



Tuesday, 16th January 2007

Meeting between RST and Sir David Murray

A Trust delegation met with Chairman Sir David Murray and director Donald Wilson yesterday at Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. The Trust challenged the chairman on many issues and below is the full minutes of the meeting.

Present:

RST: Malcolm McNiven, Scott McMillan, Mark Dingwall, Stewart Franklin
Rangers FC: Sir David Murray, Donald Wilson

MINUTES

1. *What is the future strategy of club to get us back to 1st place in Scottish football?*
- A. As well as the new management team the Chairman indicated that the club were active in the transfer market both in terms of buying and selling players. A budget – in line with current finance policy – had been agreed and the club hoped to make the required player changes to renew our challenge on the field.

The Chairman emphasised that £8million had already been spent in the last year in terms of transfer fees and pay offs. To that end, the club could not sanction the kind of spending that many fans wanted to see as the current board refused to overburden the club with debt that could cause long term problems. He agreed that the club had to operate more efficiently in certain areas (particularly the transfer market) to meet the challenges in front of us.

When challenged, the Chairman shared the belief that, in order to satisfy his and the fans' ambitions, renewed inward investment was imperative. Both parties discussed various methods and it was obvious that in the current financial climate that such investment was difficult to achieve. However, the Chairman assured the Trust that he and the board were working extremely hard to improve our financial resources.



Further discussions were planned so both parties could contribute to this vital part of our future. The Chairman felt that the Trust had shown via its innovative 'Gersave' project that it could facilitate fan involvement with the club and the Chairman welcomed this developing relationship.

2. *Where does Sir David Murray fit into this structure?*

A. The Chairman still believes he is the correct man for the job at this moment in time. He feels that until he gets the club back to the level of expectation of the fans that it would not be prudent to sell his shareholding especially if he believes they are not in the best long term interests of Rangers.

3. *The clear feeling of isolation of the fans from the club regarding several issues.*

A. The Chairman agreed that communication of supporters' problems was not always as efficient as he'd like. When asked about certain issues – such as the use of the 'We Are the People' phrase or the threat of removal of the Union flag from Ibrox – he strongly denied that the club would back any moves by the media or the authorities to remove such symbols from the support. Indeed, he said that he would oppose such action in the strongest possible way.

The Trust also raised the issue of confusion regarding the involvement of Rangers Youth Development (RYD) in our youth system. Donald Wilson expressed surprise when informed of certain supporters perceptions of RYD and categorically denied any private individual profited from its operations.

Again it was felt that lack of communication contributed to such misperceptions and the club agreed with the Trust that more had to be done to avoid such problems in the future.

4. *Under-achievement in other areas – surely it cannot be acceptable – who is responsible?*

A. The Chairman felt that he had acted re: changes by the removal of the last two managers. He did agree with the Trust in that other areas of the club were under-performing and that he himself had made mistakes in recent years. Through various actions outlined below he was working extremely hard to make the club more efficient and improve our contribution at every level – on and off the field.

5. *Barry Ferguson/Paul le Guen fiasco*

A. Although the Chairman still felt Paul le Guen was an honourable man, he indicated that both parties (the club and former manager) had no choice but to part company as it was clear from an early stage that Paul le Guen was having difficulty with adapting to life in Scotland. As a result of this, other problems arose in different areas which precipitated in the unacceptable public spat of



the New Year. The Chairman made it clear that he was not in the country at the time of the incident. However he was aware it was imminent but not of the specific timing. Once notified, he felt he had to act quickly to remedy the situation; thus after consultation with the manager both parties felt the time was right to part company. This was done amicably and with minimal cost to the club.

The Chairman gave assurances that player/management rifts would not be allowed to develop and that the manager always had the ultimate responsibility when it came to decision-making and that no player would breach that obvious principle.

6. *Management of the club*

- A. The Chairman felt that Walter Smith would bring stability to the club as well as experience of how the club was run and its expectations. He also underlined that he recognised that Walter was now a more experienced manager and had shown, via his work with Scotland, he could take Rangers into a new successful era. At the same time, the Chairman was extremely optimistic that the new manager could ensure that the obvious potential and development of the coaching staff was realised.

To conclude, the Chairman thanked the Trust for their valuable input and asked for a follow-up meeting within 4 weeks. He felt that the 6 days between the appointment of the new manager and this meeting wasn't enough time for him to show the initial progress which he felt would result in the consistency and improvement that both parties wanted.

To this end, the Trust agreed to meet again in February where the above points above could be discussed more fully.

