

# **Minutes of CPST Annual General Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2008 7.30pm**

## **Croydon Town Hall**

Board Members Present – Alan Palmer, Alan Lewis, Lesley Palmer, Mervyn Pierce, John Finn & Sean Stevenson

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Mike Meech, Roland Ellison, Gerry Ryan & Nathan Lambert

James Mathie, from Supporters Direct, spoke briefly to the meeting and mentioned their new initiatives of surveys to help Trusts with membership recruitment and retention and software to help them operate and communicate effectively.

### **2. Minutes of the 2007 AGM**

These were approved without amendment on a show of hands and signed. Proposed by John Finn and seconded by Mervyn Pierce.

### **3. Finance/Accounts**

John Finn summarised the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008. In compliance with Supporters Direct rules, and as agreed at the last AGM, the Trust had used an Independent Examiner to sign off the accounts. This saves costs in comparison to a full audit. It is hoped that a new Independent Examiner could be found from within the Trust's membership. The current Examiner is looking to charge a more commercial rate. An allowance has been made in the accounts for some years to cover a potential tax liability. This can be written back in next year as it has not been claimed by HMRC and the limitation period is now up. The accounts were proposed by Roger Wallis, seconded by Peter Hacker and passed unanimously.

### **4. Resolution to Approve an Independent Examiner**

In accordance with Supporters Direct rules a resolution is required to enable the use of an Independent Examiner for the 2009 Accounts, subject to certain criteria being met. This was proposed by Eric Pudney, seconded by Sean Stevenson and passed unanimously.

### **5. Board Report**

Alan Palmer outlined the activities of the Trust and the main issues arising over the last year. These were as follows: -

**Annual Grants:** - The Trust is continuing its practice of making grants to Radio Mayday and the Crystal Palace Study Support Centre.

**Website:** - The Trust's website has been relaunched, although there are some current problems with online renewals and registration. The Trust has also registered with easyfundraising and easysearch and there are links to these sites on the website. Members who shop online were urged to register with easyfundraising via the Trust website link and help generate income for the Trust.

**Presentation:** - The Trust joined with PISA (Palace Independent Supporters Association) and the Fans Centenary Project to make a presentation to Clinton Morrison to mark his achievement of scoring 100 goals for CPFC.

**Youth Trust:** - CPST has relaunched the Crystal Palace Youth Trust, a small registered charity set up to promote and develop sporting activity for young people in Croydon and surrounding areas. The Youth Trust and CPST are separate organisations but have common trustees/directors. The Youth Trust has agreed to sponsor a very worthwhile project, initiated by Councillor Gerry Ryan, in the Selhurst Ward. The project will involve coaches from CPFC's Football in the Community Scheme and will run for the duration of the school holidays, using Astro turf facilities attached to the Brit School. It will be aimed at marginalized and disadvantaged children in the Selhurst Ward and provides a way for us to work with the Club on an important local community project. The project also has police and other charitable backing. CPST will also seek advice from Supporters Direct about how to obtain grants for similar community projects.

**Selhurst Park:** - As discussed at the last AGM there was a need for the Trust to gain a better understanding of the situation with regard to the ownership of the ground and the Club's lease. We had been able to establish that the ground was owned by Selhurst Park Ltd, and that Paul Kemsley, the former Vice Chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, was involved in that company. We had written to Simon Jordan to clarify the situation but had not received a response. Through our contacts with the Tottenham Hotspur Supporters' Trust we were able to gain direct contact with Paul Kemsley, who confirmed that he had provided the funding for the purchase of Selhurst Park and that SP Ltd had been placed under the Rock Investment Group (owned by Paul Kemsley). As, initially, it had been confirmed that the Club's lease was due to expire in July 2010 with no automatic right to renewal, there were concerns about the Club's security of tenure. These concerns were alleviated when it was announced that a new 25 year lease had been agreed, which also gives Simon Jordan the option to buy the freehold during the term of the lease. Paul Kemsley, in a conversation with Alan Palmer on 17/04/08, confirmed that he was happy an agreement had been reached, that he was sympathetic to the Club's position and certainly had no desire to cause difficulties for the Club.

Following the Board Report there was a general discussion about some of the issues raised. One of the members present advised that a council employee had told a local Councillor that the usable life of the Main Stand was now between 5 and 10 years.

## **6. Elections**

Alan Palmer, Alan Lewis, John Finn and Mervyn Pierce were all standing for re-election as their current terms of office had expired.

They were unanimously re-elected.

Mike Meech has stepped down from the Trust Board. The Board thanks Mike for his work for the Trust since its inception and his service as a Director since 2001. His contribution and commitment will be greatly missed.

## **7. Any Other Business**

**Golden Eagles:** - There was some concern raised by members present about the Club's Golden Eagles scheme. The Trust remains willing, as previously discussed with the Club, to promote and relaunch Golden Eagles if the Club wanted this at anytime.

**Fans Forums:** - At the last AGM it was agreed that the Trust would look into the possibility of arranging informal fans evenings/forums with ex-players. We have not pursued this as PISA advised that they were talking to the Club about the reintroduction of fans forums. PISA is still waiting for confirmation from the Club that this will happen.

**Venue:** - Gerry Ryan was thanked for arranging the use of the Town Hall facilities for the AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.