

THE POSH SUPPORTERS LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at 7.30pm. Monday, 22 October 2007 at The Cherry Tree, Oundle Rd, Peterborough

PRESENT: Peter Lloyd (PL), Barry Bennett (BB), Richard Bellamy (RB), Geoff Callen (GC)
John Henson (JH), Keith Jennings (KJ), Paul Little (GPFL), Paul Mitchell (PM),
Walter Moore (WM), plus 12 members and 3 Guests.

APOLOGIES: Paul Donnelly, Tony Griffin, John Marlow, Gill Williams and Peter Williams.

Welcome

PL welcomed the members and guests to the meeting. And introduced the board members addressing the AGM. Himself as chairman, RB as treasurer and BB as the vice-chairman, who has also taken on the secretary's role until a new secretary is appointed. PL thanked BB for the extra work he has undertaken in addition to his membership secretarial duties.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2006

The minutes in respect of the meeting were accepted as a true record and taken as read.

Chairman's Report.

PL began by highlighting that it had been an incredibly active and busy year for the Trust, and thanked his fellow board members and their spouses for their commitment of time and effort for the past 12 months. He re-iterated our commitment and loyalty to Peterborough United football club and assured everyone that the sole purpose of the Trust's actions and activities is always for the welfare and development of our football club. This is the same in other Trusts where their clubs welfare and survival is the most important factor of their existence. Trusts are regarded very positively by governments and many football bodies both in the UK and abroad. It is a well motivated and much needed movement.

The Posh Trust believe that football clubs should have a strong community basis for them to develop and grow, we are delighted that Peterborough United are making real progress with community projects like the football in the community and visiting schools etc. I'm sure they will benefit from the efforts they are making. Many football clubs fail to recognise the benefits as they expect supporters to turn up and pay without giving anything back, to make supporters feel part of their club.

During the past 12 months we have re-established a good working relationship with the football club. We have re-opened our stall in the south stand where members can contact us, take part in competitions and look at various items of merchandise.

We have had several meetings with Darragh MacAnthony and other current club board members, and made a contribution in helping them secure the purchase of the football club, by making available to them all of the information we had gathered and documented on the complicated ownership/ structure and the sale of the London Rd ground to PUHL.

We have made strong representations over the Moy's End development resulting in a positive decision that the proposed stand must be fully completed before any flats can be occupied. We highlighted to the football club the £1m requirement for them to fit out the stand of which they were not aware.

A delegation from the Trust Board attended and spoke at both the council planning meeting and the public inquiry that followed. I would like to thank Peter Lee for his guidance, Paul Little and Peter Williams for the many hours they devoted to this issue.

We launched our Smile 'Ticket Scheme' that enables local community groups and disadvantaged fans to apply for free tickets to watch the Posh play. Fans can also nominate individuals or groups for a special "Posh Smile Ticket Treat", as a means of acknowledging hard work, selfless acts and devotion in the local community, for example, by cleaning up litter to helping an elderly person etc, or indeed a treat for someone who is seriously ill. Many thanks to Paul Mitchell for overseeing this project.

In the community we supported Yaxley Football Festival again by sponsoring the under 7's year group. We helped raise money for the Sue Ryder Hospice with a bucket collection. In addition we had a presence at the Beer Festival, and several summer fetes with our Trust stall. I would like to thank all board members and other volunteers that gave up their time for these events.

We organised the successful Mark Tyler social evening for his testimonial benefit. A Q&A session with Mark, Arron Maclean and Jamie Day was enjoyed by all attending. Mark has been a wonderful servant to the football club and we were delighted to contribute to his celebrations. A profit of £170 was generated through a raffle and auction, which was subsequently donated to the testimonial fund.

We have some Innovative fund raising schemes such as the prediction game, and the first day cover pictures are great as they also financially benefit the football club. Thanks to RB for these Ideas, and thanks to WM for unstinting work on the Gold Bond scheme about which you'll hear more from our Treasurer.

In the next 12 months we have further schemes we hope we can implement, all designed to help promote the football club, particularly in relation to the community and supporters.

Development Objectives for this year – 2007/8

- 1) Further develop the profile of the "Smile Ticket" scheme - raising funds for it - aim to have deserving people going to most home games under the scheme
- 2) Work as closely as possible with the football club to help it progress, especially in relation to supporters' interests, community activities and generating more interest in Posh
- 3) Find a way for the Trust to support more youth and community activities possibly by supporting the FIC and youth system that we are going to hear about
- 4) Develop the "Trust Bus" concept if we find that there is demand. We are trialling it on New Year's Day as I'm sure you all read in our latest newsletter.

As you can see all of these Ideas are designed to help the football club and enhance the attendance at London Road. Hopefully we'll discuss some of these ideas later in the meeting

Finally I'd like to thank directly some of the people who have greatly helped us. Peter and Gill Williams for their help with the distribution of newsletters. Tony Millen for auditing our accounts, and John Beddows of Ebenezers for their hospitality for several meetings we have had. I'd also like to thank PISA for their strong moral and practical support for our efforts on the Moy's End Development and also for backing our "Smile Ticket" scheme. Finally thanks to Mick Robinson who has once again prepared a quiz for you do later, and another mention to Walter Moore who spends maybe 2 or 3 days every week promoting and collecting monies for our Gold Bond Scheme, without which it would be impossible to fund some of the schemes we are proposing.

