DUNDEE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS’ LIAISON GROUP

SUMMARY NOTES 2017/18 MEETING 7

HELD AT TANNADICE PARK ON SATURDAY 14th APRIL 2018.

Present:- Colin Stewart (Chair), David Dorward (DUFC)

Special Guest: Paul Sturrock

Maureen Phillips (Independent), Blair Louden (Independent), Steven Drake (Independent), Dennis McGurk (DUSF), Kay Sievewright (ULT), Stuart Campbell (ArabTrust), Tom Cairns (DUBC), John Lindsay (Independent)

Apologies: Ian Barr (Independent), Stewart Haddow (Independent)

Not Present: John McKenzie, Derek McFarlane

Minutes: Michelle White

Invited along to the meeting was Jamie Kirk – Dundee United Community Trust

Paul Reid – Dundee United Communications

* Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Jamie Kirk.

* Jamie gave us a background to the Community Trust (DUCT) and explained the current structure and projects. DUCT work around 4 pillars: Sport, Health, Education and Inclusion – Jamie gave an overview of the activities that are currently being run including Homework Clubs, Walking Netball and Football, J-League and Foodbank Collections. Questions were invited and answered regarding ongoing improvements to the selection and referral system, expanding into Angus and Fife (plans already in place to pilot a project in Angus) and working with other football clubs (links are already in place and clubs regularly share good practice).

Jamie stated that the priority at the moment is to stabilise the projects that are already in place and to develop the J-League.

Jamie offered to come along to speak to any groups that wished to discuss more about DUCT and their projects.

* Colin gave a brief description of the new Junior Tangerines group and explained that there will be links with the Junior Academy. He also explained what will be included in the membership package and that membership is included in the Junior Season Ticket package.
* Colin asked for some initial feedback on the new Season Ticket packages. There was very positive feedback for the new ‘Teenage’ ticket which has been a direct result of SLG suggestions. It was acknowledged that the challenge now is to sell the tickets. Suggestions about the loyalty period were raised and it was agreed to take these back to the Board for discussion.
* Colin welcomed Paul Reid.

Paul explained that since the last meeting he had attended, renovations to the new George Fox hospitality suite are due to commence at the end of the season. Sponsorship is being sought to further increase the hospitality experience.

Plans are in place for the regeneration of the Hydro building next to the GA Arena and a proposal is due to be submitted.

Sponsorship has been agreed with Utilita and Carling for next season.

At the end of the season there will be an option to look at alternative retail partners and the Club are looking at the possibility of bringing this element back under the responsibility of the Club itself.

The Club are looking into a new ticket system that includes the ability to gather loyalty points. Staff are currently visiting and speaking to other clubs to establish the best and most effective and efficient way to introduce a card system.

It was raised that fans would prefer the Club to see the shop and retail element to return to the Club. Paul stated that he would be looking to put a financially viable proposal to the Board.

* AOCB – The group have been asked to submit feedback regarding the Supporters’ Charter to Colin by 23rd April.

Colin also reminded everyone about the upcoming Race Night and announced the rescheduled Q&A with Paul Sturrock and guests.

* Paul Sturrock spoke to the group about his position as Chief Scout and discussed his hopes for success.

He discussed the importance of Youth Development and bringing appropriate players into the reserve and first team.

When asked about establishing a link with an English club, Paul explained that he has many links in England and is already in talks with a number of managers about players.

Following a question about players signing longer term contracts, Paul explained that the hope was to establish a strong core squad and only bring in loan players when necessary to cover injuries.

* Next Meeting: 2nd June

Next Meeting TBC