

Meeting of the CITY TILL WE DIE Hull City action group Saturday 28th September 2013.

Groups represented

Amber Nectar, City Independent, City 'ulltras, Tigerlink, Tiger Chat, Tigers Co-operative, WHCR Fans Forum.

Attendees

C.Ball, F.Beill, M.Beill, C.Cooper, L.Cooper, A.Dalton, K.Ellis, J.Ellis, M.Gretton, P.Johnson, A.Medcalf, P.Mills, L.Motherby, K.Ogram, R.Skelton & I.Watsonson.

1. Introductions

P.Johnson opened the meeting. P.Mills introduced those attending for the first time. The group welcomed C.Ball (Tigerlink), L.Cooper (City 'ulltras) and M.Gretton (Tiger chat).

2. Review of the minutes

The minutes of the 24th September meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. Review Saturday (West Ham)

Prior to the West Ham game 9,000 leaflets explaining the essence of the campaign were handed out around the ground and 2,800 "No To Hull Tigers" badges were also distributed.

M.Beill thought it was an "uplifting" afternoon and added that she thought we'd find a lot more leaflets on the floor but people took them and read them.

F.Beill added that we could have given out a lot more badges.

P.Mills found that the uptake amongst 20-60 year olds was excellent.

L.Cooper was in the Griffin pub beforehand and found that the leaflets were accepted quickly and there were requests for more badges than we had.

C.Cooper was met with very few dissenters, a tiny ratio of those handed leaflets. This was a view shared by everyone handing out leaflets and badges.

P.Johnson felt that lots of children loved the badges and their parents took and read the leaflet at the same time.

The group would like to publicly thank everyone who turned out on Saturday to hand out leaflets and badges and to engage fans. A special thanks is extended to those who volunteered to help after reading the website or the group's social media channels.

K.Ellis suggested a press release is issued explaining the activities undertaken on Saturday.

L.Motherby will draft and "press gang" will assist and approve.

R.Skelton pointed out there has already been a great response on social media with the Twitter account in particular already sharing photos that fans have sent in with their badges and CITY TILL WE DIE banners.

C.Cooper thanks the West Ham United fans for their support and added that many took leaflets and that most had heard of the issue.

4. Assess work to date

P.Johnson has been impressed with the work everyone has done since Tuesday. Feels we've achieved a tremendous amount in only 3 days.

The group would like to recognise and thank M.Scott, I.Berriman, J.Greenwood and A.Beill for the work they've put into the website and the social media channels this week.

A.Dalton and P.Mills were interviewed on Radio Humberside live from the KC Stadium on Friday morning.

L.Motherby was interviewed on Radio 5 Live on Saturday.

Several members of the group were filmed by BBC Look North on Saturday.

I.Watson felt it important that all of the media be added to the main website as well as to the social media channels.

A.Medcalf added that A.Beill is collating all media and articles about the name change to also be added to the website.

K.Ogram has taken around 50 requests for badges from City fans outside of Hull. These are to be sent next week. P.Johnson offered to help fund postage. R.Skelton offered to help with posting too.

The group would like to place on record their thanks to N.Johnson and P.Gamble for their excellent work on designing the leaflets and badges.

C.Cooper opened lines of enquiry with A.Jacks at the FSF (Football Supporters Federation). They are ready to support us once we have organised ourselves. C.Cooper has a call scheduled next week with Dr. M.Clark at the FSF. He is also on the FA Council.

A.Medcalf asked how formal the group would need to be for the FSF to support us.

C.Cooper feels that help will be forthcoming immediately as most of us are FSF members already.

L.Cooper asked if we should also engage Supporters Direct. It was felt that this should be left as a future possibility.

No response has been received thus far from the letter written to the Hull City Southern Supporters.

The chairman of the Official Supporters Club replied to confirm that he would be unable to attend the meeting but he would ask if any other board member would be available in the future.

5. Future plans

Website

K.Ogram feels a donate link on the website is urgently needed as fans are keen to get involved in funding. It was agreed that this must be a high priority.

A.Dalton is to look into opening a group bank account.

C.Cooper felt our message should be explained on the website.

Other fans need to understand how we can be pro-Allam but anti-name change.

K.Ogram and M.Scott have prepared such a message for the mailing list. This will be added to the website by J.Greenwood once published.

A.Medcalf suggested a full FAQ is published on the website to address any similar criticisms.

L.Motherby and R.Skelton to collate an FAQ of comments faced so far.

L.Cooper suggested a photo section on the website publishing all pictures fans have sent in of their badges, banners and CITY TILL WE DIE posters.

A.Medcalf stressed that I.Berriman and J.Greenwood have lots of ideas for the website so some of this has already been discussed by the Social Media team.

Aston Villa game

The group discussed an idea to hand out postcards at the Aston Villa game that could be signed and posted to the FA, Premier League and Football League expressing opposition to the name change.

After much deliberation, it was felt that this would be a difficult thing to do with fans keen to get to the stadium and should be held back temporarily.

