 19th April 2012 at Liberty Way. Meeting starts at 8pm.

Present: Ben Cooper, Mary Mills, and Ian Neale (NTFC). Jim Astley, Andy Briggs, John Hobson, and Mike Turner (NTSC).

Apologies: Dave Allen (NTFC).

2. Memorial Garden – Mike said he had received a call from Devalls with a query about registration of plots in the MG. Ian explained the current process they have in place. Ian added that the plots have not been registered yet, but the Club are aware and are working towards it. Mike asked about the upkeep of the Memorial Garden. Ian replied that the grounds men had not been explicitly told that the MG was now under their remit, but it was implied.

3. Minute's silence at matches – Ian said there were several ways to remember supporters who had passed on, such as a minute's silence, a minute's applause, or a memorial in the programme. As discussed by email, Andy said it would be very difficult to turn down an approach from a family requesting some sort of memorial event. Ian suggested for a basis fans who had been supporting the Club for 20 years or more and an 'outstanding situation' e.g. a Club volunteer. Ian added that he thought it was more relevant if the family attended.

Jim said that a supporter (Nathan Walker) had contacted the Co-Operative and suggested 'holding a day each season where they honour all the fans who have died in the previous 12 months', like Preston. Andy said that our Club was relatively small compared to Preston and we should be able to cope on a case-by-case basis. This was considered a good idea for remembering ex-players however, with Jim suggesting linking it to the Legends' Evening or Hall of Fame.

4. Disabled Stand – Jim said that previously the Nuneaton Borough Supporters' Trust had looked to help finance and build a disabled stand at Liberty Way. Due to the NBST encountering some problems, this intention had fallen away. However, the Co-Operative thought it was a project that could be looked into again. Ian asked if we had spoken to the Club's newly appointed Disabled Supporter Advisor, Mick Bates? John said he had spoken to him informally. Ian explained that the main issues at the Club with regard to disabled supporters were issues with parking, and the fact the current location of the disabled area was not raised or protected from the rain.

Ian said that one solution to this was to move the dugouts to the opposite side of the ground, freeing up space for a larger corporate area, and a new, raised disabled area. The Club would be able to access funding for this (50%). Ian added that there was no current timescale for this to take place, but if the Co-Op were to get involved it would hurry it along. John suggested talking to Mick and maybe forming a sub-committee to advance things forward. The Co-Operative would also investigate to see if we could obtain grants or funding.

5. Defibrillator Fund – Jim explained that following a high profile event in the Premier League, several fans and members had asked if the Club had a defibrillator on site? The Co-Op had contacted Physio Paul Egan and he told us there was not one on site, but he thought it important that we have one. The Co-Op had contacted the British Heart Foundation and been informed that a model to suit our needs would cost around £1200. However, we may be able to get a grant of 50% of the cost. John said that with the Bike Ride and the BISC contribution, we were currently close to that figure. Jim asked Ian if the event had caused the League Administration to consider providing a defibrillator (or maybe a contribution towards a defibrillator) for its' members? Ian said he was not aware but would send out an email and make an inquiry.

6. Fan on the Board – Jim asked Ian to detail the time a Fans' Representative would be expected to volunteer? Ian replied that emails were sent daily, and a Fans' Rep would be expected to keep up to date with emails, both reading and replying.

Board Meetings were a monthly event, normally starting at 4pm or 5pm until 9pm. Afterwards Board members would go out for a meal.

Different Board members were tasked with different tasks depending on their independent skills. They would be asked to deliver certain objectives.

John said that the Fans Rep needed to be available to supporters. Ian agreed but his concern was that by appointing a Fans Rep just to deal with supporters, it might make the other Directors appear unapproachable.

7. Any other business – the Co-Operative's agenda has been discussed, and the Club were invited to bring up any other business.

- Ian said he was not happy with the lack of communication from the Co-Operative. He felt that since our previous meeting the Club had not been told of the results of the elections of the Co-Op boards at the AGM. Ian also felt that the Co-Operative had not informed the Club about their intended fund-raising events and felt that the Sponsored Bike Ride by the Co-Operative was poorly timed and would detract from the Club's upcoming 'Drag Race' event. Mike explained that the Bike Ride had been scheduled to take place from when the fixture list had come out and had been on newsletters and our website. Ian accepted this but said that the communication was still an issue. Ian also felt that the Co-Op were not willing to support events held by the Football Club at Liberty Way, such as the Player of the Year Event. Andy said communication on both sides had been an issue, but that the Co-Operative had recently appointed a media group that would hopefully go some way to resolving the issue moving forwards.
- John said the Co-Operative had been given an opportunity to help organise an event at the Griff and Coton Social Club. The Co-Operative would encourage attendance at the event and any funds raised would go towards the Co-Operative. There was some confusion over this with Ian understanding that the Co-Op was holding an event away from the Club. Andy clarified the situation by explaining the event is held every month at the Griff and Coton, and the Co-Operative had been selected as recipients of the fund-raising quiz evening. John added that the FA Cup Bonanza was due to take place on May 5th.
- John said that he had been in early discussions over possibly creating and selling a range of merchandise. Would the Club be open to this, with a split on the profits? Ian said that the Club would be interested, and would like to hear more. John said it was to be discussed at the next meeting and the Co-Operative would report back.
- 200 Club – Jim would meet with Ben on April 21st to discuss the 200 Club further.
- Ian asked if there had been any progress on the Co-Op providing the Club with an electronic scoreboard? Jim replied that it had been placed on the back burner recently, but it was something we would look at in the future. John said that there was an issue with ownership of the scoreboard. Ian replied that the Co-Op would retain the register of title, which should resolve any issues.
- Ian mentioned that the Club had some large outgoings recently, with a new CCTV system being installed and pitch refurbishment.
- Ian said the Club were considering getting rid of the Members' Bar and doing some work to turn the two bars into one large bar area.
- Andy asked if Mondays were still intended to be our mid-week home game day? If so, perhaps the Club could confirm this (or not if the day is to be moved) so fans will know before they purchase season tickets.
- With regards to an online survey, Ian asked the Co-Operative to provide ten questions to ask supporters by Friday, 27th April.
- Ian asked the Co-Operative to think about any possible marketing ideas to help push the Club forward.
- Ian said that next season's kit had not been decided, but one potential design was a plain shirt with a diagonal sash. Andy and Jim both said they preferred stripes.

Meeting ends at 10pm.