

## MEETING NOTES

### Annual General Meeting 2015

21<sup>st</sup> February 2015, 11:00am  
 Royal Station Hotel, Ferensway, Hull

#### 1. Attendees

M Gretton, M Scott, A Mills, R Skelton, A Hemingway, R Harmer, G Bielby, R Saunders, I Waterson, J Stone, A Bentley, P Atkin, C Ball, A Medcalf, M Beill, F Beill, J Anderson, T Jarvis, I Hutchinson, J McVie, M Lammiman, C Braithwaite, S Braithwaite, G Clarke, D Sandall, D Mars, C Smith, C Bell, A Flockton, P Crossland, T Darvell, J Richardson, S Toogood, L Taylor, P Taylor, P Jones, T Holmes, J Holmes, C Stern, J Ellis, K Ellis, C Dyson, S Dyson, E Lambrick, P Walton, R Fussey, G Wilkinson, L Motherby, C Swaby, M Oldridge, S Topham, J Clarkin, R Kerr, A Coombes, T Richardson, C Johnson, P Walsh, M Saunders-Meuller, S Bradley, G Cannon, J Spencer, A Beill

#### 2. Apologies

Were received from P Helsby, M Campbell, V Markham, J Densley, N Barrett, M Larkman, D Twidle, L Kirby, I Barber, P Richardson, G Walker, D Walker, T Dibb, J Newmarch, M Hooper, P Lowden, P Barley, J Chestney, A Wilson, G Wilson, P Hopton, G Parker, R Parker, S Buttle, J Leeman.

#### 3. Introduction

Interim Chairman M.Gretton welcomed Hull City Supporters Trust (HCST) shareholders to another “pivotal and important” AGM. M.Gretton placed on record his thanks to HCST shareholders, City Till We Die (CTWD) members and Tigers Co-operative (TC) shareholders for their support in the last year in creating the new trust.

#### 4. Presentations

Outgoing TC Chairman F.Beill explained that TC had accumulated over £25,000 over the past 16 years. As part of the decision to merge TC and CTWD to form a supporters’ trust it was decided by the TC committee and supported by HCST that most of the money should be donated to football-related causes. F.Beill told the floor that £18,000 was to be split equally between:

- The Hull Boys Sunday Football League (HBSFL) and East Riding Girls League - to set-up a grant scheme to benefit teams and players who are struggling financially to meet the rising costs of playing football.
- Teenage Cancer Trust - Hull City AFC’s official charity partner for the 2014/15 season.

**Hull City Supporters’ Trust** is the trading name of Tigers Co-operative Limited, a Community Benefit Society registration number 29021R.  
 The registered address is:  
 Hull City Supporters’ Trust, 37a North Bar Within, Beverley, HU17 8DB.

**Elected Trust Board Members (10):** G Bielby, C Cooper, M Gretton (Chair), R Harmer, A Hemingway (Treasurer), R Kerr, A Mills, M Scott (Secretary), R Skelton, C Smith.  
**Co-opted Trust Board Member (1):** F Beill

#### The Hull City Supporters’ Trust Partners are:

Co-op Energy --- TDN Automotive --- Hemingway Bailey Ltd. --- One Stop Golf --- Finesse Internet --- Wine On-Line --- Leasing for Business  
 Grange Driving School --- Circle 87 Café --- Harpers Fish & Chips @ Beverley --- Dickens & Browne --- Photo Express --- Cross Solutions  
 Full details can be found at [www.hullcitysupporterstrust.com/partners](http://www.hullcitysupporterstrust.com/partners)



- Disabled footballers & fans - to help meet the costs of some disabled football sessions via the East Riding Football Association (ERCFA), assist a wheelchair football team in purchasing a chair (at a cost of £2,000) and to help disabled people to attend Hull City games.

L.Fussey, Chairman and Vice-President of the HBSFL accepted the first cheque on their behalf. He said that youth football in this area is still going very strong but that it is getting more and more expensive and promised that the money would be used to ensure everyone can play.

