



**NEWPORT COUNTY AFC**

**BOARD MEETING JUNE 7, 2018, 6.30PM**

**HENRY HOWARD FINANCE OFFICES, NEWPORT**

**REDACTED MINUTES FOR PUBLICATION**

**ATTENDEES:** Mark Crook (MC), Colin Faulkner (CF), Bob Herrin (BH), Shaun Johnson (SJ) Chairman, Peter Madigan (PM), Rob Santwris (RS), Kevin Ward (KW)

**APOLOGIES:** Neil Collier (NC), Mike Everett (ME), Gavin Foxall (GF), Simon Sadler (SS), Ryan Courtney (RC)

**1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 1.1 Pre-season tour – This is not going ahead as there is no money in the budget for it. Pre-season friendlies against Bristol City and Stoke City confirmed.
- 1.2 Academy – confirmed that RC would be the director with ‘ownership’ of Academy issues.

**2. WRU UPDATE**

- 2.1 There were a series of business-sensitive discussions regarding the Club’s current and ongoing relationship with the WRU.
- 2.2 Planning application regarding the redevelopment of the ‘cabbage patch’ end of Rodney Parade is due soon. We need some clarification from the council as to whether the stadium being shared by rugby and football remains its desired future for RP and whether it still intends to be a ‘fair broker’ in discussions between us and the WRU.

**3. FINANCE & BUDGET**

- 3.1 The playing budget for 2018/19 was confirmed.
- 3.2 Controls via the Board are in place regarding wage offers to potential signings.
- 3.3 It was agreed that a ‘Newport County Strategy’ needs to be in place for the future of player recruitment and player development at the club.

**4. COMMERCIAL UPDATE**

- 4.1 Commercial group formed and operating.
- 4.2 Engagement day occurred with directors and staff calling potential sponsors – proved successful. This needs to happen again and further events being planned.
- 4.3 Corporate brochure produced and out in the public domain.
- 4.4 More season-long boxes sold to date than in any previous season.
- 4.5 Pure Vans to sponsor South Stand.
- 4.6 Focus for June/July: Shirt sponsorship to be completed.



- 4.7 Big concentration off effort on boards and advertising.
- 4.8 Match Day sponsorship once fixtures are out.
- 4.9 Match Ball Sponsorship once fixtures are out.
- 4.10 Better planning around 'match day experience' for hospitality guests.
- 4.11 Cash needs to be brought in. Whilst there has been a good start the position is red overall and momentum needs to be maintained.

## **5. CLUB & STAFFING**

- 5.1 KW gave an update on the Chief Operating Officer appointment. Guy Price will be starting with us on July 18.
- 5.2 A temporary reporting structure has been devised to ensure staff have a director/directors to report to prior to GP arrival.

## **6. ACADEMY UPDATE**

- 6.1 GF has written to both Academy leads seeking assurances over progression to Category 3 and recruitment plans. He is meeting them to go through the plans and enforce Board engagement and sign-off before offers are made.
- 6.2 Governance group led by RC to be set up asap to ensure delivery on all matters.
  
- 6.3 Communication to staff, parents etc has been completed.
- 6.4 Job adverts have been placed on the EFL website and CPS. Interviews are proposed for June 14.
- 6.5 First team and Board attendance will be required for the Head of Coaching and Head of Physiotherapy roles
- 6.6 No offers will be made for Head of Coaching, Lead FDP Coach, Lead YDP Coach and Head of Physiotherapy without Board sign-off.
- 6.7 The above is all intended to bring the Academy closer to the Club.



## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

- 7.1 We should be actively encouraging women, people with disabilities, BAME candidates etc to stand in the next round of Trust elections.
- 7.2 CF asked that all directors complete the eLearning module from the EFL by June 13. To date, CF, SS and KW had completed.
- 7.3 The Board Code of Conduct 'Equal Opportunities' section needs to be amended to 'Equality and Diversity'. Action SS
- 7.4 The club's Equality and Diversity policy is being updated. CF will circulate for Board sign-off once complete.

## **8. SAFEGUARDING**

- 8.1 Report commissioned from consultant shows the club has considerable progress to make on safeguarding issues. BH to update at next Board meeting.

## **9. CLUB AMBASSADORS**

- 9.1 RS proposed that former Board members or volunteers who are no longer involved in the running of the club but still attend as supporters should be approached to become Club Ambassadors as their help in a voluntary capacity could be invaluable to the club.
- 9.2 There was general agreement on this. RS and CF tasked with developing further.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 10.1 KW said he and CF had both contacted a messageboard poster who has some interesting ideas regarding Trust membership and ticket prices. They are meeting him to discuss further on June 12
- 10.2 KW had been contacted by a messageboard poster whose company did work for AFC Wimbledon during their land search for a potential new stadium. He has offered to help if we need to undertake similar work. KW to stay in contact with him.

**Next meeting: Thursday, July 5**