



BOARD MEETING

Date: 3rd May 2021

Time: 7.30 pm

By Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

The full Board of Directors was in attendance for the first board meeting since the AGM in December 2020: Norrie Price (NP, acting secretary), Carol Findlay (CIF), Dave Forbes (DF), Calum Findlay (CF), Douglas Tott (DT), and Gary Cocker (GC). A minor technical hitch meant it was 7.45 pm before proceedings got underway, with Gary then apologising for having to leave meeting at 8.00 pm due to a personal appointment.

Accordingly, the review of **Membership fees** was brought forward. Having remained static at £5 for years, it had previously been suggested that these rise to £10, £12 or even £15. One director asked why would we wish to raise the price, while another queried the wisdom of doing so when membership was falling even at the existing £5 level. Some like struggling pensioners or others on a low income might find this (price rise) unacceptable.

The argument for a rise was that the group needed to balance the books and not become overly reliant on donations. And that our income affected how we could sell ourselves as assisting the football club to potential members. A projected several hundred pounds extra would cover a couple of player sponsorships and allow us to rebuild funds after recent donations to DFC related activities reduced the cash balance from £40k to £29k.

To assist our decision, GC suggested researching membership fees at other Supporters Trusts and, before leaving, outlined his plans for our second newsletter which he projected for the end of the season. He concluded by asking DT, who also offered to conduct research, to “fire in” any of his material for consideration/inclusion.

Following this, the further proposal of standardising Membership fee renewal dates came under scrutiny. An annual breakdown from a total of 152 showed renewal payments: Jun-Oct = 16, Nov-Jan = 116; Feb-May = 16 and two directors saw no point in changing these when most members paid between Nov – Jan. The suggestion was, though, that membership would run from season to season, maybe from June to end May, which would allow a concerted close-season publicity campaign to drum up membership rather than as present when members paid

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all year round, necessitating monthly chase-ups of membership payments which was an inefficient use of time. Such a campaign can bring an added feeling of togetherness.

One response to that was that memberships be frozen until June next year when everyone could start simultaneously, with/without a membership fee increase - which could simplify any discussion over how to treat people at various stages of their yearly cycle.

The potential problems in practicality were acknowledged but it was suggested that cash & cheque payees (25% of total & most now out/nearly out of subscription) be asked to renew over the next two months, with another idea that they be asked to switch to Go Cardless (50% of total) for efficiency. A question was raised over the long-term practicality of members paying via DF's shop (payment can also be made via Dee4Life's Dens Park address) but it was accepted that if members cannot switch to Go Cardless then the status quo is fine.

It was pointed out that Ross Day, who is a key figure at 1893 Foundation which uses Go Cardless as its sole payment method, was happy to present his insight to the board. Re Go Cardless, CIF was uncertain what potential changes to payment dates entailed and whether she could amend these or if a new mandate was required.

CF confirmed the group's new **Zoom** annual subscription and also explained that he'd compiled the **Members' Circulation List** (from scratch) though this would require amending in subsequent distributions dependent on persons leaving. CF also outlined how his **Membership renewal reminder** spread sheet could automatically flag up payments due, which he hoped to enhance.

With regard to the **Dee4Life Trust board**, there had been a positive response from a member who'd been at the AGM and another who'd shown interest last Autumn hadn't been discounted. Asked whether they would leave/remain as directors, CIF and CF responded that they were in two minds but were content to remain meantime.

That was welcomed though for stability no-one disagreed that the board needed to be expanded. CF remarked that ideally we might attract more in Gary's age group, which was accepted by all. Thought would have to be given to the arrangement of a General Meeting which could also ratify DT as director allowing for greater "casual" director appointment, though best only to do so only if suitable members were pledged to join up.

Re **Player Sponsorship/Dee Lotto subscription**, DT extolled the merits of Dee Lotto, saying cash went straight to Dee Promotions & DFC Youth Programme. Dee4Life could win and reinvest the funds and it was something other DFC fan groups did. However although another director was supportive, others opposed the concept, saying it was gambling with members' money and we could just donate money to Dee Promotions.

Date of Next Meeting – It was agreed that rather than the minimum four meetings per year, the new annual subscription be fully utilised, even for part-board conversations. No date set for next meeting but projected for 4-6 weeks hence dependent on directors' availability.

Dave Forbes made his apologies and left the meeting at 8.45 pm

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CIF confirmed that Dee4Life had not received the share certificate for the £3.1k's worth of shares purchased in 2020, which means a letter requires to be sent to Dens Park asking what has happened.

Meeting ended at 10.30 pm

Agenda

- 1. Zoom Subscription**
- 2. Provision of Circulation List for Secretary**
- 3. Membership Fees – review cost, renewal date, payment methods**
- 4. Dee4Life board/directors (current/proposed)**
- 5. Player Sponsorship/Dee Lotto Subscription**
- 6. Date of next meeting**