A.Lowthorpe, CEO of ERCFA, accepting on behalf of the Girls League promised that every penny would go straight into football in our area because nothing is taken out for administration or anything else. He added that the use of the money would be open and transparent with records available for everyone to see what happened to it. A.Lowthorpe wished everyone the very best with the new trust.

F.Beill suggested that once the HBSFL grant scheme is in place, the details on how to apply for funding will be added to the HCST website so that shareholders can apply but also spread the word.

## 5. Co-op Energy

M.Gretton introduced HCST partner Co-op Energy. Creating partnerships is important for HCST both in terms of giving something back to shareholders but also for building links and promoting business in the community.

Co-op Energy gave a short presentation and promised to donate £25 to HCST for every shareholder who signed up on the day or took their price comparison test online and signed up later.

## 6. Annual Report (<http://hullcitysupporterstrust.com/annual-reports>)

M.Gretton announced that through the club's "Fans Working Group" the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) which deliberates on all aspects of safety surrounding football matches at the KC Stadium such as the level of policing, segregation and stewarding, had agreed to allow a supporters' representative to attend the SAG meetings. A vote was taken and R.Harmer, who is HCST official representative on the "Fans Working Group", was recommended as the FWG's representative on the SAG.

M.Gretton took some questions on his report.

T.Richardson asked what Hull City's response to HCST securing the KC Stadium as an asset of community value had been. M.Gretton said that no official response had been given and that we were not aware of any objections during the process by any interested parties including the club and the Stadium Management Committee.

C.Smith asked why the ACV process took longer than expected. The council had never processed an ACV before and also we as applicants were in transition from TC and CTW to HCST which didn't help.

M.Gretton thanked F.Beill and M.Beill for their work in keeping TC alive through the years. If they had given up at any time, we (HCST) wouldn't be here now.

F.Beill will be co-opted onto the HCST board to assist during the first year and to offer a point of contact for existing TC shareholders.

A.Mills presented the initial aims of the new HCST. Our vision is to have a real and significant influence, on behalf of all Hull City AFC supporters, locally, nationally and globally, in the running of our club.

As a supporters' trust we are a Community Benefit Society. We're charged with being democratic, inclusive and positive and responsible to our shareholders, as well as the wider community.

- AIM 1 - Preserve, protect and develop the identity and community of Hull City AFC, embodying ambition with tradition



- Persuade the Allams to drop the Hull Tigers idea. Propose FA set up a working group to change the rules regarding heritage issues. Assist the Football Supporters' Federation who is picking up on heritage as a campaigning issue, so we will have an influential national ally in this regard.

• AIM 2 - Lead and facilitate partnership working with Hull City AFC, Hull City Council and other stakeholders

- Attempt to develop a productive relationship with Hull City Council. Continue to attend the Fans' Working Group meetings and to press for these to be properly conducted and accountable. Attend Safety Advisory Group meetings after they agreed to include supporter representation. Ask the club to operate its Supporter Liaison Officer role in line with UEFA guidance.

• AIM 3 - Acquire a stake in Hull City and attain representation on its board in order to exert real supporter influence on the governance of the Club

- This is the aim of all supporters' trusts. Work with other trusts and national supporters' groups to press for legislation to make supporter representation mandatory and change the way football is governed. Develop ways to make membership of the Trust even more attractive.

• AIM 4 - Promote the development of the trust through supporter involvement

- Initiate and lead supporter-based social and community initiatives. Make our website – <http://hullcitysupporterstrust.com> as good as possible, giving news about Hull City and the wider trust and supporter. Set up an easy-to-use forum on the site. Make sure shareholders are kept as up-to-date as possible and consult shareholders on a regular basis. Hold events that shareholders can get involved in. Initiate ideas that will be of interest to fans young and old. Examples could include setting up an on-line club museum, linked up with credit unions to help people save (especially for their season tickets).

