

A synopsis of the meeting held by the Blue and Gold Trust on
Sunday 25th Jan 2010 at the Masonic Centre King's Lynn at Noon

There were 54 members and officials in attendance.

The Trust Chairman, Neil Timms, gave a report which detailed the work undertaken by the Trust officials following the winding up of King's Lynn Football Club (1994) Ltd and these steps are listed below:-

- 1 The Trust held an immediate meeting at Lynnsport to determine the wishes of its membership in regard to the formation of the new Club. Having received a mandate from those present to pursue all avenues the Trust contacted the football authorities to inform them, within the 21 day deadline, that they wished to 're-form' KLFC.

The Trust also contacted the Council to ask to be considered for the lease to the Walks Stadium. The Council informed the Trust that there were 3 other interested parties, those being Buster Chapman, David Handley, and a local consortium, and that a set of criteria would be issued by the Council to all parties.

2. The Trust Board met to confirm that the Trust would work on its own bid for the lease but would arrange to meet the other parties to see if there was common ground in submitting a joint bid.

3. The criteria were received at 6 PM on 24th December.
4. The Trust heard, unofficially, that the local consortium were no longer interested in bidding for the lease so efforts were made to meet D.Handley and K.Chapman.
5. A meeting was held with D.Handley in Peterborough between Christmas and the New Year, attended by DH, Neil Timms, Len Candlish, and Phil Ellis where it became apparent the DH had done no work on his own bid but was, at that time, willing to put money into the new club.

Accordingly the Trust offered to make a joint bid that would make DH the Chairman with Trust officials making up the rest of the Board. DH would pay money into an account which he already held (KLFC Operating A/C) and would make the Trust officials signatories to that account.

The Trust officials had also built in safeguards regarding any future control of the Club which gave the Trust the first refusal of DH's share in the company, and also requiring 100% agreement from all Directors regarding any rights issue of new shares.

6. No money was transferred into that account, and DH publically stated that he would not pass the Council's credit checks and was therefore not proceeding with his bid.

He did state at that time that he was still prepared to support the Trust's bid with a £20000 donation. Accordingly the Trust drew up two cash flow projections, to include and to exclude that donation.

That donation never materialised.

7. The Trust also arranged a meeting with K.Chapman, to take place on his return to the country following the New Year holiday.

This meeting was attended by Neil Timms, Len Candlish, and Phil Ellis from the Trust, and by K.Chapman, J.Chapman, and K.Boon.

The meeting was beneficial in establishing the differing points of view but it was apparent that the Chapmans were uncomfortable with any potential involvement by the Trust.

8. The Trust also spoke to Jess Ibrom, who runs the KL Community Football scheme, through J.Gamble and M.Lane who are members of the KLCF executive Committee, to confirm our determination to support the work of KLCF if our bid was successful.

The trust also talked to Scarborough FC, a Director of which works in King's Lynn, and to the Chairman of Dereham Town FC who both gave invaluable advice regarding our business plan and cash flow preparations.

9. In an effort to boost our funds the Trust approached Norwich City and Boston Utd regarding the possibility of holding bucket collections. Whilst sympathetic to our cause they both said that collections would only be possible if the trust was granted the lease.

10. Our bid was submitted on the morning of 11th January and the Trust made a formal presentation to a panel at the Council on Wed 13th Jan. This included a question and answer session which leant heavily towards the financial aspects of running the Club.

The Trust received a phone call at 6 PM that evening to inform us that the Chapman bid had been successful.

11. The Trust has since held a meeting with the Council Chief Executive to find out how we could have improved our bid in order to :-

(a) be better prepared if the situation arises again

(b) enable us to advise other Trusts who may find themselves in a similar position.

The Trust were told that the Chapman bid had identified by name the people who would be carrying out certain functions in the new set-up. This was felt to be a little unfair as no mention was made of this in the criteria (which are published with this report) and which are not normally included in a business plan.

12. The Council has offered to meet with the Trust on a 3 monthly basis to discuss the progress being made at the Club, in particular with reference to supporter involvement, but also with reference to the quarterly management accounts which the new lease holder is required to submit to the Property Services Manager at the Council.

13. Neil Timms concluded his report by reminding the meeting that:-

(a) The Club is still in private ownership and that the supporters have no control of the use of any profit which may accrue

(b) the Trust is still seeking representation for the supporters and is writing to formally congratulate the Chapmans on winning the bid for the lease and to ask for a meeting between both parties.

WHAT NOW?

Neil handed over to the Trust Vice Chairman Len Candlish to re-state the Trusts aims and to give an indication of our future direction.

Len stated that the Trust was formed to represent the supporters in their involvement with the Club and to promote the Club in the community, and this has not changed in spite of the events since 25th November.

The Trusts existence is now vital in representing the supporters particularly given that the Chapmans idea of 'involvement' is to hold a monthly 'fans forum'.

