
MEETING NOTES

Annual General Meeting 2016

12th March 2016, 10:30am
 Royal Station Hotel, Ferensway, Hull

1. Attendees

R Harmer, I Waterson, F Beill, A Mills, M Scott, R Richardson, P Walton, C Stern, D Mars, S Topham, G Cannon, A Hemingway, P Fleming, G Bielby, P Crossland, R Saunders, S Dyson, C Dyson, T Richardson, J Richardson, H Drew, T Collins

2. Apologies

Received from C Smith, R Skelton, P Helsby, J McVie.

3. Welcome from the Chairman

Ryan Richardson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for engaging today with the Board's work.

4. Acceptance of 2015 AGM Minutes

Mike Scott referred to the 2015 AGM minutes available on the Trust's website. These were approved unanimously as a true record.

5. Financial Statement

Alan Hemingway presented the Trust's current financial position. The merger of the previous Tigers Co-operative and new HCST bank accounts is now complete, with most of Tigers Co-operative monies were ring-fenced for good community causes, specifically:

- > Hull Boys Sunday League - £6,000
- > East Riding Electric Eels - £2,000
- > Teenage Cancer Trust - £6,000
- > East Riding Pan Disability League - £2,000
- > KIDS Charity - £2,000

Hull City Supporters' Trust is the trading name of Tigers Co-operative Limited, a Community Benefit Society registration number 29021R.

The registered address is

HCST, Suite 2, 117-119 Walkergate, Beverley, HU17 9BP.

Elected Trust Board Members (9): G Bielby, G Cannon, C Dyson, S Dyson, P Fleming, A Hemingway (Treasurer), A Mills, R Richardson (Interim Chairman), P Walton.

Interim Secretary: M Scott

The Hull City Supporters' Trust Partners are:

Angel Beauty, Aspects Opticians, Brookes Menswear, Circle 87 Café, Co-op Energy, Cross Solutions, Dickens & Browne, Dinostar, EasyPeasyPrint, Essence Holistics, Finesse Internet, Grange Driving School, Harpers Fish & Chips (Beverley), Hemingway Bailey Ltd, Leasing for Business, Middle Child Theatre Company, Nudge Websites, One Stop Golf, Photo Express, Rob McFadyen ADI, TDN Automotive, Wine On-Line. **Full details can be found [here](#).**



Frank Beill read out a statement from Lee Brennan of Hull Electric Eels Wheelchair Football Club, thanking the Trust for its £2,000 contribution to purchasing a new wheelchair and highlighting the Trust's positive role in encouraging the grassroots game in the city.

Alan Hemingway explained that the Trust has made a £1,200 direct contribution to the financial success of Hull City by sponsoring the kit of Sone Aluko. The Trust is now name-checked whenever Sone plays at the KC Stadium. The Trust has also expended £1,750 on the arts consultant assisting the Trust in scoping and funding its ART Project.

The Trust's financial position is healthy, with £10,300 in the bank after current creditors have been paid. The Trust reported a small trading surplus of £169 for the year.

The Trust's accounts were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

6. HCST Annual Report

Ryan Richardson delivered his Chairman's report to the meeting:

- > He highlighted the progress made at a national level for clubs to engage with their supporters, including Supporters' Trusts, in the form of the commitments made by the FA, FL and Premier League following the government's Expert Working Group process.
- > This national progress stands in contrast to the local situation. Ryan stressed his eagerness to engender a positive relationship with the club and other supporters' organisations. At present the Trust's attempts at engagement with the club are often ignored. The Official Supporters' Club feels unable to speak out or engage with the Trust, for fear of being shut down by the club owners. This is an intolerable situation that must be reversed.
- > Ryan also thanked the outgoing directors for their efforts and welcomed the fact that new people had stepped forward to join the Board and advance the Trust into a new phase of development.

