



Minutes of Board Meeting Wednesday 12th June 2024

Attendees:

Cliff Culley (CC)
Pete Davey (PD)
Paul Karter (PK) (Chair)
Lisa Mole (LM)
Kevin Patterson (KP)
Olivia Thomson (OT)
Colin Whittle (CW) – Secretary

Apologies:

Felicity Thow (FT)
Adam Stoker (AS)

Item 1 – Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8th April 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

Item 2 – Fan Advisory Board (FAB) update

PK confirmed that the draft minutes of the recent FAB meeting which had taken place on Monday 14th May 2024, had now been published on the club's website and can be accessed at <https://www.newcastleunited.com/en/fans/fan-advisory-board> . PK briefed Board members on the various agenda items discussed which included presentations from Peter Silverstone in relation to retail and commercial partnerships, Dan Ginger in relation to NUFC's proposed membership plans for 24/25 season, and an outline of ticket ballots from Yvette Thompson. Other matters discussed included ticketing transparency, away tickets and confirmation that the clubs stadium feasibility study has not been finalised.

Item 3-Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

PK reported that the MOU proposed by NUST has been considered by NUFC internally and a number of amendments had been made by NUFC's in-house legal team. It was agreed that a response would be provided to NUFC in relation to the proposed amendments in the hope that an agreement can be reached as to a final version.

Item 4-Finance

CC provided an update on NUST's current financial position. The NUST accounts for 22/23 had been filed with the FCA and the current financial year ends on 30th August 2024, so the process of finalising accounts for 23/24 will then commence. PK confirmed that a raffle of a signed NUFC shirt will take place next season in order to raise funds towards the running costs of NUST. It was also noted along with the annual accounts, the annual election process would need to be concluded at the next AGM, due to take place early 2025.

Item 5-Annual Survey

PK reported that the NUST annual survey of members had been presented to Sarah Medcalf Head of Supporter Services and Matt Willis Supporter Liaison Officer in order that they have members views in advance of shaping plans for next season. A copy of the survey can be found on the NUST website at <https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/news/nust-annual-survey-2024/>. The survey results had also been presented to members of FAB for information.

Item 6-Affordability of Football

PK provided an update on the general feeling within football's traditional fanbase about the increase in ticket pricing throughout the game. This had been highlighted by the FSA on a national basis and concerns had been expressed by supporter groups nationally whose own clubs had already announced pricing structures for ticketing for the 2024/25 season. A letter from NUST making representations to the club on the issue was sent on 12th May 2024 a copy of which can be found at <https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/news/letter-to-darren-eales-the-price-of-football/>, together with the response from Darren Eales on the NUST website at <https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/news/darren-eales-response-to-nust-letter/>.

Item 7-NUST membership

A discussion took place around the potential growth in NUST membership, particularly taking into account feedback from the annual survey. Membership numbers remained strong -over 10k- but it was agreed that NUST should look to grow numbers further, especially in relation to the younger fanbase who represent NUFC's support of the future. It was agreed that further work would take place during the close season in this regard.

Item 8-VAR and fan engagement

It had been noted that in relation to the recent Premier League motion in relation to VAR Wolves had taken account of the views of their FAB and Trust and wider supporter base before concluding their decision in relation to voting. With that in mind NUST undertook a short survey on the subject and wrote to the club with the results on 21st May 2024, a copy of which can be found on the NUST website at <https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/news/letter-to-darren-eales-var/>.

Item 9-Football Governance Bill

Following confirmation that a general election was due to take place on 4th July 2024 the FSA had written on behalf of 170 supporter groups to party leaders encouraging them to give a commitment to include the Bill in their manifestos. NUST were signatories to the letter which can be found on the website at <https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/news/football-governance-bill-an-open-letter-from-170-fsa-supporter-groups/>.

Item 10-FSA

The FSA AGM has been scheduled for 20th July 2024. Both PK and LM confirmed that they will be in attendance.

NUST