

Pre AGM Update – February 2010

Hello and a belated Happy New year to all members and Friends of The B.E.S.T! An intended newsletter prior to Christmas bit the dust when things at the office got a little busy and exciting – but we hope this will bring you up to date with what has been a fruitful and positive period for your Supporters Trust.

Our belief remains as ever, that Bedford Town Football Club Ltd needs wider ownership and a change of culture if it is to survive and thrive. We continue to work for the day when the club can develop the fan base and its budget, by working in partnership with the political; business; educational and sporting organisations of our town

Ordinary Membership has risen very slightly and currently 92 of you are members of The B.E.S.T. Except you're not ordinary – you're very special!

The exciting thing is that we slightly changed our focus around August time, to concentrate more on the “bigger picture”. We have been delighted with the level of success we are experiencing in getting our message across and attracting support for our long term plans

We have researched much more thoroughly the proposed development of the **Bedford River Valley Park Project** and the **Rowing Lake Project**. The club is inside the proposed 3500 acre park. The knowledge we have gained has greatly helped us understand past, present and future.

We are successfully developing relationships with Chief Officers and political Members of the new unitary Bedford Borough Council, who of course are the head leaseholders to the New Eyrie. A cross party contact group has now been set up and will meet with your Board for the first time later this month. Our President Patrick Hall MP remains as interested and supportive as ever.

The Commercial Group of the Trust has begun to get out and recruit Bedford businesses to our vision for the future. We do need help on this Group however. It would greatly speed up progress, and **if you have sales or marketing experience we would value hearing from you.**

We have also begun to meet individual members of the Land Owners Group involved in the BRVP project, and developers who may be involved if the Park Project goes ahead in the mid to late 2010 to 20s. You need to get in early!

All this activity has of course taken us away from the business of fund raising to keep us going administratively. Boot sales and the like are so time consuming for little reward, and it's important we direct our efforts to the work described above. That way, lies the future of the Eagles. We thus look forward to you renewing your membership this year. If you can afford to, do consider a minimum £2 per month Standing Order commitment to the Trust when the forms arrive. That would be greatly appreciated.

You will we know, excuse us for not seeking to get your Trust involved in the current alleged financial difficulties at the club. We were very clear when the club was split into two, and the FMC created, that this was not, and could not be a successful way forward. Such responsibility for fan involvement must come with the power and control to make necessary changes, and it was clear that this was not to be.

Our regard for the loyalty and hard work of the few who undertake this responsibility is undiminished – and yet we feel they are misguided. We remain of the view that you cannot change what you do not control, and that our limited time and resources must be spent productively.

We will not therefore be present as an organisation at any public meetings which seek to uphold or justify the transfer of responsibility for the state of the club to the fans.

With absolute power comes absolute responsibility for the majority shareholders. We ask you to recognise that we can change **nothing** until that changes.

However, we repeat here our previously published statement that we will meet and work with any group or individual dedicated to developing a community club in the mid to long term future.

We also ask you to accept that **The B.E.S.T.** and known others will not let the club die, whatever fate befalls it in the interim – and know you will join us in that commitment.

Our website, though popular, is in dire need of skilled management and continuous development. How DO you get a Paypal page set up!!?

Discussions are current with one or two people and organisations who may be able to give us skill and time. Knowing how committed we all are to making this work to the ultimate benefit of the football club and the town, we have little doubt that the content on <http://www.bedfordeaglestrust.com/> will soon be even better!

Take care all of you. The AGM will be on Thursday 13th May at the Kings Arms in St Marys' Street. Bedford. We are going to get the "business bit" over asap and then, in an Open Forum, move on the discuss what a Community Club can look like in action – so put it in your diaries and come along for a pint and a positive evening.

Very Best wishes on behalf of the Board of Society

Terry Pavey
Chair
The B.E.S.T.