Mike Scott delivered his Secretary's report:

- > The Trust is in good shape administratively, with an excellent website resource, regular newsletters to shareholders and a good level of engagement with fans. Trust numbers will inevitably fall during a period when no campaigning is taking place, but the Trust remains strong.
- > Mike highlighted the positive support that City fans continue to receive from the FA, who again rejected the owners' name change proposal in 2015. The Trust has also commenced new projects during 2015 – the ART Project and the Middle Child Theatre project – as well as completed work to register the KC Stadium as an "Asset of Community Value".

7. Election of Board Directors

Mike Scott outlined the process to elect new Board directors. He thanked the shareholders that formed the Election Management Group – Peter Forster, Chris Johnson, Jackie Smith and Richard Weatherill. This group assisted him in ratifying the details of all prospective Board members.

Each candidate gave a brief presentation and answered questions from the floor.

Graham Cannon

- > City fan for only 3 years, started watching with wife and was instantly hooked on Hull City
- > Wants to focus Trust efforts on increasing and retaining membership, and working with the current and future club custodians

Cath Dyson

- > A City fan for life, first match in 1983, season ticket holder for 15 years
- > Works as an accountant for facilities management firm based in York and London, CAMRA member, running club member



- > Brings the perspective of an out of town fan, having been raised in Kent and lived latterly in West Yorkshire

Sue Dyson

- > Raised in Hull, a City fan since 1965, taken by her father to her first match. After years away in Kent and elsewhere, Sue is moving to Anlaby in Summer 2016. For many years family trips have coincided with City home games.
- > Worked in IT for 30 years, has previously been OSC Secretary, also a girl guide leader.

Peter Fleming

- > Began watching City in 1973, returned to the KC Stadium more often in recent years as work commitments eased.
- > Also an accountant (based in Doncaster) and CAMRA member. Previously set up and was Secretary for Hull Branch of Chartered Institute of Taxation – from this experience Peter recognises the imperative for organisations like HCST to maintain impetus.
- > Wants a more diverse Board, ready to engage with the club when the current owners depart.

Phil Walton

- > A City fan since 1963, Phil retired as a European Sales Manager based in Hull during 2015.
- > Was a passive supporter for many years, but was galvanised to protest by the owners' name change proposal. Phil stressed the value of heritage in football.
- > Aspires to start a new relationship between Trust and club, to give fans a genuinely independent voice, as is the case for German and Spanish clubs. Not a fan of half and half scarves, but supports safe standing.

On a show of hands, each of the above candidates were approved unanimously as elected Board Directors of the Trust (in Peter Fleming's case, pending ratification from the Election Management Group).

8. Resolutions

Mike Scott noted that no formal resolutions had been received from shareholders in advance of the AGM. Two draft Trust policies were put forward for ratification by the AGM.

Mike explained the Trust's Election Policy, which was used to elect new Board members today. This policy was approved unanimously on a show of hands.

Mike explained the Trust's Disciplinary Policy, for use when shareholders take actions that might affect the reputation of the Trust, or are found guilty of a serious criminal offence. This policy was approved unanimously on a show of hands.

There were no draft members' resolutions put forward by attendees of the AGM for discussion.

9. Review of HCST Priorities

Andy Mills presented a review of the Trust's existing aims, objectives and actions that guide its day-to-day work and proposed some minor updates for 2016 (see attached for details).

Key issues raised were:

- > Focus on maintaining and growing Trust membership.
- > Deliver more local events led by the Trust (such as FSF event planned for April).
- > Important projects such as the ART Project and the Middle Child Theatre play.
- > Maintain good relationships with partners and stakeholders where they exist (FSF, SD), improve relationship where they do not yet exist (OSC, Hull City AFC).
- > Important work of heritage sub-group (M Batchelor, C Douglas, C King).
- > Encouraging the club to reverse the rebrand and use both the club's name and the name of the city it plays in.
- > Shareholder communication, including: Andy's excellent work in maintaining the website, aided by our splendid article authors (James Chestney, Harry Drew, Mark Sellers, Mitchell Whiley) who have provided 120 previews and reports



this season so far, and Ian Walters for providing webhosting services; issuing our weekly email newsletter; and providing an online forum for discussion by enabling comments to be added to all blog posts on the HCST website.

