

Abbreviated minutes of the AFCW PLC board meeting

Thursday 17 August 2023

Present: Mick Buckley, Iain McNay, Kris Stewart, Michele Little, Graeme Price, Nick Robertson (remotely), David Charles.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Danny Macklin.
2. **Matters arising not on the agenda and action points.** None
3. **Minutes of previous meeting.** DC gave thanks to ML for assisting in producing minutes. Approved.
4. **Craig Cope and Johnnie Jackson join the meeting.** CC had sent a new style report to the board, of which he selected key elements. CC, with assistance from Bobby Bacic and Chris McConnell, gave data to support solid start to season. CMcC described alterations to training schedule and injury assessment to try to reduce the number of injuries. Mental welfare is addressed in more informal ways, but still monitored. The contrast in the ways younger and older players respond to injuries was discussed. MB expressed the gratitude of the board for the work conducted by the team.
As far as recruitment is concerned, most business is done; there may be a couple of loans if the right players are available. JJ summarised the start of the season and pre-season in a very positive way. JJ said the key change is that there is a better choice of players to fill roles. MB expressed the board's congratulations and appreciation for the strong start to the season to JJ and CC.
5. **Update from David Grows on the Women's Team.** DG talked through the presentation he had prepared, accompanied by Sofia Axelsson. The key objective this year is to win the league. Sustainability is a second key objective. There is also a need to make the pathway from girls to women more efficient. MB thanked DG and SA for the presentation.
6. **Finance update with Laurie – management accounts and cashflow.** LH gave the headlines from his report, which had no major changes or surprises. Overall cashflow has improved slightly since last month owing to a variety of factors.
7. **Refinancing update/finance committee update with Michele Little.** ML said that from the survey results so far over 50% of the 2025 PL Bondholders are happy to roll over. Information will be shared more widely at the Meet the DTB meeting. ML said again planning ahead and ring-fencing funds for debt repayment were needed. The finance committee are now assisting in creating a technical document to support the wider member consultation on debt and equity. The remit of the finance committee was also discussed.
8. **Development committee update with Nick.** No decisions to be made with regard to the DC. Buckingham, builders of the stadium, are going into administration. This should have no impact on the club, as we are insured and have maintenance agreements in place.
9. **Safeguarding.** All in order, reported DC. Academy are going through a practice audit, of which safeguarding is a part. A visit by EFL safeguarding team on a matchday needs to be organised.
10. **D & I.** Nothing to report.
11. **Risk Register.** This sits with DM, so this will be held over until next meeting.
12. **NED Recruitment update.** MB has updated a draft with KS to review.
13. **A.O.B.** None.
14. **Date of next meeting – Thursday 21 September 2023.**