

Minutes from the North Ferriby FC supporters Club Committee meeting 17 January 2024

Present:

Les Hare, Chris Bolder, Anthony Wood, Martin Wood, Dave Sandall, Zach Taylor, Jon Brooke, Tom Rickwood, Geoff Golliker, Brian Sugarman, Clive Musson, Brad Corrin, Tom O'Sullivan, Chris Freebury, Sarah Murphy, Oliver Murphy, Martin Ward, Keith Dymond, Mick Taylor, Aaron Coneyworth, Mike Birney, Andrew Frankland-Barber, Mike Clemson, Matthew Kempson, Jon Lawson, John Pickering, Aaron Brown, Jason Stevens-Read, Mark Leighton. Mike Sketch (bar manager)

Apologies:

David Worrall, James Worrall, Liz Dennett, Mike Dennett, James Dennett, Alex Dennett, Mark Sewell, James Chestney, Steve Dale, Malcolm Dale, Paul Bowes, Devon Bowes, John Wheatcroft, Christine Henderson-Begg, Neil Henderson-Begg, David Plowright, Tony King, Rob Thorpe, Rod Chambers, Nigel Richardson, Ian Buffey, Jeff Gill

VEO camera

Chris Bolder thanked the supporters club for funding the acquisition of the new Veo camera and went on to give a demonstration of the device.

The camera automatically produces match statistics for such things as time in possession, where we have the possession, and it can be used for training sessions.

The biggest advantage is the 'highlights' list. It can analyse corners, goals, and any part of a game Chris and Paul want to look at. It saves trawling through hours of video footage and enables them to instantly find what they want from a game. They can also look at specific things such as the distance between the forwards, the positioning of the midfield players and the defensive structures. It can drill down to basics.

Chris and Paul typically analyse the footage on Saturday night or Sunday morning and send it to the players with their specific points to note via their mobile phones or PCs. The Veo footage backs-up the points which Chris and Robbo may have already raised with players.

The system works on Artificial Intelligence and tracks the ball.

Chris said most teams now have a Veo camera.

If you wish to investigate it further, please see veo.co on the Internet.

Mark Leighton (Chairman) Update on the Supporters Club

Mark updated those present that we now have 186 members, which is a phenomenal number.

An online member survey will be circulated for feedback regarding what we are doing right and what more you expect of the Supporters Club. This should be coming out soon.

We intend to hold the Annual General Meeting in April in the clubhouse. If you wish to consider being a member of the Committee so you can influence things more, please consider it, as there will be at least one vacancy.

The quiz night will take place on 6th March in the clubhouse. At the time of the meeting there were 7 teams of 6 and we would like to have 10 teams. If you can form a team or would like to join a team look at the link on the club shop website www.nffcclubshop.co.uk/product/quiz/

After the successful evening with Les and Chris last October, we are also arranging another similar event but this time with players.

There will be another Walking Football tournament later this year. Again if you would like to form a team or join a quiz team, please contact the Supporters Club.

Land Development

Les Hare provided an update on proposed land development at the ground.

In 1992 when Les took over the club there was no Youth set up. From 1996, there are now 23 Youth teams for both boys and girls from ages 6 to 21.

The Club acquired land adjacent to the ground from Trinity House and the 4G pitch was built. However, only the Under 7s and 8s can use this. The under 9s and 10s use the side of the cricket pitch and the under 11s use the school. The rest of our teams must play on rented pitches such as Costello, Brough, Tranby and Market Weighton. Not only are other teams trying to hire these pitches, but it costs circa £20K a year in facility hire. Nor is it ideal that the teams are so widespread across the area, therefore, the aim is to get a hub at the ground where all the teams are centered at one location.

We have the allotment to one side, the railway line to another and the playing field to a third. The only viable option is land owned by Trinity House behind the 4G.

Beals have acquired the land from Trinity House for the development of houses. The law stipulates that any housing development must have a green space within it. After negotiations with Beal Homes and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, an open space has been granted at the east side of the playing fields for two football pitches. This will mean up to the under 14 teams should be able to use them. That is Phase 1.

Phase 2, which can't be put in to place until Phase 1 is completed, is to add a car park at the other side of the 4G with a capacity of up to 80 vehicles, which will be open to season ticket holders and Supporters Club members with entrance via the track behind the main stand. Another full-size pitch will also be added at the other side of the car park. Les will even try to get another one alongside that.

The club has the full approval of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the East Riding FA, and the Parish Council. The costs will be picked by Beals, the Football Foundation and the County FA. We will maintain the pitches and so they will be of a high standard. The aim is for the facilities to be self-funding and it is hoped that the parents will use the club facilities, which will add to income streams.

We are a Community Club and want to be part of the Community.

Other points raised by Les

Les showed a still photo from the VEO camera of Belper's first goal. It was clearly 4 yards offside. He showed it to the officials, who at least apologized. Another other official who had seen the clip, could not understand how it had been missed.

