 **CRAWLEY TOWN SUPPORTERS’ ALLIANCE**

 **BOARD MEETING MINUTES – 21st September 2015.**

Attendees: Carol Bates, Joe Comper, Mat Cowdrey, Sarah Moylan, Simon Smith.

1. Apologies: None.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

The Minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the last meeting.

3. Chairman’s Report.

CB stated that she had spoken with Sue Benn after Sue had expressed an interest in joining the CTSA Board. SB will be attending the October Board meeting to be co-opted as Secretary.

The “Audience with the Board” evening was attended and, disappointingly, some inaccuracies with regards to the CTSA were stated. In relation to the misleading intervention by Mrs Carter, during a statement being given by Simon Smith, the money we have in the bank was not all from the Manchester Utd. game and will be broken down in 6. Finance.

It was also stated that G&H Coaches were unable to put money into the Club, through sponsorship, due to a Gentleman’s Agreement with the Club and the CTSA. As far as the CTSA are concerned, a meeting was held last year with both parties and Michael Dunford, where it was agreed that the CTSA had no problem with G&H’s sponsorship, provided it didn’t include the words “Official Travel”. This was agreed by all parties and therefore, there should have been no issue this season, again.

MC’s exclusion is still in place after his meeting with Michael Dunford and Matt Turner, on 16th September.

4. Travel.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to get people to travel to away games and to this end there will now be no transport to Newport County, as well as Notts. County. The Plymouth and Hartlepool games are being advertised but not even 20 people have booked for each, yet. A decision will be made on the Hartlepool game on the 17th October if we don’t get enough people to take a coach, which is looking increasingly likely. The question was asked if it was viable to take a coach to Carlisle. Gary Eckford has offered a 40 seater coach at £1200.00 but if recent history is anything to go by, even if we could get 20 people, it would cost them £60 each just to break even. That is not a viable option. We will, however look at mini bus costs but it will have to be from Clarkes as no one can be expected to drive a mini bus on their own for that length of journey. There are train tickets available for just under £50 at the moment.

5. Community/Fundraising.

A Community discussion was held between JC and CB on 18th September and it was agreed that the 5 year anniversary evening for the Manchester United game on 19th February would not go ahead for various reasons. However, instead of the evening replaying that game, it was suggested we have an Anniversary Quiz on the 19th February 2016. The evening would include a fish & chip supper, as before. Players who were involved would be invited to attend and the Quiz would be based on the rounds of the FA Cup. A raffle and auction would be included too. The MWB Suite has been booked.

Before the end of the year, we hope to organise a race night or bingo evening.

The 50/50 Draw is still not being run due to lack of people to run/help with it. CB stated that after giving up 3 years’ of match days to help with it, she felt she no longer wanted to run it and wanted to have her match days back to do other things. With the dwindling crowds and fewer people buying tickets, the prizes were becoming lower and lower and were not even reaching £100, sometimes. The CTSA is planning to raise the money it got from the 50/50 draw by putting on other events. Other fundraising ideas need to be discussed.

6. Finance.

SS clarified the situation with regards to the intervention from Mrs Carter when Dave Pottinger was talking about the finances of the CTSA, at the “Audience with the Board” on 19th September.

“Unfortunately, what she said was totally inaccurate. Mrs Carter's often expressed view is the £30K of CTSA reserves exist only because we were allowed to retain profits from the Man United FA Cup game. The records indicate otherwise.

1. The CTSA was formed as a merger in 2011 (at the club's insistence) between the old Supporters Club and the old Devils Trust.

2. At the point at which the two were formed the finances were also combined and the reserves of the CTSA were £26,846 consisting of £12,027 from the old SC, £4,819 from the Trust and £10,000 of start-up funding/donations that was raised on formation by the CTSA.

3. Since the Man U game was before the CTSA was formed and only £12,027 came from the old SC it follows that a maximum of £12,027 can have related to the Old Trafford trip. All this is, of course, documented in our accounts and bank statements.

4. In the year following the formation of CTSA reserves increased slightly due to profits made in 2011-2012 season when we had the Hull City Cup game and promotion with more people travelling.

5. Since then the finances of the CTSA have seen a small loss as membership has fallen and the number of travellers to away games have slipped (for example in 2011-2012 we took 5 coaches to Oxford, this season it was 1.)

6. At the end of last season the reserves of the CTSA were £28,832.

As was explained on 21/09/15, (despite the board initially attempting to prevent us having any right of reply to their comments about our finances):

1. We continue to support the club. A payment of around £1,000 was made on 16th September and money was given to both the Club and the Community team last season.

2. The reserves of the CTSA are just that. We also aim to operate on a break even basis and only give money away where we make a surplus. Can I also place on record that the comments attributed to me in the reporting of the “Audience with the Board” by the club on Reds Wall are not an accurate statement of what I said: whilst we aim to support the club we have never agreed to give them the CTSA's reserves.

3. The reserves exist to ensure the CTSA remains on a sound financial position. We also have a longer term goal of owning a stake in the club (as outlined in our constitution) hence the need to build reserves.

As far as the travel is concerned it remains the case that we budget to get as many people to away games as possible on a break even basis. In fact last year we made a loss of £606 on travel with the number of long away games. This year we hope for a better outcome with shorter away trips but there are regrettably some games we do not run travel to (mainly Tuesday nights) as the number of people wishing to travel to these games means it is simply not viable.

Our finances are completely open; accounts are registered at Companies House and bank statements/invoices paid always available at AGMs for members wishing to review them. Otherwise feel free to speak to a board member at any time and we will be happy to answer any questions.

Alain Harper still has the records of the Man U game and confirmed to me that the SC made a profit of £200 per coach at the Old Trafford game ie £5,200 overall. So only £5,200 of the £30,000 balance referenced was from the Man U game.”

7. Membership.

A few more memberships have been received since the last meeting.

8. Constitution/SD/FSF.

Nothing to report.

9. AOB.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Next meeting – 26th October, 2015. 7.30pm.

07.10.15 - CB