

Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-Operative Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15th March 2012 at Triton Showers Community Arena, Liberty Way, Nuneaton.

Meeting opens at 19:40,

1. Welcome and apologies.

Present: Mike Turner, Andy Briggs, Martin Ball, Peter Burdett, Roger Barnes, Richard Hamblett, James Skuce, Sandra Hobson, John Hobson, Kris Cartwright, James Astley, Ron Bradbury, Nigel Ashfield, Peter Walton, Jenny Seal, Paul Tkaczuk, Anthony J. Packer, David Hall, Rob Cheshire, Brenda Williams, Phillip Williams, Michael Dewis, Mark Axon, and Ray Miller.

Chair John Hobson began by welcoming all present and introducing the interim committee.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

John explained that no AGM was held in 2011 as the Supporters' Trust was in the process of being wound up before members of the Supporters' Club stepped in. The minutes were then passed as a true and accurate record.

3. Chair's Report.

"Since the Co-Operative came into being, we have made steady progress as a group. Our proudest achievement to date is the Memorial Garden, which I think everyone will agree is a credit to the people who worked so hard on it's construction. The Memorial Garden has the ashes of two life-long Boro' fans interred within it, and we are hoping to discuss the criteria for some simple stone memorials to be purchased in memory of those no longer with us.

"Another source of pride for the group is the installation of the PA system, which has been a benefit to all supporters. Our thanks go to member Mark Mortlock who has been instrumental in the PA's installation and repair.

"We have made steady progress on the membership front. At a recent Supporters' Direct training day we met up with someone from Scunthorpe whose Trust boasted 300 members, so us having approximately 135 isn't a bad starting point.

"It seems we have met almost weekly since the group first got together, and we have a full and interesting agenda each week. During this time we have also opened a dialogue with the Club regarding supporter representation at board level. The Club are amenable to such a proposal, but we are keen to get the details right before we get round to inviting candidates to apply for the position. There is a great deal of work to be done before this becomes a reality, but the goodwill is there, as well as a realisation of the potential benefits to both Club and fans.

Finally, I would like to finish by asking that members in attendance encourage their friends to join The Co-Operative, as your support is crucial in us achieving our aims. Thank you for your support in word and deed, and I promise we will do our best not to let anyone down."

4. Treasurer's Report.

Interim treasurer Ray Miller presented two sets of accounts from years ending 31/12/2010 and 31/12/2011. Members passed both sets of accounts.

5. Secretary's Report.

Interim secretary Jim Astley began by giving a short membership report. Current membership stands at 134 members. This consists of 113 members, 15 life members and 6 junior members. Of the 113 members, 58 are concessions and 55 are adult members.

Membership is now operated on a 'Rolling Membership' basis. In this system, people pay the full fee and are members for 12 months. The advantage of doing it this way is that everyone joining gets 12 months membership at the same rate – if done the other way, someone joining four months into the membership year gets eight month's membership for the same price as someone joining at the start. Members will be

contacted when their membership is due for renewal.

Membership is fairly healthy for a Club of our size, but there is always room for improvement!

Many thanks to everyone who has joined the Co-Operative.

6. Appointment of auditors.

Auditor was announced as Co-Operative member Chris Peat. Paul Tkaczuk asked if Chris was connected to the Club in any way? Jim replied that Chris was a supporter and member of the Co-Operative, and was not connected to the Club. Chris was then appointed auditor by members present.

7. Election results.

Jim gave an overview of the election process. The rules for a Co-Operative Board election are detailed in the Co-Operative's Election Policy, this is available on the Co-Operative's website.

In the rules it states that the board must have a minimum of 6 members, and a maximum of twelve, with a maximum of four co-opted members.

The election process is democratic and open. The Election Management Group ran the election. This consisted of Jim Astley, as the acting secretary of the interim board, and also as someone who is not standing for election onto the Co-Op's board. Also on the EMG are Mark Axon and Nick Hallworth. Nick is the Secretary of Leamington's Supporters' Co-Operative. Many thanks to Nick for his assistance.

If the number of people standing for election is more than the number of positions available (in our case 12), then the members are balloted. When the AGM notice was sent out in January, we received 9 nomination forms, therefore the election is not contested and a ballot is not required.

Therefore I would like to propose that the following nine nominees, John Hobson, Mike Turner, James Skuce, Pete Burdett, Martin Ball, Ray Miller, Dave Hall, Andy Briggs, and Roger Barnes are elected to the Co-Op board. Members passed this proposal and the Board were duly elected.

The election process does not specify specific roles on the board. This will be decided by the Board amongst themselves at their first meeting next Thursday (22/03/12). The Board will also decide who to Co-Opt onto the Board, who to appoint as Secretary amongst other things.

