



Newport County AFC Owners' Board Meeting

April 5, 2018, 6.30pm at Henry Howard Finance Offices, Coldra Court, Newport

In attendance: Neil Collier, Ryan Courtney, Mark Crook (part), Colin Faulkner, Gavin Foxall, Bob Herrin, Shaun Johnson, Simon Sadler, Kevin Ward, Alex Tunbridge, Michael Flynn (part), Lennie Lawrence (part).

Apologies: Rob Santrwis, Peter Madigan, Mike Everett.

REDACTED MINUTES FOR PUBLICATION

Football overview

MF went through a presentation on the plan for pre-season, the playing squad and next season. There were business-sensitive discussions over a number of player contracts.

LL gave his thoughts on the football side of the club. His view was that clear direction was key – managers manage, coaches coach and directors direct. He made suggestions as to how Newport County AFC can continue to compete successfully in League Two or beyond – with stable management and getting player recruitment right highlighted.

Club overview

SJ gave an overview of next season's draft budget. The playing budget has been impacted by the EFL's Salary Cost Management Protocol (SCMP) rules reducing level from 55% to 50%.

While the Board acknowledged it has already given a commitment to the manager that the playing budget would be at least the same as this season, achieving this will continue to be a challenge.

A business-sensitive discussion followed regarding areas of the overall club budget where savings could be made and about the continued viability of the current Trust ownership model. All directors agreed that the financial shortcomings of the current model needed to be communicated to all Trust members/owners at the next supporters' meeting in May.

Cup runs and transfer incomes are merely plugging the gap created by these shortcomings and this needed to be addressed.

The draft budget would be circulated after the meeting for all directors to digest, consider and provide feedback.

Board members continue to meet with the WRU to discuss issues around the club's licence to play at Rodney Parade and its long-term viability.



Proposals for a pre-season tour were discussed with a decision deferred pending more information and more clarity around the budget.

It was agreed to seek a round-table meeting between the club, Newport City Council, the Dragons, the WRU and other key stakeholders to discuss the future of professional sport at Rodney Parade in the light of the recently-released city centre masterplan.

Business-sensitive discussions took place over the awarding of contracts for GDPR and Safeguarding compliance.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 3.