

GLOUCESTER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS TRUST

Minutes of the Trust Committee Meeting, Monday 15 April 2024, at New Meadow Park.

Present – Robin Mogg [Chair], Trevor King [Treasurer], Paul Clark, Judith Evans, Dave Jones, Tim Lezard. Matt Phillips and Alan Dawkins [Acting Secretary].

Thanks to Tim L's good offices we were joined by Steve Cavalier, a long serving officer and representative of Tottenham Hotspur FC Supporters Trust.

Apologies received from Toby Ackland, Paul Halford, Ian de Maria and Chris Palmer

1. **Minutes** of previous meeting approved, unamended.

2. **Matters arising:** Dave Herridge has offered to obtain the strimmer/brush cutter on the Trust's behalf. Invoice requested.

3. **Treasurer's report** – Current balance £7794.26 (of which £7024.25 on deposit - NB Trevor has reshuffled the current/deposit balance). Available balance c £6500 given commitments on next 100 club draw and war memorial board. Shop income has begun to stall as we run out of stock but, contrary to received wisdom programme sales have continued to provide useful profit, not least due to strategic decision making on print runs and Paul Clark subsidising/arranging ebay sales of surpluses.

Overall income since 02/01/2001 is just shy of £1.1mn. A decent take at the last 2 fixtures should take us over that threshold.

Draw made for "secret envelopes" (Champions and Runners up in NLN). Winner (Tamworth) £100- Andy Clark ... Runner up (Scunthorpe) £40 - Reg Gurney.

4. **Membership/Awards night:** Membership has increased to 107 thanks, most recently, to members of the Compton family.

Awards will be made after the County Cup Final on 23 April. Tom Webb has been invited to present the Trophies (which are ready for collection, Judith kindly offered to pick them up). "Long service" awards to Joe Parker (both appearances and goals) and Spencer Hamilton (appearances). £25 Gloucester Sports vouchers to young players of year and also something for the media students.

5. **Fan Ownership:** Robin, Matt and others are due to meet Eamon McGurk on 16 April to learn his reaction to recent developments, in particular re ownership/control of the FC.

6. **Any other Business:** The current inadequate communication and oversight of the club off the pitch was further exemplified by the double booking of the club bar for the Trust and a group of parents of junior players.

Robin mentioned that a pre-season friendly has been arranged with Haverfordwest County.

Alan alluded to the implications of having an analogue based, and quite prescriptive, constitution in a world where many issues are discussed and taken forward via internet based informality. This is an issue affecting many organisations, not least, as we learned from Steve Cavalier, Spurs' Trust. (see below).

The skittles evening was a great initiative and it was good that a few players and Mike Cook came along.

The Regus centre in Worcester Street will normally be available to us for evening meetings from 24 May.

The **next meeting** will be held on Monday 20 May.

Alan Dawkins

16 April 2024

Tottenham Hotspurs' Supporters Trust

Steve Cavalier from Spurs' Supporters Trust provided us with a fascinating insight into the role of the Trust at a major EPL club, particularly given that Spurs were a prime mover in the European Super League project.

Some potted highlights:-

Spurs are a year older than City - founded 1882 by members of the Tottenham Cricket Club.

Like our Trust they are a community benefit society, members of the Football Supporters' Association and overseen by the Financial Conduct Authority

Normal fees are £10 per year.

One of several fan based groups at Spurs.

Involved in community fund raising (not necessarily football related)

Has an MOU giving the Trust specific responsibilities.

Has a fan advisory board and sets great store on annual Fans' survey (though the outcome is usually influenced by on-pitch matters).

Structured approach to communication including monthly newsletter.

Tries to act as critical friend to Club but not afraid to raise awkward issues. Relationship with Club is based on **confidentiality** both ways.

Ticket pricing an ongoing issue. (especially, at present, senior citizens)

Main board has 11 members of which 2 are women and 2 BME.

Struggles sometimes with communication- same dilemma we are facing with rules based formality vs open debate/decision making on social media.

Steve was warmly thanked for his support and informative picture of life for supporters at a "Super Club". In practice many of their issues are similar in nature to ours, just bigger!