Les referred to the statement from Marske United who have just had to withdraw from the NPL Premier Division which included an appeal for £120K to keep the club afloat. Les said this was an unfortunate position and emphasized the need for close management and realism around club budgets. Les highlighted other NPL clubs with weekly playing budgets in the region of £5K and said this offered a perspective in terms of what clubs are prepared to pay.

Les said it is critical to maintain a sustainable budget. Chris has spoken to several prospective players, which fall outside of our budget envelope – reports have some NPL teams paying players an incredible £400 a week.

Les asked supporters to consider that the Villagers were in the NCEL 1 between 1982 and 1986. Chris and Paul got us promoted in 1 year. After promotion, the club was then in the NCEL Premier Division between 1986 and 2000 - again Chris and Paul got the club promoted in 1 year.

After this, the club was last in the Northern Premier League from 2000 to 2005 and the Northern Premier League Premier Division from 2005 to 2013. There are strong teams in the NPL and, as such, getting promotion is a major challenge. Competing at this level and being successful is a huge challenge - the club's future success is *a marathon not a sprint*.

Les presented a snapshot of injury statistics and pointed out that Chris has only been able to name the same starting 11 once this season, not through tinkering but through injuries.

Question and Answer (Q&A)

How do you improve the player's physicality, stamina, and tactical skills during the season?

Pre-season is for fitness and the mid-week training sessions are useful although once the season starts the conditioning side is not always possible, so it is up to the players to look after themselves and ensure their own conditioning.

What is the attitude of the players towards bookings and sending offs?

No player plans to be dismissed intentionally, though experienced players must consider the impact of poor conduct in games. We have picked up too many yellow cards through the mis-timed tackles resulting from the speed of the opponent, others through players becoming frustrated in games, and most, disappointingly, through petulance. Players pay disciplinary fines personally.

How practical is it to run coaches for local games?

It is not practical or economical to hire a coach for every game due to hire charges. Therefore, most times players use their own cars to travel to games.

As there was no coach for the previous midweek game at Hebburn, there is a possibility of a coach being arranged for the away game at Grantham, as the Hebburn coach has been budgeted for, and more information will follow.

What is the current injury situation?

Danny Emerton has torn his Posterior Cruciate Ligament (PCL) and is likely to be out for a lengthy period. Oli Donald dislocated his knee, and it is not clear what is happening with the injury as he still cannot put

any weight on the leg. Joel Shortland dislocated his ankle and damaged ligaments, and the best-case scenario is that he 3 weeks away from playing.

Danny East has cracked a rib and has been playing with pain killers (Danny was supposed to be out for 2 weeks but played at Grimsby and picked up another injury).

Louis Kirk has ongoing hamstring issues for which several solutions have been tried. He will possibly be on the bench at Grimsby.

We provide the best insurance scheme in the NPL to cover a player's loss of earnings for up to 2 years and with other benefits. It is not, however, a private medical scheme. The players either must wait for the NHS, unless they are an ex-professional and can go through the PFA or pay privately themselves.

Omar Sangyang is no longer a Ferriby player. Keegan Green was called-up for Belper and Grimsby games, after training with various clubs.

Les is aware the website needs updating, and he is arranging for the updates to be done.

The Supporters Club WhatsApp Group

There are 186 members of the Supporters Club of which 113 are currently linked to the WhatsApp group. This means only 4 out 10 supporters don't see messages posted via the group. This may be due to some people not having mobile phones or having withdrawn from the group for some reason.

Within the SC committee, there have been discussions about the WhatsApp group with the feeling that messages do not comply with the WhatsApp Guide. Options ranging from scrapping it completely and continuing with the current format and reviewing the pros and cons of the group at the end of the season.

At the meeting, those who voiced an opinion on the matter stated, when used properly, the group was an important and effective communication tool, and that it should stay in place for two-way interaction.

It was also stated that that the group is a quick and uncomplicated way to promote events or news regarding the Supporters Club or the Football club - for instance, if anyone needs a lift to a game, or someone has spare room in their car they can post it.

There was a strong feeling that the group is not a discussion forum for team and player performance or to be critical. If people wish to discuss team performances, music for the team to walk out to, any other team, then please set up your own forum using any of the available social media channels.

The WhatsApp Guide will be re-distributed and users not complying with the guide will be reminded of the purpose of the group. If there is a feeling the guide is being disregarded, users will be removed from the group.

The general feeling was that the WhatsApp Group is the front door to the supporter's club and several supporters have highlighted their dissatisfaction with comments made and the nature of some posted messages over the recent period.

Supporters present at the meeting felt that it was important for there to be harmony and positivity for the team across the supporters club. Unfortunately, there have been many examples where messages

detract from this, and this has resulted in friction and resentment through subsequent messages, and this cannot continue to be the case.

Those present agreed with the above approach.

Raffle

Well done to the raffle winners who were Aaron Coneyworth and John Pickering.

Anthony Wood

Secretary

North Ferriby FC Supporters Club