

Nuneaton Town Supporters' Co-Operative Committee

1. Meeting opens at 7:10pm.

2. Present: Jim Astley, Mark Axon, Martin Ball, Ray Miller, Jim Skuce, John Hobson, Pete Burdett, Dave Hall, Mike Turner, and Andy Briggs.
Apologies: Roger Barnes.

3. The minute of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Appoint Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Co-Opted Members – It was agreed to co-opt members Mark Axon and Jim Astley onto the Co-Operative board. The following positions were then agreed; Chair – John Hobson, Vice-Chair – Mike Turner, Treasurer – Ray Miller, and Secretary – Jim Astley.

5. Chair's Report – John said that a member at the AGM had made a valid point about the Co-Op's membership not containing many youngsters. Would making membership available for youths at a pound or even free make a difference? Andy agreed that it should be free, and added that we need to engage more with young supporters. Andy said that we could ask members what we can do to encourage youngsters to join. Jim A. suggested speaking to the Club to discuss how they appoint mascots for games, maybe we could look to get youngsters involved that way? Jim S. said that the current members volunteer every week despite their age, and he was disappointed this was not discussed more at the AGM.

John said that he had received an email from member Nathan Walker about the recent discussions with the Club regarding a minutes silence. Nathan's email was as follows,

“Have just stumbled across an article about Preston holding a day each season where they honour all of the fans who have died in the previous 12 months.

I think this could be a great event for Boro to do.

Choose one match every year (I would suggest over East as sure to have a home game) which can be used to remember fans who are no longer with us. There can be a special programme and maybe even relatives invited to the match and the likes.

Just a thought that I thought the co-op may like to discuss.”

John said that it was an option we had discussed previously, and we were waiting to hear from the Club regarding the situation over future minute's silences. John added that he had asked if Nathan would be prepared to act as our press officer, with special attention to Facebook, Twitter, the website, and forums etc. It was agreed Nathan would become Press Officer, and would liaise with Jim A, Mark, and Andy. Andy added that we needed to give Nathan a clear brief moving forwards.

John said that due to recent events, the discussion about providing the Club with a defibrillator had resurfaced. Jim A. said that prices were around £ 600 plus VAT for a basic model, £ 800 plus VAT for mid-range, and £ 1200 plus VAT for a top of the range model. Mike said he had emailed the British Heart Foundation and had been told that there may be a grant of up to 50% available. Andy suggested our first action should be to discuss the situation with the Club. There may be plans ahead to purchase one already, or maybe we can work to together to fund it. John suggested making the Bike Ride a fund-raiser for the defibrillator. Pete suggested asking the BISC for a contribution.

John said we had ran a raffle at the Legends' Evening and raised £ 69 for a bottle of brandy.

It was suggested we commit to running the Hall of Fame Evening. Jim A. suggested we wait until the fixture list for next season is released before we commit to an exact date, but some minor planning could begin soon.

John asked if, for next week, the board have a think about how to fill up the afternoon of the FA Cup Bonanza event. Mark suggested a compilation DVD of famous Boro' FA Cup games.

6. Secretary's Report – Jim A. asked about the FSAAR30 form he was required to fill in. Ray advised that

previously the Trust was required to fill in an AR15 form. Jim A. said he would investigate further. Jim also asked for some information for the Supporters' Direct Form.

Jim handed out a Board Membership Policy to each board member present and request that they read it and return it signed next week.

7. Treasurer's Report – Ray gave a brief run through of the current figures. Mike asked if it was an appropriate time to change the signatories on the accounts? Ray said he would investigate. Mike also asked about the situation regarding the other account. How and when do we notify the FSA of the existence of the old Supporters' Club account now that it falls under the remit of the Co-Operative? Ray suggested leaving the year end as it currently is. Jim said that from his recollection, as we are members of the FSA, the accounts need to have a year end between 30th June and 31st December. Jim said he would email Chris Peat for advice on this issue.

8. Annual General Meeting – Jim A. asked if there were any suggestions or criticisms of the AGM while they are fresh in our minds, so we can look to improve the event next year. Jim S. said he thought the event was a bit of a damp squib, that it could have been dressed up better than what it was, and that next year maybe work should be split up more amongst the Board to get more people involved. Pete suggested the Board should have sat together in a line, and Andy suggested making it more of an event next year.

Ray leaves the meeting at 8:50pm.

9. Board Member Development Day – John said it was a very worthwhile event and we should definitely look to send board members to similar events in the future.

10. Disabled Stand – Andy said that we need to do a lot of work on this, but first we should meet with the Club and discuss the best way to move forward with this project. Pete asked if it may be better to look at alternatives, such as improving access to part of the new stand.

11. Bike Ride – John reported that Ron Bradbury may have to pull out of the event. John said we need to get more people involved in the actual ride. Dave said he taken some posters to the Hospice.

12. Heritage Website – Mike reported that he had contacted the Shrews Trust to seek advice regarding the process for starting their Heritage website. Hopefully they could provide a starting point for us.

13. Any other business.

Jim A. said that with Debbie Willett leaving as bar manager, we may need to find somewhere else to meet. Jim A. said he would contact the Club and ask if it was okay to still meet there.

Jim S. suggested making the Corporate Memberships £ 25 instead of £ 50. It was agreed to try and sell them at £ 50, but to lower the price if it became a problem to shift them. Andy added that we could talk to the Club and ask that, when they contact companies with regard to sponsorship, if the company is unable to afford the more costly options from the Club, perhaps they could offer the Company a Co-Operative Corporate membership?

Jim S. suggested providing lanyards for Co-Op Board members to wear on match days so supporters would know who to approach regarding any Co-Op business. The board felt this was a good idea and was worth pursuing.

Andy felt we should specifically request items from the Club regarding the Fan on the Board, we should keep pushing it forwards. Jim agreed to come up with a list of items for our next meeting.

14. The next meeting was set for Thursday, 29th March at time and date to be confirmed.

Meeting ends at 9:30pm