

Minutes of PTFC Trust meeting with supporters, 1pm on 10 March 2018 at The Energy Check Stadium at Firhill

Trustees in attendance: Pauline Graham –Chair (PG), Andrew Byron (AB), Alan Caldwell (AC), Jacqui Low (JL), Ian Maxwell (IM), Gordon Shaw (GS), Robert Taylor (RT)

In attendance: Beth Adamson (BA), 6 supporters

Apologies: Foster Evans (FE), Greig Brown (GB)

1. Chair's Welcome

PG opened the meeting and welcomed the supporters present. PG explained that she has now taken over the Chair from FE and that new trustees would be introduced shortly.

2. Club Update

PG invited Club updates early on the agenda as the Club reps had pressing Club duties to attend to so IM gave a presentation on Club Board updates.

- ***Training Facility Update***

The Club is getting closer to confirming a site. Hoping to conclude by April and then launch the planning process which may take up to 12 months. The designs are done and include 2 grass and 2 artificial pitches.

- ***Strategy Day***

The Club Board recently held a strategy day to develop a long-term strategy on all aspects of PTFC that will feed in to the day-to-day working of the Club.

- ***2018/19 Kit***

This has been chosen as part of ongoing JOMA contract, which limits the scope for the design of the kit. However, there is potential to allow supporters to have a say the season after next (2020-21) to mark the 50th and 100th anniversaries of Thistle's significant cup wins.

- ***Upcoming Events***

- Player of the Year Dance – Sunday, 22 April at the Hilton, Glasgow.
- Golf Day. This is sold out.
- End of Season Ball – 18 May again at the Hilton.
- Ladies Day – 7 April vs Kilmarnock. Sales have been very good and a sell-out is hoped for.

The Club welcomes fans' ideas for future events to strengthen the relationship between the Club and the fans, e.g. Meet the Manager, social events etc.

- ***Stadium and Facilities***

Work completed this season:

- Disabled platform installed and has been very well received
- Platform lift installed and operational
- Jackie Husband car park – additional disabled spaces added
- Family changing/feeding room in Jackie Husband Stand
- Female toilets – mirrors added
- Signage renewed

The Club has a maintenance plan for annual work which will be prioritised. But there are a number of essential works that have significant costs attached, including the following:

Upgrading Still Required

- Jackie Husband Roof
- Aitken Suite Air Conditioning
- Scoreboard
- Jackie Husband Stand seats
- Colin Weir Stand Facilities. (Toilets are a particular concern).

- ***Attendances***

Details of home fan attendances this season were presented. The Club analyses this data and also compares to previous season information. The timing of games and 'Old Firm' games have a considerable effect on attendances and the Board are continuing to discuss how to increase home fan attendance at these matches.

- ***Season Tickets***

The Club intends a small % increase to season tickets for next season in the Premier League, as prices have been static for several years. There was no objection raised to this.

3. Update from Beth Adamson – Supporter Engagement Officer

BA provided an update on the Female Supporters' survey and ongoing work. There has been positive coverage recently on television and radio.

- ***Initial female fan survey***

This was the first in the UK and was very worthwhile with 416 responses and a very positive feeling towards the Club. The findings will be published next week.

- ***Female fans campaign***

A great deal of work is being done leading up to Ladies Day at the Kilmarnock game on 7th April. BA working with Scottish Women's Football League to have women's teams attend. There will also be a media campaign, flagging up women in sport which will appear as mini vlogs on the website.

- ***Improving match-day experience***

This is ongoing and any activities to improve match-day experience will be informed by general feedback from supporters plus the results of the supporter surveys.

- ***Prioritising promotion of U16's Go Free***

- Implementation of a 4 week Partick Thistle Programme in schools to share information about nutrition, health, exercise, playing sport and careers in football.
- Assembly talks in schools from First Team players and staff to promote both U16's Go Free and the Club in general
- Schools and Football Clubs are bringing parents and children to home games. Three groups are bringing about 200 to today's game.

4. New Supporter Trustees

PG welcomed the new trustees and asked them to introduce themselves and their initial roles within the Trust. She welcomed their enthusiasm and commitment to date and explained that this has added capacity to the Trust.

Andrew Byron – Wider fans forum/engagement/Trust fb

Alan Caldwell – Match day experience

Gordon Shaw – Administration/secretariat

Robert Taylor – Communications

PG explained that all roles are supported by herself as Chair, Foster Evans (initial fan trustees) and Club trustees, Ian Maxwell, Jacqui Low and Greig Brown.

Biographies of all trustees will be posted to PTFC Trust page on the Club website shortly.

5. Update since Supporters' meeting in December 2017

PG gave feedback on items raised at previous meeting with fans.

- ***Trust Board***

With four new Trustees in place, there is now an improved balance in favour of supporter representation. This is adding significant capacity to the PTFC Trust Board.

- **Catering**

PG said that they have listened to fans and the Club is exploring introducing healthier food & drink options which will be piloted next season.

- **Scoreboard**

As stated by IM, this is on hold due to cost.

- **South Stand**

There is no progress to report. Supporters asked that this be raised again with the Club Board given it has been an issue raised at most Trust meetings with the fans. PG agreed to do this.

Post Meeting note: The Club was asked about plans for the South Stand and said that nothing had changed. As and when a proposal is made, fans will be advised.

- **Improving ticketing online experience**

This was a major concern and is being addressed by the Club.

- **Next Fans' Survey**

This will launch on 2 April (online, in programme, hard copies etc.) and will inform the Trust's discussions with the Club and actions for next season.

- **Communicating with fans**

- A new PTFC Trust Facebook page has just been launched, with many thanks to AB.
- There will also be improved Trust info on the Club website.

- **Supporters' bricks/plaques and a memorial wall**

Given the interest from many supporters in resurrecting a Buy a Brick initiative, the Club is investigating this and aims to have some options to discuss with fans which should be in place for the new season.

6. First Election of supporter trustee on PTFC Trust Board

PG outlined the Election of supporter trustee/s, which will be by October 18. She said:

The PTFC Trust Deed states under: **Appointment of Trustees**

- The current arrangements are 3 Club Appointees, and 2 Supporter Appointees.
- The Deed does allow co-options beyond that number (and we have used that provision to co-opt new trustees drawn from the fan base)
- The first supporter Trustee open ballot election will be in October 2018 (when Foster stands down)

PG said that the Trust will keep supporters updated on the process regarding election of the next supporter appointed trustee.

7. AOB/ Date of next meeting

This will be arranged and communicated to supporters once the post-split fixtures are known. There being no other business, PG closed the meeting and thanked supporters and trustees for their contributions.

Contact us via the Club, Facebook or email: PTFCTrust@ptfc.co.uk