Treasurer's Report, including the auditor's report (attached appendix 1)

Quote RB : "The figures to 30 June 2007 show that we have continued to raise funds steadily again. In the last 12 months we took in £18,674 and spent just £5,447 leaving a profit for the year of £13,187.

We now sit with an overall balance of £54,451. Considering the work we put in on the public inquiry issue we feel our outgoings have been kept very low.

The Income Figures

By far our biggest fundraiser continues to be the Gold Bond Draw. This raised £14,722 last year, and we have to thank Walter Moore for his work in this area. You will find an entry form with the agenda and I would urge you all to become members, and encourage your friends and family to join as well.

By shopping around we have invested with a bank that offers a great interest rate and have picked up £2481 in interest this year. We continue to generate funds with the sale of our own merchandise, old programmes, books on our stall, and at the various fetes and events we have attended.

The 'Buy At' scheme on our website also generates funds for the Trust. Just access the high profile retailers such as HMV, Tesco, M&S, Butlins, Thorntons, John Lewis etc. through our Website and we get a commission from them. If nothing else I would encourage everyone in the room tonight to have a look at it and even if you only order holiday brochures (which cost you nothing) the Trust will get a payment.

As we predicted, following the Darragh MacAnthony takeover, our membership renewals have dropped as, in the eyes of some fans, we are now safe and there is no further need for a Supporters Trust. As you would expect we don't agree with this view and it is imperative that we continue to maintain a strong Supporters' Trust as I will explain later.

The Expenditure Figures

We always try to keep our costs to a minimum. However bearing in mind the work we do, it is always necessary to spend money.

Stationary and printing, will always cost us money because of the nature of the work we do. £1389 Motor Expenses. Because of the success of the Gold Bond Draw, we purchased a small car last year to allow Walter Moore to get round to collect the entries. The cost of petrol and maintenance were £562 Postage/Insurances are the next most expensive but unavoidable expenses. We need to have the insurances to protect the Trust, us as Directors and you the public as we move forward. On the whole, we are very careful where and when we spend the members money

Are there any questions on the income or expenditure figures?

(No Questions were asked from the floor)

Since Darragh MacAnthony took over the football club the role of the Supporters Trust has changed somewhat. Before Darragh stepped in there was a distinct danger that our football club could have gone into administration, or even worse, bankruptcy (We were continually being told this by senior people at the club itself). We, The Posh Supporters' Trust, had worked very hard on a strategy that, had either of the above disasters had happened, felt that we were in a position to be first through the door with a rescue package to save the club. We had projects in place, including local business backing, that we would have launched to keep our football club alive. Unfortunately, because of that we were considered by some members of the club management as aggressively trying to "take over" the football club.

We have always maintained that we wanted to be a "safety net" for the club. To have a framework in place that would be there if needed to save the football club.

We always offered our help, free of charge, to the club, including running the club shop for 2 seasons.

Supporters Trusts, and fans involvement in their football clubs, are playing a bigger part in football around the world. There are over 150 Supporters Trusts in the UK at the moment and many of them have Board representation at their clubs. Several Trusts actually own their clubs.

The Posh Supporters' Trust still want to be actively involved in Peterborough United.

We have met with Darragh MacAnthony on a number of occasions and have pledged our total support to him. He is fully aware of the history of The Posh Supporters' Trust and it's aims.

As I said earlier, now that Darragh MacAnthony has taken over, our role has changed, Although there is still a need for a Supporters' Trust. In football, no football club is ever 100% safe. Darragh has always said that he is here for the long term, and we all hope he is. However, as some famous bloke once said "Football, It's a funny old game" Therefore, It is still our intention to continue to raise funds and build a 'war chest' for the Trust, just in cast the unexpected ever happens.

Peter mentioned earlier the Smile Ticket Scheme we introduced. One of our latest ideas is providing 'Trust' buses for home games. Many Posh fans travel to games from all areas in their cars, on buses or trains and have to fit in with public transport. We are looking at the idea of picking up Posh fans and getting them to the ground in time for a pie and a pint then getting them home again. Families could travel with the fans to be dropped off at the ground to go off shopping for instance.

We are proposing to run our first bus for the New Years Day game against Shrewsbury. It should be well supported after all, Who wants to drive on New Years Day anyway?"

Appointment of Auditor :

By a unanimous vote, Tony Millen was re-appointed as the auditor of the Trust.

Secretary's Report

BB said : "The most significant thing to highlight is the retirement of Peter Williams who was our secretary from the initial steering group in Nov 2002 until April this year. Peter was meticulous in his application and is a very hard act to follow, but I have taken on secretarial duties on a temporary basis, until a replacement is found, and I am trying to maintain the standard Peter set.

