

Minutes of the We Are The Rovers Board meeting held at 7:30pm on Sunday 26th November 2023 (by Zoom)

Present: Mike Graham (MG, Chair); Duncan Miller (DM); Peter Ridehalgh (PR); Linda Chelton (LC) and Steve Williams (SWi).

1. Apologies: Peter Dickinson (PD); Janet Rutter (JR); Andy Young (AY); Peter Bolton (PB); Marc O'Neil (MO'N).
2. Notes and Matters Arising from 18th October Meeting:

It was agreed to note our thanks to the previous Chair for passing on all his papers and other items to the Trust.

3. Immediate Work Programme:

a) MoU Meeting with the Club. The meeting took place on the 7th November and was reported to be very positive. Discussions took place on: Club finances; the Watford game 'Fans Takeover'; 150th Anniversary planning and celebrations; and the Trust made a presentation on the structure of season ticket pricing. A report of the meeting would form part of our November Newsletter.

b) New Membership System and Website. MO'N was unable to attend due to a family event; however he did report that the website launch was imminent and all the Board members were very impressed with the test version shared with them. We will need to heavily promote the site when it is finalised.

c) 'Fans Takeover' v Watford 23rd December: This was another good example of the Club working with our Trust and supporters groups. An excellent ticket offer had been agreed by Steve Waggott and regular planning meetings and a shared drive were in place to discuss and share ideas and artwork. Our Trust banner designs had been finalised and paid for and these should be delivered in advance of the forthcoming Leeds home game. It was also agreed to spend £290 on blue and white Santa hats and a further £160 on 'Thundersticks' to give to young fans on the day.

d) Governance and Elections. LC reported that we would need both a SGM (to agree rule changes) followed immediately by an AGM. We provisionally agreed on the date of 26th June 2024 and we would approach the Club about a room at Ewood Park. We would also share ideas via WhatsApp on a keynote speaker.

e) Safe Standing: Our Trust and the Fans Forum had been leading on this. MG had written a survey that had one or two amendments made and this would be circulated by the Club in the coming week; the survey results would be shared with us and the Fans Forum.

f) Promoting Trust Membership: This would be a priority with the launch of the new website and Board members were encouraged to use all their own social media accounts to promote membership. It was agreed to purchase a Card Reader to sign new members up at the Watford game. We would also have Christmas membership packs to promote membership at the Watford game.

4. Finances and Audit of Accounts:

Current a/c balance £10,550.76. PayPal account £291.67 the Chair has also asked PD to prepare the accounts for audit. The website quote we agreed did not include VAT which added £600 to our costs; however the banners were over £700 under budget which effectively balanced out our estimated expenditure.

5. Heritage:

SWi gave a full and upbeat report. He had approached Blackburn Library who have agreed to host a talk by him on the Trust sponsored 'Rovers in Uniform' book project. The library event will probably be in the New Year and the Trust agreed to have a stall promoting membership. MG agreed to approach Steve Waggott to agree to meet SWi to discuss heritage, and particularly the possible Rovers Museum as well as the Club's 150th Anniversary.

6. Date of Next Meeting: Agreed as 7:30pm on Sunday 17th December via Zoom.

7. The meeting closed at 9:00pm