

SUFC HISTORY PROJECT GROUP ('THE GROUP') - MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: 20 January 2025 (by video conference)

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Leeder (Chair), Paul FitzGerald, Michelle Gargate

MINUTES DISTRIBUTION: the Group, Trust Board members, Justin Rees, Tom Lawrence, Rylee Doe

APOLOGIES: James Schooley, Sam Duckworth

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 20 APRIL 2024

Agreed.

It was noted that since the last meeting Rob Craven had left the Group (and had ceased to be a Trust Board member).

2. MATTERS ARISING AND OTHER POST-MEETING ACTIONS

2.1 Project Plan – the initial draft had been overtaken by events re the delay in the club ownership change, and for now it was agreed to leave revisiting this until further progress on the current matters in hand had been made and when there was a better vision of ground redevelopment timelines, etc.

2.2 Website Briefing Document – this had been with RC – see now (4) below.

2.3 Museum – MG had visited Charlton and given feedback, what they had done was (as with Exeter) impressive and they were active on social media with regular activity updates.

2.4 Funding – the SUEPA Fund had now been established – it has a current net balance of circa £1,600, though around £600 of that is committed to the Box Corridor project. It is a current SUEPA target to build the balance to circa £4,000 by the year end.

2.5 Keith Bird paintings – two originals had now been bought by club.

2.6 Box corridor project – this was moving forward, AL and Dave Shields working on it extensively at present, targeting circa 26 'Iconic Roots Hall Match' prints to be ready during February (plus an extra one re Billy Best's return in September 2024).

ACTION - AL

2.7 Legends Lounge refurb – the sponsorship of SUEPA had helped to meet some of the cost (80% of SUEPA sponsorship retained by club for that purpose).

2.8 Sid Broomfield – an SD WhatsApp message on 03.09.24 had mentioned the possibility of a meeting between relatives of Sid/Joe Auger and Justin Rees. AL undertook to find out whether this had moved forward. There was some discussion at this point of the idea of acknowledging contributions to the club by non-playing/coaching staff, which Justin had previously raised with PF. It was noted that SUEPA had recently set up an Honorary Member category (yet to be publicised) and perhaps something could be developed from this.

ACTION – SD/AL

2.9 Legacy numbers – it was noted that AL was meeting Rylee on 17.02.25 to discuss how to take this project forward now that data was available (and being kept up to date by AL), with the possibility that something might be targeted to coincide with the club's 120th anniversary.

ACTION – AL

2.10 Memorabilia cataloguing – PF had made a start and provided AL with a spreadsheet which he undertook to populate with other 'SUEPA held' items. It was agreed that thought should be given to launching an appeal at some point for items ('leave it in your will' etc).

ACTION – ALL TO REVIEW AT NEXT MEETING

3 MUSEUM

SD was not at the meeting so an update regarding the train carriage idea was not available. It was thought that transport costs alone for getting a carriage on site might well be very high – MG wondered whether a bus might be a more cost-effective solution (did Millwall have one?). It was agreed to obtain news from SD and move forward from there.

ACTION – SD (initially)

4 WEBSITE

Along with the aim for a museum it was agreed that a history website was a key aim of the Group.

PF undertook to take soundings on the idea at a Club Liaison meeting he was due to attend later in the week and see who might be interested in helping the Group take this forward following RC having left the Group (Chris Hunt's name was mentioned).

It was noted that the intended future new Miles/Goody club history book could be a vital piece of the planning process if they were willing to help (post publication and initial sales period).

ACTION – PF

5 MATCH PROGRAMMES

It was agreed that a future long-term aim could be to look to hold one programme for every match.

Storage at present was an issue though there appeared to be the possibility of extending the existing Trust storage cupboard.

Resource for updating the existing Trust cataloguing of programmes held also needed to be addressed and a means of ensuring that we retained (i.e. did not sell!) one programme for every match would need to be found.

It was understood that a Trust memorabilia sale was due to take place soon.

It was viewed that, once a way forward could be identified, an additional people resource for taking on this project would need to be found.

MG undertook to establish the position regarding storage extension, existing Trust programme cataloguing and memorabilia sale status.

ACTION - MG

6 HISTORY PRESENTATION TO GROUPS

It was noted that MG had arranged for the Group (AL/MG) to give a presentation on club history to a Rayleigh WI meeting on 17.09.25.

AL undertook to see what help Pip or Paul Hill might be able to give in helping with making a video as part of this exercise.

MG undertook to discuss with the Community Foundation whether rolling out such a presentation to schools or other local community groups could be worth exploring.

ACTION: AL/MG

7 AOB

None.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be determined (look to hold on a 'need basis' but look to hold the next one before the end of the current season).