- > HCST's online Hull City museum, to which Les Motherby (kits) and Martin Batchelor (programmes) are major contributors.

A discussion amongst attendees was invited and excellent new ideas were proposed for a sticker campaign and for a City-related (and other Hull sports clubs) blue plaque campaign, to raise awareness of the Trust. These would be considered by the new Board for adoption. The new Board will also assign responsibilities for the Trust's actions at its next meeting.

10. Any Other Business

Comments were received from the floor about the importance of retaining existing shareholders now that the Trust is no longer in campaign mode, and about the potential for stand moves to become a new campaigning matter for the Trust.

11. Meeting Close

Ryan Richardson thanked everyone for their attendance, and welcomed the newly appointed Directors. The meeting closed at 11:55am.



HULL CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

OBJECTIVES, AIMS and ACTIONS for 2016

Trust Objectives

Short term – establish our independent offer

1. Influencing the direction of Hull City – PARTLY ACHIEVED THROUGH FWG INVOLVEMENT, MUCH STILL TO DO
2. Broadening our appeal – PARTLY ACHIEVED THROUGH EVENTS HELD AND PLANNED
3. Exploring the opportunities that being a Trust gives us – ONGOING, THROUGH ART PROJECT AND MIDDLE CHILD THEATRE PROJECT

Long term - to reflect that Hull City is part of a community, not just a business

4. Giving supporters a voice on the Board – REMAINS A LONG TERM ASPIRATION
5. Bringing benefits to community assets – ONGOING, ACV SUCCESSFUL, REGULAR DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH COUNCIL OWNERS OF STADIUM BUT ACTIONS ON HOLD IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT
6. Developing productive relationships with other supporter groups – ONGOING AND SUCCESSFUL, WITH EXCEPTION OF OSC

Trust Aims and Actions

Aim 1: Preserving, protecting and developing the identity and community of Hull City AFC, embodying ambition with tradition

1. Continue pressing the FA to strengthen the rules concerning owners and heritage – ONGOING
2. Engage with FSF to develop their heritage campaign and help influence the FA – ONGOING THROUGH HCST HERITAGE WORKING GROUP
3. Develop and implement a campaign against the “name-change by stealth” of Hull City AFC – MORE TO DO BY NEW BOARD

Aim 2: Leading and facilitating partnership working with Hull City AFC, Hull City Council and other stakeholders

4. Establish a dialogue with Hull City Council about the role the Trust can play - ONGOING
5. Represent the views of shareholders and the wider community at the Hull City Fans' Working Group – ONGOING

Aim 3: Acquiring a stake in Hull City and attaining representation on its board in order to exert real supporter influence on the governance of the Club

6. Support national initiatives pressing for legislation to reform football and include supporter representation on club boards – ONGOING, BUILDING ON RECENT SUCCESSES NATIONALLY AND APPLYING THEM TO HULL CITY
7. Develop ways to recruit members to the Trust – ONGOING, A KEY FOCUS FOR 2016
8. Grow the Trust membership through recruiting Partners offering benefits to members – ONGOING, 21 PARTNERS NOW RECRUITED
9. Grow the Trust membership through the development of merchandise attractive to members – ONGOING, AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT IN 2016

Aim 4: Promoting the development of the Club through supporter involvement, initiating and leading supporter-based social and community initiatives that engender that involvement

10. Develop the content of the Trust's website to provide up-to-date information about the Trust and the club – ACHIEVED ON ONGOING BASIS
11. Establish a members' forum on the website – ACHIEVED THROUGH ENABLING COMMENTS AND CONVERSATIONS TO BE ADDED TO BLOG POSTS
12. Develop an on-line Hull City museum – ONGOING
13. Plan and deliver a series of events for members – ONGOING
14. Engage with the City of Culture 2017 in order to set up heritage and arts projects – ONGOING THROUGH ART PROJECT

Aim 5: Actively campaigning at local and national levels on issues that impact on our shareholders and the wider supporter base

15. Support and publicise national campaigns (Safe Standing, Twenty's Plenty, Living Wage at Premier League clubs, use of the PL broadcasting rights money) - ONGOING