



Minutes of Board Meeting Friday 8th December 2023

Attendees:

Greg Tomlinson (GT) – Chair
Cliff Culley (CC)
Pete Davey (PD)
Paul Karter (PK)
Lisa Mole (LM)
Kevin Patterson (KP)
Felicity Thow (FT)
Colin Whittle (CW) – Secretary

Apologies

Charlotte Robson (CR)
Adam Stoker (AS)
Olivia Thomson (OT)

Item 1 – Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 11th of November 2023 were accepted as a correct record.

Item 2 – Fan Advisory Board (FAB) update

GT confirmed that since the Board's last meeting, the club have made a formal announcement regarding the FAB. Its membership will consist of a total of 9 representatives: including 2 from NUST, 1 from United with Pride, 1 from NUDSA, together with a further 5 representatives to be chosen by a panel consisting of 2 non NUFC representatives and 1 club representative. Interviews are due to take place for the 5 non-co-opted roles by Tuesday 19th December 2023. NUFC has prepared both a set of Terms of Reference for the FAB and a Code of Conduct-both can be accessed via the club's website. NUFC will be notified of the 2 Board members from NUST who will serve on the FAB in advance of the FAB's inaugural meeting.

Item 3-Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

GT reported that the MOU proposed by NUST is being considered by NUFC and a response is expected w/c 11th December 2023.

Item 4-Finance/AGM

GT confirmed that he had spoken to the NUST auditors and provided further information in order for the audit to be completed. Following completion of the audit a date for the AGM is to be selected. NUFC have confirmed that the meeting can be hosted at the club. CC provided an update on NUST finances.

Item 5-Standing /Atmosphere Survey

Further to the Safe Standing trial currently taking place in the Gallowgate End and resultant feedback to NUST a 'snapshot' survey was undertaken, open to both NUST members and non-members and resulted in almost 2000 responses. Feedback from both NUST members and non-members was consistent with circa 80% believing the safe standing trial had been positive and circa 90% believing that the trial should be extended/expanded. The survey will be shared with both fans and NUFC.

Item 6-Ticketing including Sunderland away

GT reported that written submission to NUFC with regard to the number of ticketing issues was presently under consideration and feedback expected imminently. NUST continue to receive a steady flow of queries from fans who are experiencing problems and are attempting to assist where possible. If NUST is unable to assist, fans are referred to supporter services.

NUST wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner earlier this week, together with the Safety Officers of NUFC and SAFC, in relation to the proposed ticket allocation for NUFC fans for the forthcoming FA Cup 3rd Round game. The letter proposed that the appropriate guidance for FA Cup away allocation, 15% of the ground capacity, be followed. This was against a backdrop that the allocation for NUFC fans could possibly be reduced. It is anticipated that a decision on the allocation will be made week commencing 11th December 2023. (Allocation has now been made, with this having been announced on Friday 15th December - Which you can read here - <https://www.nufc.co.uk/news/latest-news/ticket-information-for-tyne-wear-derby-fa-cup-tie/>)

Item 7-Any Other Business

It was noted that AS will attend (on behalf of NUST) a meeting with Premier League representatives, as part of a wider FSA delegation on 11th December 2023, as part of the structured dialogue discussions. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed subsequent to the meeting.

Next meeting- to be confirmed.