The Trust will now be able to concentrate on fundraising and community activities and would ask all those interested in helping with this to contact the Trust.

The Trust officers realise that communication with members has not been as regular as intended but will ensure that this improves in the future now that we can concentrate on our core aims.

This will be partly achieved by the publication of Trust information in Tuesday's LNA in what was formerly the 'Heggs and Tales' column, as this was sponsored by a Trust member who is happy to donate the space to the Trust.

There will also be regular newsletter which will be e-mailed wherever possible to save postage. (please give us your e-mail address if we don't already have it).

The Trust currently has 210 full members, 165 juniors, 1 associate, and 3 corporates and will now be making a concerted effort to increase the corporate base with its subsequent benefit to members.

WEBSITE

The forum and Trust websites are being merged.

COMPOSITION OF THE TRUST

The current Board was elected at a previous members meeting and has co-opted other Directors in the meantime.

The AGM will be held within 6 months of the end of the financial year (31st August each year)

The current Board is in place for 2 years then HALF will stand down each year. These can stand for re-election together with anyone else who wishes to be considered for election.

CONTACT US

The Trust will not answer questions posted on the forum.

If you wish to ask a question on any aspect of Trust business please go to the Trust website and use the 'contact us' feature.

All enquiries will receive an immediate acknowledgement and an answer as soon as possible. Please be patient as the answer may need discussion and the Board / steering group meets every 3 weeks.

If there are major issues raised the Trust will call an EGM

COMMUNITY

The Trust will strengthen its tie with the KLCF and has arranged for the Blue and Gold Juniors to receive coaching from KLCF staff during the summer and to meet first team players when the season starts.

Paul Lusher, who is Secretary of the KLCF, gave a short update on the situation. KLCF are moving into the building which housed the commercial office at the ground and it is hoped that, subject to insurance and a risk assessment, football will return to the Walks next weekend with a game between Lynn and Norwich Ladies. KLCF have been told that they are part of Lynn FC's plans.

The community sub-group will examine various initiatives to strengthen and increase contacts between Community and Club.

FUNDRAISING

Why raise funds?

- (a) Our rules require us to hold 'prudent reserves' which we may need if the recent situation happens again.
- (b) To fund community projects

(c) To seek representation at the Club. As we have just seen 'money talks' so the more we have the stronger we are. BUT any representation has to be agreed by the members and has to be MEANINGFUL.

The Trust has approx. £8000 in the bank, all of which has been raised since the official launch on 19th November 2009

The quiz night on 23rd Nov raised £372

There will be a race night at the end of Feb.

Fundraising events are important because they bring people together as well as increasing funds. Accordingly we welcome all ideas and are especially looking for someone to lead the fundraising sub-group which would allow Julian Gamble to concentrate on his community role.

If you would like to volunteer please make contact. We do try to enjoy ourselves whilst on Trust business and all new faces will be made very welcome.

Another way of fundraising is by the indirect method. For example by means of scratch cards through a network of agents, and a monthly lottery by standing order, and these will be looked at soon.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q Were representatives of Lynn FC invited to this meeting?

A. Yes. Julian Gamble spoke to K.Boon on Thursday evening, Ken Rout invited K.Boon during a chat at Dereham FC on Sat afternoon, and Neil Timms spoke to K.Boon on Sat evening.

Q Is there a representative from Lynn FC in the room?

A (there wasn't one)

Q Does the Lynn FC bid meet the criteria for supporter involvement in the 'STRATEGIC DIRECTION' of the Club as laid down by the Council?

A Not in the opinion of the Trust. The matter has been raised with the Council.

Lynn FC needs to prove its capability to create a long term strategy for the Club.

Q Can the 25 year lease be assigned to a third party?

A This was raised at our meeting with the Council and we were told that they hadn't taken this into consideration. They have now.

Q Does the lease require a football club to be run at the Walks (as opposed to bars and functions only)?

A Again not previously considered by the Council. It is now.

Q Can the ground be sub-let?

A Answer as above.

Q If the composition of the Board of Lynn FC changes will any prospective Director be subject to the Fit and Proper Persons test as laid down by the FA?

A The council is now considering this scenario.

Q Will it be possible for Trust members to place their questions through the Trust Board to be taken forward to the 'fans forums'?

A Yes.

Q Has any contact been made with D.Handley to see if he is still interested in supporting the Trust?

A N.Timms has both his numbers. He is not answering his phones.

Q Will the Council have a representative on the Board of Lynn FC?

A The Council don't want a direct representative as they see it as a conflict of interest.

Q What would the Trust have done about appointing a Manager?

A The position would have been advertised.

Q Will Trust funds be given to Lynn FC?

A Only if 2/3 of the membership vote to do so.

The meeting closed at 14.30

Our thanks go to the Masonic Centre for hosting both this meeting and the quiz night at a relatively small cost, and to the bar staff for looking after us so well.

