

Dundee FC Supporters' Society Limited

Dee4Life Trust

Moving Forward Together

(Registered by the FSA under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 – Reg. 2639 RS)



**Minutes of the meeting between the Society Board and the Board of Dundee FC
Held at Dens Park Stadium on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 7.00pm**

In attendance: Bob Brannan (DFC), Ian Bodie (DFC), George Knight (DFC & D4L), Scott Glenday (D4L), Billy Shepherd (D4L & Junior Dees), Alex Kidd (D4L), Bill Brewster (D4L & DSA), Fraser MacDonald (D4L), Dave Forbes (D4L & DC), George Harris (D4L & DC), Graeme Adam (D4L), Stuart Murphy (DC)

Abbreviations: DFC = Dundee Football Club Ltd. ; D4L = Dee4Life Trust ; DC = Development Club

After introductions (with apologies from Graham Smith), the background to the meeting including the resolution agreed at the Dee4Life AGM, and a run through of the agenda, it was felt that firstly the issue of personal disagreements had to be settled to move forward.

Resolution of disputes between individuals / groups

Those present had an open and frank discussion about the arguments which had been made public recently, clearing the air and putting these issues behind them. Dialogue between all groups would now be more regular with the DSA and Development Club represented on the Trust board. All agreed that certain standards of conduct and honesty must be adhered to – it was essential that all groups work together in the best interests of the club.

This opening part of the meeting thus concluded in agreement of all present, and on behalf of the groups represented, to reconcile and move forward in the best interests of the club.

Clarification of audit requirements

Ian Bodie clarified that following discussions with the club's auditors and lawyers, there could be issues accepting large sums of money from organisations with no audited accounts. This issue mostly concerned Dee Promotions, although this was not a slight at any individual. Dee Promotions are licensed by the council, but are not a registered charity. They are in fact exempt from having to be audited, so are doing nothing wrong. It was queried whether Dee4Life also in fact needed to be audited. The request publicised previously was in order to seek that all organisations were audited and following the same path, on the basis of the above advice. One-off contributions such as the Capital Dark Blues buying a 1% stake in the club for £7500 were not subject to these audit requirements, however.

Creation of an umbrella charity

The proposal for discussion was, in broad terms, for all groups to put their efforts together in a concerted manner, and to create an umbrella charity with its own bank account, which would be funded from the events and fundraising efforts of the Development Club, Dee Promotions, Dee4Life and the DSA.

"Dee4Life Trust" is the trading name of Dundee FC Supporters' Society Limited.
Contact address: PO Box 10162, Dundee, DD5 3RY Registered office: 14 City Quay, Dundee DD1 3JA

www.dee4life.com

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This would be totally accountable and transparent, and pay for all youth development at Dundee FC. There would be a new commercial board with all groups represented, and the databases of the various groups pooled to ensure all fans were contacted once, not some multiple times and others none at all (currently fans have to update their details with multiple databases, from the above groups, individual DSA clubs, the club shop, shareholder register, website, and so on...!)

Ian Bodie explained that 25% of the club's shareholder database was out of date. At the next AGM the club would remove the need for a formal AGM in future. Once everything had been sent this time and new share certificates in the Ltd (as opposed to Holdings plc) company, they would move to simply having an annual Q&A and give notice in at least two programmes, with accounts available on demand from the club.

George Harris felt it was important that all groups were made aware of each others' planned events. Fraser MacDonald clarified the distinctions between the groups, to ensure it was understood why different groups existed and what their respective purposes were.

Bob Brannan spoke of his desire was for a model whereby the fans owned the club, with 1 share per fan. George Harris also spoke of the merits of this model and the recognition of what the late Eddie Thompson had described as "being the custodian, not the owner, of a club."

Scott Glenday asked for clarification on the current financial status, and fundraising objectives, of the DSA and Development Club. The DSA currently had just under £8000 in the bank, reported Bill Brewster. They met ad-hoc requests from the club last year. Stuart Murphy confirmed the Development Club had around £8500 and targeted kitting youth teams, coaches, etc. Bill added that this was the first time he had heard this explanation of the proposed umbrella group, as opposed to what had previously been reported. Rather than taking control of the various groups, the charity would ensure that all funds were raised in the most tax-efficient manner and satisfy the audit requirements referred to above, without requiring audits of every individual group.

George Harris had read through the constitution and felt there were additional fundraising opportunities such as membership fees and grants which could be pursued.

The youth programme would have a separate P&L account (not a separate company, as players must be registered to DFC) and the costs, currently estimated at £150k to £200k p.a., including all players, coaching staff, equipment and expenses. These management accounts would be available to the charity so that all expenditure of funds raised was clearly identified. It was stressed by the board that we must continue to invest in youth development.

It was agreed by all that this would be a fantastic focus for all groups to put their fundraising efforts behind. Clearly this would include the Development Club, and the board of DFC was happy to recognise and continue to work with the Development Club and its members.

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Conclusion and next steps

Although the structure of this new charity had yet to be decided, part of the original proposal was for a commercial board to oversee the activities, set targets (jointly with the groups concerned) and work to ensure these were met. In case of a shortfall in the club's budget, the board of trustees of the charity could approve funding for this purpose rather than uniquely youth development, but this would only be an emergency measure. The original proposal would be circulated for all to work on a new proposal. The DSA meeting on 17th January and Dee4Life board meeting on 31st January, plus Development Club and Dee Promotions meetings tbc, would take the first steps towards an overall agreement to be ratified and put in place by 1st April, with the new structure coming into place on 1st July. A launch before this would be planned involving youth players.

All fundraising groups committed to regular dialogue through the Dee4Life board and meetings with the club (at least 2 per year), to ensure their efforts are aligned with the club's requirements and each others' calendar of events.

The meeting concluded at 10.30pm with all parties satisfied that they were now moving together in the right direction.