

Minutes of the Logica Football Club Extraordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007 at 7,30pm.

In light of the problems that the team has increasingly encountered this season in raising the requisite number of players, the Supremo called an **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)** to discuss the future of the club, and obtain a democratic consensus on how to proceed.

Logica Football Club is now 27 years old, no mean feat for a Sunday morning team. It would be a mighty shame if the club folded now due to what some might deem an unfortunate conspiracy of events in the season just past: an unusually large number of long term injuries, other unavoidable extended bouts of unavailability, and some excessively long periods without a fixture due to events beyond our control. But before we begin to sound too much like the Special One, some rousing responses from within the club, constructive suggestions and offers of help, not to mention our impressive relegation-avoiding 5-2 win on the last day of the season, all suggest that there is plenty of life in the old club yet.

The EGM duly took place on the evening just past in the Gentlemen's suite of the aptly named Comedy public house near Piccadilly. The attendance of twelve was encouraging, and was supplemented by the written views submitted by a number of other club members unable to attend. The debate throughout a long evening was passionate but constructive, and the assembly were able to reach decisive conclusions on all the proposals before them.

EGM Proposals:

- 1. Logica Football Club (LFC) should continue playing Sunday morning football in a competitive league next season.**

This motion was passed unanimously.

- 2. LFC should continue to ply its trade in the Sportsmans League, but voluntarily drop down two divisions.**

This proved the most hotly debated issue of the EGM, with views initially split approximately 50-50 for and against.

Those in favour felt that, given the struggle to get players this season, the club needed to rebuild its squad over the next couple of seasons, and this would be easier to do in a lower division where Logica would hope to be more competitive. We have done little more than survive in Division Two in recent seasons and some players might be getting disillusioned with regular "batterings".

In contrast, others felt strongly that we had earned our place in Division Two on merit, and should not give it up so lightly. With the exception of Varsovia, none of the sides we have played this season were significantly better than us, and we would be more than able to continue to compete in Division Two with a few new players and the return of some of the long-term absentees. It was felt that the problems experienced this season would not necessarily be resolved by dropping two divisions, where the standard would be unpredictable. Indeed as many players might be lost as gained, with players who want to play at the highest level possible not interested in playing at what may be a lower standard of football.

After much eloquent and lengthy debate, it was decided that a decision on

this issue be deferred until the other proposals had been discussed.

When attention returned to this subject later, a number of proponents of voluntary relegation had changed their minds as other matters were discussed. At the end of the evening each attendee was invited to voice his view on the matter before a vote was taken. The result was: one vote in favour of the proposal; ten votes against; and one abstention.

Consequently, the club will **NOT** be seeking voluntary relegation.

3. LFC should vacate the Stade d'Ilea as its home ground.

The crux of this issue is that, although the bowling green surfaces at the Stade are a pleasure to play our silky one-touch football on, in order to maintain this quality, the Stade ground-staff have to call off games at the first sight of heavy rain. The club need to play matches pretty much every week to keep the momentum going.

All present agreed that they enjoyed playing at the Stade. It was estimated that maybe three games had been postponed at the Stade this season due to the weather. Others were called off due to the non-availability of opponents (Cup ties or suspension). The alternatives were considered. Richardson Evans was the most favoured alternative, but Groom stated that they experience the same level of weather-related postponements. The Supremo also indicated that we would have no chance of securing a pitch at the Civil Service Ground in Chiswick. Wimbledon Common Extensions was not favoured by some due to logistics, not least the impossibility of getting there on public transport.

A vote was taken. Three remained in favour of the proposal, nine were against. Most in favour of leaving the Stade indicated that they would not be if the only alternative was Riverside Lands, which the Supremo indicated was the most likely scenario. Furthermore, if we did leave the Stade, the lengthy waiting list meant that we would be unable to return there in the foreseeable future.

The decision was therefore taken **to retain the Stade d'Ilea as Logica's home ground**. Club members would keep their eyes open for alternative home grounds – a private ground like Welham's Garrett Park Stadium appealed to some. It was also agreed that the strategy at the annual League Fixture meeting would be to schedule as many home fixtures as possible before November and after February to try and minimise bad-weather postponements.

