

## **ARFC SUPPORTERS' TRUST MEETING – JUNE 6 2013 - GEORGIAN HOTEL, COATBRIDGE**

Present: Donald Ashwood, David Herd, Gordon Lind, Eddie Hagerty, David Crichton, Daniel Mossie, Marcus Cotter and John McEwan.

Apologies: Ally Baird, Fulton McGregor, Jordan Campbell, Bill Walker.

### **Agenda:**

1. Matters Arising – Minutes of previous meeting
2. AGM Arrangements
3. Club Shop
4. Renewal of TV
5. Summer Campaign
6. AOCB

Eddie Hagerty welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

### **Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting (2 May 2013) were agreed.

The Q&A for fans with James Ward and Mark Cameron from the 4<sup>th</sup> June was discussed and everyone agreed it had been a really worthwhile exercise and one which we should look to repeat once or twice a season.

### **AGM Arrangements**

Date was set for Thursday 27 June 2013. It was decided to hold the AGM in the regular meeting place of the Georgian Hotel rather than at Cliftonhill.

EH, JMCE, and DH would meet separately in the next week or so to arrange for the AGM notices and appropriate papers to be sent to all Trust members advising of the AGM. The accounts were in the process of being finalised for submission to the independent financial examiner in good time for the AGM.

### **Renewal of TV**

It has been noticed that the TV in Club lounge, purchased by the Trust 7 years ago, may be suffering from wear and tear with picture freezing and lines appearing on screen from time to time.

As it is a great resource to have in the lounge and has been essential in helping deliver the successful race nights every year, it is something that will have to be replaced, probably sooner than later.

DC volunteered to do some research to see what is out there in terms of a suitable replacement that would be within the budget range of the Trust.

Based on that a decision on what would be best to go for can be made in due course.

EH suggested that when we do replace the TV, we gift the old one, if it's still working, to the Safe Play Project in Kirkshaws with whom he has had some discussions. This seemed a good idea and would be decided upon formally when the actual TV renewal happened.

### **Club Shop**

JMcE updated meeting on the on going discussions he has had with the new strip suppliers with a view to the new 2013/14 strips, which was unveiled at the meet the manager night on 4 June 2013.

While the new strip is still manufactured in Italy by Macron, the suppliers the Club deal with have changed.

The new supplier will be UKSOCCERSHOP who will take on all the online sales for the Club. In the long term it is hoped this will provide a more extensive range of merchandise for supporters to purchase online.

The arrangements for match day sales in terms of stock ordering and supply have still to be agreed and worked out but it is hoped that the customers will not see any significant changes and that a good range of stock at fair prices will still be available to purchase on match days.

### **Summer Campaign**

EH advised of the great progress that Gordon Dishington had been making in securing various sponsorship and advertising deals for the Club. EH wanted to keep this momentum up and do a new poster campaign listing upcoming fixtures and season price deals etc as the new season approached.

### **AOCB**

The relationship with the BOD was raised by EH and how we still need to look to improve communications between the Trust and the Club with the ultimate aim of having a Trust representative on the Club BOD.

He felt that while things had improved a lot over past few months since the arrival of GD, and also Robert Watt engaging more with supporters, there was still room for improvement and that more could be done.

Discussion suggested not everyone at the meeting totally shared the 'doom and gloom' view and that the team's poor performance had perhaps affected people's perceptions of everything at the Club. There was a general agreement though that anything that can improve communications can obviously only help everyone move forward.

JMCE advised the meeting that he would be stepping down as Secretary and from the Trust committee at the upcoming AGM. Changes at his work meant that he could no longer devote as much time as both roles required. He would still be happy to help run the Club shop and organise the race night if the committee wanted him to do so.

EH thanked JMCE for his contribution over the years and then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting before declaring the meeting closed.

Next meeting would be the Trust AGM on 27 June 2013.

Minutes prepared by JMCE: June 20 2013.