

**Minutes of the meeting of the Doncaster Rovers Shadow Board**  
**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**Present:** Derek Daniels, James Errington, Dan Pearson, Mellony Shepard, Len South, Gill Shepherd, Phil Winterman

**Club Representatives:** Gavin Baldwin (CEO), Shaun Lockwood (COO), Adam Grice (Club Secretary)

**Apologies:** N/A

**1. Doncaster Rovers Question & Answer Session**

- i. Gavin Baldwin (GB) explained that Terry Bramall (TB) (Chair) and his thought process when assuming the role of chair of the club and the direction of travel for the organisation.
- ii. GB, Grant McCann (GM), Adam Grice (AG) and Matt Evans (ME) (Finance Director) all met with TB recently to go through the plans and wishes for the football department ahead of the 2024-2025 season. This included timetable and process for contract renewals for players. GB added that there is a finance meeting at the end of the month. Other discussions which were held in this meeting included:
  - (i) Potential additional resources across medical and physio department to reduce injuries.
  - (ii) Location of pre-season training camp.
- iii. ME, GB and AG will all meeting Premier League Health Partners to discuss the Club's premium payments for the 2024-2025 season given the club have had bad injuries and high bills over the course of the last four/five seasons.
- iv. GB addressed the current structure of the board following Terry Bramall's decision to assume the role of chairman in December 2023. GB explained that while David Blunt remains a shareholder of the club with around 33 per cent, alongside Terry Bramall and Gavin Baldwin who both own around 33.3% per cent, discussions are continuing.
- v. GB explained that the success of Doncaster Rugby League last season and their promotion to the Championship will assist the group as it will generate revenues across catering. The Club Doncaster model continues to add benefit to the club by providing non-football related revenue
- vi. GB was asked if the club wholly owned the Cantley Park training ground, which GB responded to confirm that the club have a lease on the which runs continuously with the terms of the lease for the stadium. Doncaster RLFC have recently contributed to an upgrade to facilities to Cantley Park by installing floodlights on one of the training pitches.
- vii. LS stated that it was his understanding that the role of the Shadow Board is to hold the board of directors and the club to account for the decisions they make and not have an input in the day to day running of the club. GB responded by saying that is mainly correct, but where the Shadow Board do have an input is questioning why

the club are making specific decisions or why the club is doing things in a particular way.

- viii. DD stated that he was privileged enough to be in TB's company recently and he is fully committed to the club.
- ix. DP noted that the stadium is 17 years old and areas of this will naturally start to break due to wear and tear. Discussions were had about how extraordinary maintenance repairs would be funded moving forward.
- x. LS questioned where the Doncaster Rovers Belles fit into the Club Doncaster. GB confirmed they were a valuable part of the Club Doncaster model and the club were looking at how to develop the Belles.

## **2. Minutes from the last meeting held on 13 January 2024**

- i. The members of the Shadow Board passed the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 13, 2024 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

## **3. Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 13 January 2024**

- i. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

## **4. Safeguarding**

- i. SL explained that the Barnados audit has been completed and the verbal feedback received has been very good. The club are awaiting the official report.

## **5. Health & Safety**

- i. SL confirmed that the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA) conducted a visit at the end of January and the club handled everything extremely well. In fact, the SGSA stated that the Club dealt with the "medical emergency" in the West Stand very well. DP stated that the Shadow Board should recognise the work the club are doing in respect of dealing with incidents like this and the work they are doing to ensure the stadium is a safe environment.
- ii. The club has a documentation review with the SAG on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- iii. The club are continuing to source quotes on hand railing but the priority has been the documentation review which underpins the safety certificate.

## **6. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**

- i. Dan Breslin is leading on an EDI audit which the club are currently in the middle of the process for.

## **7. Personnel Changes**

- i. GB and SL presented the current staffing structure of Club Doncaster to the Shadow Board so they could see how it all works before changes in the staffing structure were divulged.
- ii. Chief Commercial Officer Jon Warburton is moving on from Doncaster Rovers at the end of the current season as he takes up a similar role at a national football organisation. Further to the discussions at the last meeting it was confirmed that Shaun Lockwood will be taking over the strategic direction of the commercial department, operations would move to Chris Wood and Gaynor Waddington will be stepping up to become Partnerships Manager.
- iii. GB explained that TB also has a job description as the chairman of the club which is a first.

## **8. Election of New Shadow Board Members**

- i. JE stated that the Shadow Board is looking to open up the availability for potential new members to join the Shadow Board for the new season. There is a process in place which needs to be followed and this will be done in due course.

## **9. Draft Constitution**

- i. The Shadow Board constitution has been drafted and other clubs had been consulted for shared learning.
- ii. DD noted that the draft constitution and election process will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

## **10. A.O.B**

- i. DRFC have made their decision on which direction of travel they are taking in respect of the new iFollow/Website deal and they have decided not to go with the EFL model which they are currently part of. SL explained that this was not a financial

decision and it was made to give the club more pull and power in managing their own content better.

- ii. LS stated that he had received a complaint from an unnamed supporter who had purchased a black away shirt for the 2023/24 season, however, had felt that he had not had value for money out of this because the team had not worn it that often. AG explained that DRFC have to register their kits with the EFL prior to the start of each season and then we have to submit our kit colours prior to each game for approval by the league and match officials. AG stated that due to the number of teams that play in full red kits (which is unknown at the time of kit production (November) , the EFL have advised that the black kit could not be worn (or advised that the kit was not worn) as black is a colourblindness clash with red. AG stated that there is an online programme that I have to check kits on to see if there are any kit clashes. Ultimately, that is why the club have not worn the black kit as much as what they would have liked to this season.