

# **Minutes of PTFC Trust meeting with supporters, 3.30pm on 29 July 2018 at The Energy Check Stadium at Firhill**

**Trustees in attendance:** Pauline Graham – Chair (PG), Andrew Byron (AB), Jacqui Low (JL), Gerry Britton (GB), Gordon Shaw (GS), Robert Taylor (RT)

**Apologies:** Alan Caldwell (AC), Foster Evans (FE)

## **1. Chair's Welcome**

PG opened the meeting and welcomed the supporters present.

## **2. Presentation**

The presentation on behalf of the supporter trustees was delivered by PG and GS – in the main focusing on the results of the fans' survey. The club update section was presented by GB. (The club update reflected the notes issued by GB to the Trust following the Club Board meeting on 20 July – **see appendix 1 below**).

**The Presentation slides will be published with this note.**

## **3. Q&A session**

1. There was a request that Season ticket holders' seats are re-stickered. GB responded that this will be followed up.
2. There was an enquiry if the club had considered installing solar panels or a wind turbine. GB/JL responded that grants for this work no longer exist so it is anticipated that the capital costs may be too great to progress this work in the short term. However, the club is proceeding with an energy efficiency audit which would be undertaken by The Energy Check company. This was welcomed.
3. There was a proposal that the club should target hotels, tourist outlets etc. with information on PTFC and attending matches. JL responded that this is on a list of club actions, which also includes increased use of the Aitken suite outside matchdays.
4. There was an enquiry whether the new training ground would lead to increased running costs for the club. JL/GB responded that circa £160k is currently spent on facilities etc to cover the needs of all the teams. In addition, there are costs and demands due to the need to transport kit to so many sites. It is anticipated that there will be no net cost increase incurred by having our own facility, there may be savings around transport costs. The benefits of having a dedicated training facility would be significant in many areas of the club.

5. There was an enquiry regarding interaction with The Jags Trust. PG responded that she and FE had approached the Jags Trust when they became Trustees for the PTFC Trust. One meeting took place but there had been no further interaction.

JL stated that the club has no recent interaction with the Jags Trust. The situation was similar to that described by PG although PG said she was open to any approach from The Jags Trust for further dialogue if that was forthcoming. The club did acknowledge that approx. £1,000 was received annually from The Jags Trust. However beyond that, there was no formal interaction.

6. JL recognised the important function that the PTFC Trust will have within the Club structure going forward. The relationship with the Trust will be developed in a positive manner over the coming months in to more of a partnership. To that end, the club board has agreed that supporter trustees will be invited to meet with them following every board meeting, which was warmly welcomed by PG.
7. There was an enquiry whether the increasing number of students in Glasgow would be targeted. JL stated that this had been tried two years ago and had not been fruitful. However, this is in the remit of BA and would be considered again. JL stated that contacts with the military look promising and are being progressed.
8. PG finished by mentioning that the fans eligible to vote would receive information in advance of the first supporter Trustee open ballot election by October 2018 (when Foster stands down).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with thanks to supporters for their attendance and contributions.

## **APPENDIX 1. Note issued by Gerry Britton to Supporters' Trustees, PTFC Trust**



### **BOARD MEETING, FIRHILL, 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018**

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

##### **GENERAL**

- Launch date to be set down for the agreed partnership with the Armed Forces. Club will be signing the Armed Forces Covenant and instigating a discount entry scheme for both serving Service personnel and Veterans, currently not done by any other club.
- JL to discuss with PTFC Trust their becoming involved in choosing Club Charity Partner for 2019/20.
- Buy a Brick scheme to be reinstated. Concourses within both Jackie Husband and John Lambie Stand's to be utilised. Bricks from previous scheme currently on the outside of the Jackie Husband Stand to be renovated and repositioned within the concourse, with the Club meeting the costs involved. Full details of the scheme are currently being finalised, more to follow.
- Sponsorship has been secured from McDonald's for the Kids go Free scheme (now announced)
- Ongoing discussions taking place with providers to improve current online purchasing / ticketing / stadium access through an integrated CRM system. The Club thanks fans for their patience as we work through this.
- Match day kiosks adapting to meet supporter's demands for increased variety, by including soup and a dedicated pizza kiosk for the start of the League season. It's a start and is an ongoing project.
- Ongoing maintenance works progressing in the Colin Weir Stand, relating to the reinstatement of Turnstile 21 and maintenance of iron works. The installation of gas heating in the internal areas of the Colin Weir Stand, initially the Aitken Suite and later the Board room, has started.
- Current Season ticket sales figures remain consistent with sales made over similar time periods last season.

- Junior Jags programme was to be launched on Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> [now done]. Thistle Weir Academy has agreed to sponsor the programme to the tune of £1000. The cost of membership has been set at £20 with a variety of benefits to be provided, ranging from coaching sessions and match day diaries. The package will be on sale online and at the upcoming Club Open Day on Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- A full programme of events has been planned for the Open Day; face painting, player/ staff interviews, a variety of catering outlets; along with a player's training and signing session, Board/ Management question and answer session, along with a PFTC Trust meeting.

## **FOOTBALL**

- Aaron Lennox had injured his knee on his debut against Stenhousemuir, with a 10 week rehabilitation period expected.
- Additions in midfield and the forward area remain the top priority.

## **STADIUM USE**

- Improved utilisation of Stadium facilities to be assessed and a proposal is being formulated. Full hospitality plan for future use to be developed that details all aspects of prospective costings and staffing requirements. This includes the prospect of the Aitken Suite being utilised during the day as a Café facility.
- Short term focus to be put on possible improvements within Aitken Suite in its match day provision in terms of resolving queuing and other practical matters.

## **TWYA**

- Board delighted with the additional £600k funding that Colin Weir had agreed to put in place to support the Academy for a further three years. All agreed that this was yet another fantastic gesture by Colin Weir which, again, would have a fundamentally important impact on the positive development of our young players.
- The Academy has risen from 19<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> place in the SFA's Measurable Performance outcomes table, testimony to the continuing improvement in our development pathway.

## **FACILITIES**

- Chairman delighted at news that the Three Black Cats had completed missives over the sale of land in Kirkintilloch, the site of the proposed Training Facility to be known as McParland Park.
- Whilst planning approval dependent, it is anticipated that the project would still be delivered on time for a summer 2019 entry.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

- A free event for season ticket holders has now been set down for Friday October 5<sup>th</sup>.

This would be a question and answer session within the Alan Rough Lounge, with invited guests from Scottish Football taking part. Sponsorship has been secured from Pizza Express to provide catering on the night. Further details to come.

#### **TRUSTS UPDATE**

- Chairman detailed the important function that the PTFC Trust will have within the Club structure. The relationship with the Trust will be developed in a positive manner over the coming months in to more of a partnership. The Open Day provides a good opportunity to maintain this development.

#### **AOB**

- The first home league match v Falkirk on August 11<sup>th</sup> has been identified as a tribute match in honour of David McParland, following his recent passing. A plan will be formulated to mark David's long association with the Club in an appropriate manner.