The Trust still have 1390 Shares in PUFC. 390 donated and 1000 received through our fund raising for floodlights in 2003. 20 additional shares have recently been donated and are currently being processed.

We gained 17 new members in the last year. However as predicted our active membership has declined. We now have 255 fully paid up members, comprising of : 8 x life members, 5 x 10 Year, 78 x 5 year and

163 annual subscriptions. It is planned to write to all lapsed members to highlight the achievements of the Trust, and how we saved the football club from a £1million plus liability in the moy's end development plans. We will also emphasise the importance of a strong membership base, and the need for the Trust to remain alert at all times to the development of our football club and the interests of its Supporters and the Community as a whole.

On the subject of Communication, 4 Newsletters were produced and sent to all Members last year. One significant development was the setting up of a Members Email address list. We now make regular communications to 124 Members via Emails.

Meetings. 14 Board Meetings have taken place in last 12 Months. We also had a major meeting with the leader of the city council, 5 councillors and the council's solicitors, to investigate the councils reasoning and actions in condoning the sale of the London Rd Stadium to PUHL and how it may affect the Covenant. In addition, many meetings and contacts were made with the planning dept of the City Council, and a delegation from the Board attended the Planning application meeting and the Public Inquiry that followed. We have also attended many East Midlands Trust meetings, to see what's happening in other Trusts and with Supporters Direct who are also represented. We remain members of the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce and the Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service.

Election of New Board:

BB highlighted that there were 8 vacancies on the Trust Board this year, and 8 persons seeking appointments to the Board, therefore it was not planned to have an election.

Under the rules of the Trust, Board members standing down at this AGM are: Peter Lloyd, Barry Bennett, Dave Colbert, Paul Little and John Henson.

Peter, Barry, Paul and John, are seeking re-election, and it is suggested they are re-appointed unopposed. *By a unanimous show of hands all were reappointed.*

Dave Colbert has decided not to seek re-election and is to retire. The Board thanked Dave for his valuable contribution since the Trust was formed in 2002.

Four additional members were proposed for appointment to the Board :-

Geoff Callen,	Proposed by Paul Mitchell	Seconded Peter Lloyd
Tony Griffin,	Proposed by Barry Bennett	Seconded Keith Jennings
Edward Warrick	Proposed by Barry Bennett	Seconded Richard Bellamy
Jessica Weaver.	Proposed by Walter Moore	Seconded John Henson

With 4 Vacant positions on the Trust Board, it was suggested all 4 were elected un-opposed *By a unanimous show of hands all were Elected.*

PL thanked the members for their support, with a special thanks and warm welcome to Jessica Weaver, Tony Griffin and Ed Warrick, for putting themselves forward as directors. He said he hoped they would enjoy themselves, and that the Trust will undoubtedly be enhanced by their presence on the Board

Any other business

None

Question and Answer Session

A recent winner in the Gold Bond draw asked what interest Blackpool football club had in the Gold Bond, as they were featured on the cheque he received. RB explained that Blackpool were the founders of the Gold Bond Scheme, and other football clubs including the Posh Trust had like a franchise in the scheme. This enables us to offer bigger prizes like the £2000 each week as well as 285 other weekly cash prizes. RB said that the Trust make 65% commission on all sales, whilst all prize monies are paid by Blackpool.

A member asked, "If we own 1390 Shares in PUFC, why is the value not shown in the Auditors Report?" PL explained that as the shares we own were either donated to us or earned through a fund raising initiative, there was not a cost the Trust. Also, when the financial health of the football club was under pressure in recent years it was deemed that the shares had no financial value. For these reasons they were not recorded as assets.

What will happen to the covenant at London Road when we move to a new stadium?. PL explained that the covenant at London Rd was restricted to the playing surface only, and it is most likely that it will be lifted when a new stadium is built. PL went on to say that, if this were to happen the Trust will lobby the City Council to make a condition that the landowners should make a financial contribution of the value of the covenant to the football club, to fund youth development or to finance a community benefit. The Council originally imposed the covenant and gave the land to the football club for the benefit of the community and the citizens of Peterborough, and we will strive to get that value back into the community.

Again from the floor, it was suggested that perhaps the covenant could be transferred to the new stadium, the same as has just happened in Shrewsbury. BB said that this was a possibility and the council could impose it as part of any planning permission for a new ground. However it is important that value of the current London Road covenant should not be to the benefit of the landowner, and should be returned to the citizens of Petrborough.

After a break for refreshments, Dave Robertson (PUFC Head of Youth Development) addressed the meeting and gave a comprehensive insight into the Centre of Excellence Youth System at Peterborough United, and Luke Weston (Senior Community Officer) told us how various Football in the Community projects were being implemented. A report on the content of these speeches will be made separately and compiled for our next newsletter.

Finally, Mick Robinson entertained the members with a quiz.

BB closed the meeting thanking all members for attending, Dave and Luke our guest speakers, and Mick for his quiz. He re-emphasised the need for the Trust to remain alert at all times to the welfare of our football club, and he urged members to spread the word and encourage their friends to join the Trust.

Meeting closed at 10-25pm

Signed as a true record..... Date.....