• AIM 5 - Actively campaign at local and national levels on issues that impact on our shareholders and the wider supporter base

- Our own and other heritage issues such as changing of the club's name. Support national campaigns such as the FSF's Twenty's Plenty (keeping the cost of away tickets down), Safe Standing and more responsible use of the Premier League TV money. Support the campaign for PL clubs to pay their staff at least the Living Wage.

We are only limited in what we can do by our capacity to do it. The more volunteers we get, the more we can do. A.Mills encouraged all shareholders let us know of any ideas they have and what help they can give in bringing them to fruition.

M.Scott thanked J.Forster from Supporters Direct for her assistance in merging TC and CTWD. M.Scott confirmed that the mandate given to pursue the supporters' trust from the CTWD AGM in April was over six hundred for and only two against. M.Scott confirmed that HCST are approaching seven hundred shareholders.

M.Scott placed on record his thanks to N.Johnson and his colleagues who have again designed the HCST graphics at no cost to the trust. This help is invaluable.

M.Scott thanked G.Borthwick and I.Walters for their assistance in creating and maintaining the HCST website.

M.Gretton suggested thanks should also go to M.Scott without whose work in understanding the rules set out for supporters' trusts and enthusiasm for creating HCST – none of this would have been possible.

A.Hemingway provided a financial update that can be seen in the annual report and added that the trust could not set up a bank account until the board had been elected. This can be pursued this week.

M.Gretton apologised for this item being postponed. It is still very much in progress and discussions are on-going as HCST would like to appoint an Honorary President who is very well known to fans.



## 7. Election of Board of Directors

Biographies of the candidates can be found here - <http://hullcitysupporterstrust.com/candidates-for-board-of-directors/>

Unlike at the CTWD AGM where candidates were voted into specific officer roles, the floor voted to elect ten members of the board who will meet on Monday 23rd February 2015 to decide on the make-up of the board. It was made clear to the floor that M.Gretton and A.Hemingway were standing with a view to continuing as Chairman and Treasurer respectively and that M.Scott, as Secretary, did not need to officially be a board member but would be standing to be one.

The floor was introduced to the ten candidates. All in attendance were in favour of adopting all ten candidates as the first board of directors of the Hull City Supporters Trust.

## 8. Any Other Business/Questions from Floor

P.Taylor asked whether the board felt Swansea City was a model HCST should aspire to. It was felt that it is a sensible model with around 21% supporter ownership meaning that representation on the board is not a token gesture.

M.Lammiman suggested enamel badges would be a good idea for merchandising and asked whether a larger range of merchandise was on the agenda. He also suggested going into schools as a way to spread the HCST message. Both ideas will be taken to the first board meeting on Monday. So far the approach to merchandise has been to create something inclusive but a wider range will become available.

C.Day asked how much interest there has been in HCST from outside of Hull. He felt the "we support our local team" campaign was divisive given the number of Hull City fans that travel in. C.Day has 30 league clubs closer to him than Hull City. M.Scott said around half of trust members have an "HU" postcode and around a quarter live outside of Yorkshire.

P.Walton wanted to know when the shareholders would find out the make-up of the board after Monday's meeting. It will be made available this week through the HCST website and through an email to shareholders.

J.Anderson asked if there was a plan to work with the Official Supporters Club. M.Gretton announced that a meeting with their Chairman had been suggested but when HCST tried to confirm it, it was declined. We remain open to working together on common issues.

R.Fussey suggested that media coverage has been rarer since the campaign ended and asked if there were any ideas to increase it. All agreed that media coverage was constant during the campaign both locally and nationally and that a lessening of interest since the FA categorically rejected the name change was only natural. Having a board member allocated to create a single media message on HCST issues is to be done at Monday's meeting.

J.Clark suggested that Hull FC have been treated badly by the SMC in recent years and asked if HCST have had contact with any Hull FC fans groups. We don't believe that there is a Hull FC supporters' trust or official supporters' club. We are open to working with any that do come about but remain mindful that Hull City AFC is our shareholders priority. If in the future we were ever asked to bid for ownership of the KC Stadium, we'd approach all stakeholders and interested parties including, of course, Hull FC.

**Meeting Closed 12:35pm.**