R.Skelton passed on an idea from J.Greenwood to get fans involved next week. We could have a large "No To Hull Tigers" graphic made and photograph families or groups of friends holding the banner. The photographs will then be published on Facebook for the fans to tag themselves in.

The feasibility of this is to be explored ahead of the next home game.

M.Gretton asked if we have the funds to have more badges made as they were very popular.

A.Dalton confirmed that we do. M.Gretton proposed that another order of 3000 be placed. This was agreed by all.

P.Mills asked if more of the flyers should also be ordered.

K.Ellis felt we should have something different as most fans have already seen the one from the West Ham game.

I.Watson suggested a "1904" flyer be printed that fans could hold up at 19:04 minutes into the game when fans sing "City till I die".

R.Skelton asked if we could have something on card that is more visible.

It was felt that the price may be prohibitive but A.Dalton will get a quote early next week and a decision will be confirmed ahead of the next home game.

P.Mills will collect “vox pops” from fans ahead of the Aston Villa game that will be shared on the group’s social media channels.

Group activity

The group discussed ways in which all Hull City fans could get further involved in the campaign.

C.Cooper suggested that fans could be invited to pledge their membership to the group.

K.Ellis suggested that we hold a launch event once merchandise has been produced.

C.Cooper proposed hiring a “pop-up shop” in Hull City centre to host such an event.

C.Ball suggested we buy a large flag that fans can sign at a game or an event to pledge their allegiance. This idea was well received.

C.Cooper was tasked with pricing up a large flag.

C.Cooper will place an order with a Hull based company for 2000 wristbands this week.

C.Cooper will confirm the order of 1000 “CITY TILL WE DIE” scarves this week. They will be black with amber detail. These have been sourced by a company based in Yorkshire.

The group are to ensure that any license required to sell merchandise on the approach to the ground is obtained.

K.Ellis suggested we look at creating an “early day motion” that will be put to the All Party Football Group at Westminster. In the first instance this motion will look to protect the name of Hull City AFC.

A further motion in conjunction with other football fans to protect the name, badge, colours and location of football clubs will then be looked into.

K.Ellis tasked with producing this motion that will be sent to Alan Keen at the All Party Football Group.

P.Mills asked if we should write to local MP’s.

It was decided that once the early day motion is produced then a copy with a covering letter will be sent to respected local MP’s Diana Johnson and Alan Johnson.

C.Cooper has opened dialogue with a Cardiff City fans group who are keen to share ideas.

L.Cooper noted that a group of Glasgow Rangers fans attended the Newcastle United away game and were very supportive of our plight.

K.Ellis suggested that Cardiff fans (colours), Everton fans (badge) and Wimbledon fans (location) may be keen to lend their support.

R.Skelton added that Newcastle fans could also be allies given their opposition to the renaming of their ground.

P.Johnson mentioned the availability of tools to track activity on our Social Media channels. He asked if the group thought this would be a worthwhile exercise. Everyone agreed that it would be.

K.Ogram added that the Social Media team are already considering such tools.

K.Ellis suggested that Christmas Cards with representation of Hull City's position in the community could be designed. This is to be looked into as a future possibility.

A.Medcalf suggested that the creator of the online petition J.Lynch may be willing to email all of the people who signed the petition to introduce our campaign. This was agreed as a one off task with the email inviting people who support the cause to sign up for the mailing list for future updates.

6. Finances

This was previously addressed.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9th October.

8. AOB

K.Ogram had a query through the website asking if there would be an official pub where people could collect merchandise, etc pre-match. This wasn't thought to be logistically possible at the moment.

K.Ogram informed the group of an offer from I.Thomson to assist with any legal queries the group has. This was gratefully accepted.

P.Johnson suggested that as an initial task, we ask I.Thomson to look into any legal implications of our merchandising plans.

K.Ogram felt it important that the individuals within the group bear responsibility for promoting the positive aims of the CITY TILL WE DIE message on their personal social media accounts and message boards.

R.Skelton asked, on behalf of a fan on Twitter, when the scarves would be available for sale.

C.Cooper confirmed that they would definitely be available for the Sunderland home match. A small amount may be delivered sooner.

Agreed action points

1. A donate link on the website is urgently needed.
2. Order another 3000 badges.
3. Order "1904" leaflets for Aston Villa and get a quote for something slightly bigger on card.
4. L.Motherby will draft a Press Release and "press gang" will assist and approve.

5. The first email is to be sent out to the mailing list and added to the website once published.
6. Ask J.Lynch to send a one off email to all who signed the online petition inviting people to sign up for the mailing list for future updates.
7. Media interaction to be added to the main website as well as the social media groups.
8. L.Motherby and R.Skelton to collate an FAQ of comments faced so far.
9. C.Cooper was tasked with pricing up a giant flag.
10. The group are to ensure that any license required to sell merchandise on the approach to the ground is obtained.
11. K.Ellis tasked with producing an early day motion that will be sent to Alan Keen at the All Party Football Group.