



Minutes of Board Meeting Monday 7th October 2024

Attendees:

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

Item 1 – Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 9TH September 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

Item 2-Finance

CC provided an update on the NUST accounts. The financial year has now ended and accountants have been approached to undertake the final accounts for financial year 23/24, for presentation and approval at the AGM. For information the annual accounts can be located on the FCA website

Item 3-Annual Elections

CW took the Board through the election process and OT set out a proposed election timetable for consideration by Board members. Board members agreed to feed into the process with the timetable to be finalised by the end of the week. Ashley Brown (AB) from the FSA has agreed to act as the Independent Chair of the Election Committee, with CW assisting as a non-Board member representative. A meeting with AB is scheduled to take place later this week. It is proposed to notify members of the election timetable w/c 14th October 2024, with announcement of new Board members due to take place at the AGM (date to be confirmed).

Item 4- Fan Advisory Board (FAB) update

AS reported that a FAB meeting had taken place on 3RD October 2024. The meeting was attended by club representatives as well as Brad Miller, Chief Operating Officer, and Peter Silverstone, Chief Commercial Officer. It was noted that an overview on the club's stadium feasibility study was already in the public domain. A discussion followed regarding members views expressed in the annual survey: <https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/news/nust-annual-survey-2024/> and it was agreed that since the club had not reached its decision making stage yet, the Board agreed to await further information regarding proposals before seeking members formal views. The minutes from the last FAB meeting can be accessed at: <https://www.newcastleunited.com/en/news/stadium-plans-discussed-as-fan-advisory-board-reconvenes>

Item 5-Stop Exploiting Loyalty Campaign

CC reported that he had attended a recent FSA meeting arranged as part of a nationally led FSA backed campaign, which had recently gained momentum following a joint protest organised by Liverpool and West Ham fans groups ahead of their recent League Cup game. It is proposed to organise a joint protest day by fans of Premier League clubs. NUST are happy to lead on this, together with the FSA.

Item 6-Football Governance Bill

PK reported that there had been no further progress to report on in relation Football Governance Bill. Local MPs had expressed support for the Bill in response to NUST correspondence. information can be found at: <https://nufctrust.co.uk/news/nust-update-on-the-football-governance-bill/> . NUST will monitor progress of the Bill through Parliament.

Item 6- Meeting with Supporter Services

PK reported that the monthly meeting with NUFC representatives was due to take place on Monday 14th October 2024. Board members were invited to forward suggestions of discussion topics in advance of the meeting. It was noted that following representations from NUST at various meetings the club had now prepared a FAQ section on their website regarding ticketing: <https://support.newcastleunited.com/hc/en-gb/categories/13695540137116-Memberships> In addition ,following representations made by NUST it was noted that the club had changed their policy in relation to the transfer of away tickets: <https://www.newcastleunited.com/en/news/newcastle-united-to-introduce-away-ticket-transfer> The ongoing dialogue between NUST and the club, and the relations which had been established over time ,were considered to be contributing factors in this regard.

Item 7- NUST merchandising

Both PD and LM updated the Board on their progress with NUST branded merchandising and agreed to continue with those discussions with the expectation that merchandising would be available to members in the near future.

Item 8- NUST quiz and members social night

LM confirmed to the Board that a member quiz was in the process of being arranged with proceeds to go to the NUFC Foundation. In addition, arrangements were in hand for a member social night before Christmas. Further information is to follow in relation to both initiatives.

Item 9- Any other business

1.It was noted that NUFC had appointed Roger Thornton to join the Board of Directors. It was noted that he had family links as regards previous ground improvements at NUFC, his grandfather being involved in the original development of the East Stand.

2.PK reported that he had written on behalf of NUST to Darren Eales (DE)- following the recent announcement that he will be stepping down from his role-thanking him for his contribution to NUFC and offering best wishes for the future on behalf of NUST and the wider fan base. DE had responded with thanks.

3.LM reported on the positive interaction with the Supporters Trust of AFC Wimbledon-the Dons Trust-ahead of our recent League Cup tie. The Dons Trust had passed on their thanks for the assistance from NUFC and its supporters, to its fund raising efforts following their recent ground flooding.

4.PK reported that the decision of the Arbitration panel in relation to Man City's challenge against the Premier League Associated Party Transaction Rules had been announced yesterday. NUST had been contacted for comment but awaited clarity on the ruling before being able to offer any meaningful comment. It was noted that representatives from premier League clubs were due to meet further next week.

Date of next meeting-to be agreed