



Minutes of Board Meeting Monday 8th April 2024

Attendees:

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

Apologies

Cliff Culley (CC)
Felicity Thow (FT)

Item 1 – Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th March 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

Item 2 – Fan Advisory Board (FAB) update

PK confirmed that the minutes of the inaugural FAB meeting which had taken place on Monday 26th February 2024, had now been published on the club's website and can be accessed at <https://nufctrust.co.uk/files/pdf/fab-minutes-feb-26th-2024.pdf>. PK and AS briefed Board members on the various agenda items discussed. The next formal meeting of FAB is due to take place on Tuesday 14th May 2024, Although discussed at FAB, it had been agreed that NUST would lead on work promoting NUFC's heritage. LM/KP, with the assistance of CW would meet to discuss this matter further.

Item 3-Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

PK reported that the MOU proposed by NUST has been considered by NUFC internally and it was reported that NUFC's lawyers had some queries on the content, which were due to be forwarded to NUST. A response is awaited. It was noted that the MOU had been with NUFC for comment/observation for a number of months and the issue will be raised once again at the next meeting with representatives from supporter services on Tuesday 23rd April 2024.

Item 4-Finance

CW confirmed that the annual accounts had now been signed off and had been filed by CC with the FCA following their approval at the AGM on 28th February 2024. PK confirmed that the raffle of the signed NUFC shirt had raised £1440.00 and the draw will take place on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7pm. The funds raised will go towards the running costs of NUST.

Item 5-Annual Survey

PK reported that the NUST annual survey had been sent to members, with a closing date of Tuesday 16th April 2024. At the time of this meeting there had been more than 1,000 responses. It was agreed that a reminder will be sent out to members post this meeting. The results of the survey will be shared with NUST Board before being submitted to NUFC in order that they have supporter views in advance of shaping plans for next season.

Item 6-Affordability of Football

PK reported on the general feeling within football's traditional fanbase about the increase in ticket pricing throughout the game. This had been highlighted in the FSA's latest weekly update, and concerns had been expressed by supporter groups nationally whose own clubs had already announced pricing structures for ticketing for the 2024/25 season. In particular attention was drawn to the situation at Spurs where concessions for season ticket holders aged 65 or above were to be removed, and Arsenal had proposed a 10% increase for season ticket holders. There was a general discussion amongst board members about the 'cost of football' and it was agreed that proactive action needed to be taken to ascertain the intentions in relation to pricing at NUFC, rather than wait until any announcements were made before reacting. The issue will be raised at the next meeting with Supporter Services but in the meantime AS will prepare a letter to be sent to NUFC in advance of that meeting. At the time of publication, PK had sent the letter to Darren Eales, a copy of which can be found on our website - [https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/files/pdf/darren-eales-letter-the-price-of-football-april-2024\(4\).pdf](https://www.nufctrust.co.uk/files/pdf/darren-eales-letter-the-price-of-football-april-2024(4).pdf)

Item 7-NUST membership

A general discussion took place around the potential growth in NUST membership. Whilst membership numbers remained strong -over 10k- Board members agreed that NUST should always look to grow, in particular in relation to the younger fanbase who represent NUFC's support of the future. It was agreed that PD and OT would lead on looking at ways of increasing membership of younger fans and report back to the Board at its next meeting. A number of other alternatives were discussed, including better/alternative ways of promoting NUST in order to continually grow membership. This area will be reviewed further upon receipt of survey results, which will provide the Board a better understanding of member views.

Item 8-Action List

LM has prepared an action list with regard to the allocation of duties as between Board members which will be placed on 'Teams' in order that Board members could reference responsibilities as between meetings.

Next meeting- to be confirmed.