



Minutes of Board Meeting Sunday 14th January 2024

Attendees:

Greg Tomlinson (GT) – Chair
Cliff Culley (CC)
Pete Davey (PD)
Paul Karter (PK)
Felicity Thow (FT)
Charlotte Robson (CR)
Adam Stoker (AS)

Apologies:

Olivia Thomson (OT)
Lisa Mole (LM)
Kevin Patterson (KP)
Colin Whittle (CW) – Secretary

Item 1 – Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8th December 2023 were accepted as a correct record.

Item 2 – Greg Tomlinson – A personal announcement:

GT formally announced his decision, after 14 years of involvement in fan activism, including six years on the NUST board and two periods as Chair, that he will be standing down from the Board after the next AGM. We would like to formally go on record to thank GT for his tireless work with NUST. The Board agreed Greg will stay as Chair until the AGM.

Item 3 – NUST Admin / Daily running of NUST:

It was discussed that PK would like to focus more on the recently announced Fan Advisory Board (representing NUST with AS) and has asked for more assistance with some of the daily functions and admin-heavy responsibilities required to run NUST. With this in mind, GT and PK will be writing a process manual and asking for other Board member to take on some of these tasks. (eg membership files, website, social media.) By spreading responsibilities this will

provide seamless transitions for the future.

Item 4- Club meeting:

The next monthly meeting with NUFC is being held on Monday 15th January 2024, to be attended by GT, PK and AS. Discussion points to include pushing for answers on our previously sent list of ticketing questions, with solutions, and the Memorandum of understanding. Further to our last meeting, we will once again be pushing for transparency on numbers of tickets released to ballot, away games etc. The newly formed Fan Advisory Board will also be on the agenda.

With specific regards to the ticketing question / prospective solutions document initially provided to the Club on 8th November 2023. It was agreed that a deadline needed to be put on receiving a response, before providing an update to NUST members.

Item 5 – Member engagement:

GT opened discussions around the continuation with regular member engagement. Whilst we are highly active on social media, it was accepted not all of our members use this method as a way to receive NUST announcements. We agreed that the WhatsApp community group was working well, and we will continue to push our statements and wider comms through this method.

Further online meetings were discussed, particularly to engage our members with the impending Fan Advisory Board (FAB)

For FAB questions, we discussed the idea of creating a new inbox for member questions, that we would publicise and open/close at relevant periods though the year (in the lead up to FAB meetings) We also discussed the option of an online form that we can open and close throughout the year. We will also continue to encourage our members to email board@nufctrust.co.uk for daily concerns / ideas.

Item 6 – Future Surveys and Events:

GT raised the item of our next annual survey, and it was widely agreed that, in order to help influence next season's decisions on key topics such as ticketing, that we would release this around March 2024, with a view to presenting this to the club and the FAB before the end of the current season.

We would like to see a higher uptake in member participation and discussed the possibility of incentivising participation. This was widely welcomed by the Board. It was also noted that our % of respondents are on a par with other Trusts.

Both CR and GT would be happy to continue to support with member events once their tenure as Board members have come to an end.

Item 7 – Finance Update

CC provided an overview of NUST finances prior to this meeting in the interests of time. We

took this opportunity to discuss the need to be formally audited each year, as the law stipulates that this isn't necessary with our annual turnover being under £10.2m.

It was agreed we would ask our accountants to prepare our accounts and we would move a resolution to disapply the need to have a full audit at the forthcoming AGM.

NUST will be announcing the date for the next AGM in due course. It was noted that it is required to take place within six months of the finance year-end.

Item 7-Any Other Business

GT intimated that holding an annual election to the Board of NUST is good practice. Once the AGM has been held, the Board will convene to discuss in more detail.

PK asked the question about appointing a new Chair to NUST once GT has stepped down. This will be undertaken at the first board meeting post AGM.

Next Board meeting TBC.