

ARFC SUPPORTERS' TRUST MEETING – APRIL 4 2013 - GEORGIAN HOTEL, COATBRIDGE

Present: Donald Ashwood, Al Baird, Jordan Campbell, Gordon Dishington, David George, David Herd, Gordon Lind, Scott Lindsay, Bill Walker, Shaun Millar and John McEwan.

Apologies: Eddie Hagerty, David Crichton and Daniel Mossie

Agenda:

1. Matters Arising
2. Trust Finances update
3. Race Night
4. Newsletter
5. AGM
6. Club Shop
7. AOCB
8. Additional item – Name Change

Jordan Campbell stood in as chairman in the absence of EH and declared the meeting open.

Matters Arising:

The minutes of the last meeting (7 March 2013) were agreed

Final draft of the letter to shareholders was circulated and agreed. EH can update next meeting when this is expected to be sent out and to which groups.

Squad Fund – BW updated meeting on the level of the monthly contributions to the fund and how he is in regular contact with the club over the use of this. Communications are good and positive.

At the moment the fund was still fully intact as the club had indicated that a planned and coordinated use of the funds for the new season would perhaps yield better long term benefits from it.

Trust Finance updates:

DH updated meeting about current position in terms of available funds and expected outgoings and income until the end of the season. Overall the position is healthy and once all expected charges are invoiced and paid by the trust at the end of the season we will be able to assess the balances available for any close season projects.

Race Night:

JMcE updated everyone on progress in the planning for the race night with everything being on track. It was emphasised the need for everyone to contribute in the selling of horses for the event – the more involvement everyone has the better their and their friends enjoyment of the night will be.

Newsletter:

JMcE issued the completed newsletter - details of distribution to be agreed with EH.

Additional Item - Name Change:

It was at this point in the meeting that GD asked to address the meeting on the Name Change idea previously raised at the Trust meeting in Feb 2013. .

He issued a paper he had prepared outlining the positive aspects such a move could bring to the club.

He envisaged it as part of a re-launch of the club in the community with such a rebranding helping the club to attract inward investment from local business, Local Govt, the general Coatbridge public, particularly the young, and also potential funding partners.

Several people contributed to the debate, some in agreement, some totally against.

It was made clear that the process needs to an open and transparent debate and any decision would really require a clear mandate from a clear majority of all fans for such a move to be successful and not alienate large portions of the existing fan base.

Their needs to be clear and democratic “roadmap” of how this is progressed.

AGM:

Cashbook Accounts for 2012 have been passed to JMcE from the Trust treasurer, DH, who will prepare Annual Accounts statements for submission to the Trusts auditor.

Only once this has been complete can a date for the AGM be set.

JMcE hopes to have these complete by mid May, so a date sometime in early June is possible.

Future meetings will be kept updated.

Club Shop

JMcE updated meeting on discussions he has had with current strip suppliers with a view to the 2013/14 strip. Not a lot of progress to report but some ideas from the suppliers have been sent to the club for consideration. It is up to the club what strip we do have but it is hoped that a return to the traditional predominately yellow with red trim shirts is possible, as has been suggested.

One option is to use a strip similar to the one worn in 88/89 with 13/14 being the 25th anniversary of that league winning season.

Current sales have been slow and no new stock will be ordered until the close season when a full stock evaluation will be carried out.

AOCB

Nothing of note raised

JC thanked everyone for an interesting meeting and declared the meeting closed; next meeting scheduled for 2 May 2013.