4. LFC require a genuine and committed committee by which the sizable administrative effort is shared amongst a number of people.

The crux here was that Supremo Groom has done a remarkable job for an even more remarkable 7 seasons, but it is really time for the load to be shared. There was a very moving moment when Mr. Banoub articulated everyone's deep debt of gratitude for all that Groom had done for the club over that time. All were agreed, it had gone well beyond the call of duty. Groom agreed to maintain responsibility for liaising with the LSSC, but all other duties were to be shared by a new committee.

Nominations were taken for the proposed committee positions and were

seconded. In each case, there was only one nomination, and so a vote proved unnecessary.

- **Supremo:** A joint candidature of **Mr. Steve Preston** and **Mr. Rob Sapwell** were enthusiastically welcomed. They will be in overall charge of all team, committee and administrative affairs. They will pick and announce the squad each week, send out the appropriate e-mails, be the point of contact for cry-offs and any other matters. They will be in charge of all footballing strategy, formation, and tactics. They will name the starting XI, organise pre-match warm-up (stretches etc), deliver inspirational pre-match team talks, as well as choose a captain. Mr. Preston, on behalf of the duo, said they would need time to consider their approach to this last issue, who they would appoint, and which tasks to delegate to a Captain.
- **Treasurer:** **Mr. James Buck** volunteered for this position. **Mr. Nigel Hoyland** offered himself as deputy, to stand in when James was absent. Responsibilities include collecting subs on match days, sorting out money with opposing team and referees, paying money into the bank, issuing cheques to pay for pitches at the Monday night league meeting, and also liaising with Mr. Groom as regards LSSC financial paperwork.
- **Social Secretary:** **Mr. Paul Banoub** put himself forward for this role. Offers of help from Mr. Lurch were politely declined. Responsibilities include organising occasional midweek team bonding sessions, more regular post-match beers, Annual Awards Dinners, any end-of-season or Xmas bashes, and so forth.
- **Asset Manager:** **Mr. Denholm Syme**, although not present, had offered his services for this role in advance of the meeting. He will be responsible for kit, balls, gloves, flags, pumps, tape, water, and all other footballing accessories, in particular ensuring their prompt and safe arrival at the ground each week. Damo's boots were deemed outside his remit. Also responsible for delegating laundry duties.
- **League Meeting Attendee:** **Mr. Ross Melville** volunteered for this role, which involves attending the Sportsmans League meetings on the Monday evening before a home match (or organising somebody else to attend if he could not make it for some reason). Tasks to be performed - to book & pay for a pitch, fill in the requisite paperwork - should take no longer than 15 minutes. Also attendance at the pre-season fixtures meeting in July or August, and one AGM per year.
- **Chairman:** Finally it was announced that **Mr. Mark Abbott** would continue in his long-held post of Chairman. After some discussion as to what exactly this role entailed, it transpired that Abbott was the ideal candidate, for it involved no work at all.

5. There should be a conscious effort to improve team spirit and identity.

Along with the other proposals debated, a number of collective commitments were made to help avoid a recurrence of this season's problems. In particular, personal commitment to the club should be taken more seriously, including increased availability, taking responsibility for personal fitness as well as imbibing slightly less ale on a Saturday night. Also, it was agreed that a concerted effort would be made to organise friendly matches on blank Sundays, or training sessions when matches are

postponed. These commitments were deemed a critical factor in a number of players changing their minds in regard to staying in Division Two. All were agreed that if action here did not match promises, then the club would experience the same problems next season.

6. It would greatly improve our performances if the bulk of the squad attended midweek training every week.

Whilst undoubtedly true, logistics and other domestic commitments make it genuinely difficult for many to attend. Alternative locations were discussed, but the wide geographical spread of squad members meant that Raynes Park was probably as good a location as was possible. Some pledged to try and attend training more often, whilst others considered form a second team in the 5-side league where some of the players already play every week.

7. Any Other Business. No further business, and so the meeting was closed.