Jim then wished the Co-Op Board all the best moving forward.

8. Progress Report.

- Since the decision to merge the Trust and the Supporters' club, and despite a lengthy and unfortunate situation regarding administration, the interim board has continued to work on projects.
- Memorial Garden – The MG was opened on Saturday 10th November with a dedication service. This has been handed over to the Club for their administration. A collection of hard work from many sources, the Co-Op would like to thank DB Devalls for supplying the plinth, Lavendon Access Services for lending equipment, Travis Perkins for supplying materials and the Heart of England Co-Operative and the BISC for cash donations. Most of all the Co-Op would like to thank all the supporters who volunteered for their hard work and commitment to the project. It's a project the fans, the Club and the community can be proud of.
- PA System – The Co-Op provided and installed a new PA system last September. Consisting of 14 speakers, the improvement has been noticed by supporters. Many thanks to Co-Op member Mark Mortlock and Co-Op Board member Roger Barnes for their hard work installing the system, and also for the visits back to effect repairs and alterations.
- Fan on the Board – talks are ongoing with the Club with regard to creating the position of a Fans' Representative on the Board. These talks are very positive and we would like to thank the Club for their willingness to create this position. More news will be hopefully be available soon.
- Legends' Evening – after being approached by the Club, we have supplied information to help arrange what should be a great night for supporters this Saturday.
- Supporters' Direct events – we have sent six supporters to SD run events and will look to continue to do so. Gives us access to information and advice that helps the Co-Op and the football Club.
- Fundraising events – Christmas Raffle, due to nobody claiming the main prize, a hamper, we were able to donate this to our chosen charity, the Mary Ann Evans Hospice. We are organising a sponsored bike

ride to Solihull, more details later. The FA Cup day was a great success last year, both in raising money and the entertainment of the day, looking forward to running it again this year. We will also continue to release DVDs of past matches for supporters to enjoy.

9. Aims and objectives

- New Model Rules – Supporters' Direct has created a new set of model rules for Co-Operatives like ours. Look to put this before our members as soon as possible. Essentially it will mean that every Co-Op member owns one ordinary share, with a value of £1 in the Co-Operative. The new model rules guarantee that the Co-Op will operate for the benefit of the community it serves. An announcement will be made shortly about this.
- 200 Club – Following an offer from the Club, the Co-Op will shortly be taking over the running and administration of the 200 Club. All profits from the 200 club will be split 50/50 with the Club. We would like to thank the Club for giving us such an important revenue stream, and we look forward to promoting it and running it for the supporters.
- Heritage Website - an idea proposed by member Mike Turner, the Co-Op are currently discussing the possibility of launching a heritage website. Like an online museum, the website will contain statistics, photographs, biographies and stories from our history. More to come soon
- Scoreboard – Suggested by a member and following on from the installation of the PA system, the Co-Op are currently investigating the possibility of providing a scoreboard for the stadium. This is in the early stages of discussion.
- Drag Race – After an invitation to assist from the Club, the Co-Op will be helping out with the drag race event. More information is available on these leaflets.

10. Any Other Business. None.

11. Q & A session.

Nigel Ashfield asked what a co-opted member is? Jim explained that a co-opted member is a board member that is appointed onto the Co-Operative by board members, usually because they have a skill or knowledge that the board lack. Co-Operatives often co-opt their secretary, as this means that the secretary is answerable to the members, not the board.

Roger Barnes asked how many people can be co-opted onto the Board? Jim replied that a maximum of four people can be co-opted onto the Board, but if more people were interested in joining, then the Co-Operative would look to form sub-committees to deal with specific projects.

Roger asked how much was in the other Trust account? Ray replied that there was approximately £1,700 in the account.

Nigel said that we need to do more to encourage children to become members, as having six junior members is not good enough. John agreed and replied that the family membership needed better promoting.

Joe Roberts asked if the Co-Operative intended to pursue the purchase of shares in the football club? John replied that the current structure of the football club might make this difficult. Mark Axon added that this might best be resolved when the Supporters' Representative is on the board.

Nigel asked what sort of things Supporters' Direct had in place to help Trusts share ideas? Jim replied that training days were run for board members, such as the ones attended last summer and a few weeks previously by Co-Op members. Jim added that Supporters' Direct had some funding issues that had caused events to cease, but regional board meetings and training days were starting up again soon. Andy Briggs said that a lot of good ideas were shared at these events. Ray Miller said that the SD website contained a lot of useful information.

Roger Barnes asked about the corporate membership. John showed members a leaflet and explained it was being launched presently.

John thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 20:30.