

Ravens Supporters Board Meeting – Monday 20th Feb 2023 - Boardroom Hayes Lane

In Attendance - Board Members

Machel Hewitt, Ian Pettyfer, Alex Robins, Sue Spencer, Christina Andrews, Nigel Beer, Mike Buckingham, Adrian Elms, Greg Jones, Paul Messenger, Ian Micklewright, Brandon Morse, Roy Oliver, Georgie Weaver and Dave Wilkinson

Apologies

Richard Simpson and Simon Wakefield

Absent

Luca Crisford and Joe Thornton.

MH - Opened meeting, thanked everyone for attending.

SS – Notified the board that Stephen Marshall had resigned from the board with immediate effect due to ongoing health issues, Jeff Hutton has reached out to Stephen in regards to any help the club can provide for him.

Minutes from the last meeting approved.

MH – Informed the board that the planned meeting with RSG has yet not gone ahead due to diary issues but the RSG is keen to meet with a small number of board members and MH will look to arrange a date.

IP – Feels that RSG needs to agree to a quarterly meeting with some/all board members going forward.

MH – Suggested that quarterly meetings are better directed to Mark Hammond and Jeff Hutton first and RSG only if necessary.

MH – Asked board members for any nominations for the upcoming vacant board positions – Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mike Buckingham put himself forward for Treasurer and Ian Pettyfer seconded his nomination.

All board members have until Sunday 26th Feb to put forward their nomination, if after the 26th no one has been appointed in these positions they will become open for non board members to apply for.

MH and SS have both agreed that they are willing to assist in a smooth transition from them leaving to new Chairperson and Secretary being appointed.

The board discussed the current size of the board and agreed that the current numbers of 20 is too large and agreed that ideally this needs to be reduced to 10-15.

MH has agreed to edit the constitution to cover absenteeism from board meetings, and how missing a percentage of meetings without good reason could lead to you being asked to resign from the board.

CA – Asked if Supporters not on the board with skill sets that suit could help on sub committees.

The board agreed that there shouldn't be any issues with this and that all help is always appreciated, MH will arrange for details to be in the programme regarding the sub committees and how people can offer their assistance.

The board is also happy to assist the club in sourcing volunteers for various roles such as programme selling, but will communicate with the club first as to what roles the club would have.

The board would like it noted that while the club have stated that there has been an improvement in communication, Board members in the week prior to tonight's meeting have themselves experienced difficulties in contacting the club on issue, with emails not replied to and phone calls to club still not being answered.

Ongoing Female Toilet issues – are the club aware of the lack of sanitary protection available in the female toilets (baskets always empty or just being used to dump rubbish in), Also although there are signs in the Ravens lounge toilets asking for sanitary products to be disposed of in sanitary bins no actual sanitary bins are provided – could the club please arrange for sanitary bins to be placed within the cubicles.

Sub Committee Updates

Her Game Too. - Georgie and Alex.

GW – Her Game Too have arranged a fixture against York at Hayes Lane to take place on Tuesday 7th March, the day before International Women's Day, The club and HER Game Too will be advertising more details in due course.

Club History and Memorabilia. - Roy, Nigel and Machel.

RO– Updated the board re the extension to the clubs history book –John Self will be covering the first 10 yrs 1993-2003, with Colin Head and Mash Hewitt covering 2004 to present.

RO – also mentioned that articles by John Self aren't always being published, MH explained that due to space availability the articles ideally need to not be more than 1 page.

MH – suggested that RO speaks to Matt Hall about having an history section on the podcast,

100 Club+. - Ian.

GJ – All official council licensing etc and Bank acc details transferred should be in place and completed next month. John Richardson has provided a smooth handover and will continue to help with any teething issues.

GJ – Membership is growing steadily, 6 new members last month.

IP to liaise with Josh regarding charging the current advert for new members in the match day programme, making more of the size of the monthly prize pot etc.

As Jeff Hutton has informed the board that the club is happy for the club share of the 100 club+ (Nov 22 onwards) to be transferred over to the supporters board, IP will liaise with Jeff as to how we go about setting up a new bank account for this money to be transferred into, also IP will look into how 100 club+ members would like the money to be used and how this will be decided going forward.

Food and Beverage – Mike and Simon

MB – Has been in contact with Will Grint new head of F&B, a meeting was arranged for Sat 18th Feb but unfortunately was unable to attend as he was helping out with issues in the kitchen, a new date has now been arranged for March 4th, Will comes with good experience, he has 3 aims to start with – Staff training, Queue Management and stock management, Will has also expressed interest in attending the next supporters board meeting.

Match day Experience. - Christina, Paul, Dave

CA expressed frustration regarding what the club actually wants from this sub committee, as when asking “what do you want?” they are met with “what are you going to do?”

Mash suggested that the group identify one thing to work on and then present this to the club- maybe the family zone ideas which the club seems keen to work forward on too.

A.O.B

RO – Informed the board that members of The Ravens Chat are keen to restart a Supporters club, Board members expressed that this is something for The Ravens Chat to discuss with RSG and the club, but also mentioned concerns as to what benefits would the club actually be able to provide for an annual fee, and also that it's not as easy to set and run these clubs as it was 40 years ago, they also suggested that The Ravens Chat made contact with Supporters Clubs at other NL clubs to find out more details.

Next meeting - Monday 17th April.