

## MEETING NOTES

Board Meeting 2019-01

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 6:30pm

### Attendees

#### Board Members Present

G Bielby (GB), Chairman  
 P Fleming (PF), Treasurer  
 G Cannon (GC)  
 S Pye (SP)  
 S Dyson (SD)  
 D Johnson (DJ)  
 I Bunton (IB)  
 D Batte (DB)  
 R Mathers (RM), Secretary

#### Board Members Absent

R Richardson (RR), Vice Chairman  
 R Anson (RA)

#### Guests

None

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from RR and RA

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the previous Board meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record.

Actions carried forward were: A 'Timeline' of key Club statements, (website, press, social media etc), is to collated **ACTION – GC to collate ACTION – RR to forward or share with GC any quotes on the Google drive from the '#AskEhab' campaign – CARRIED FORWARD**

HCST policy on data retention as part of the revised General Data Protection Regulations has been updated by RM & GC **ACTION – Revised policy needs adding to HCST website (RR/RA to arrange) – CARRIED FORWARD**

The Membership sub-group proposed that Junior members, (*aged 16 or under*), are offered HCST membership rates of '£1' (*i.e. 'Kids for a Quid'*), for the length of their junior membership. **The proposal was previously accepted by the Board.**

**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, 280 Ings Road, Hull East Yorkshire HU8 0LZ

**Elected Trust Board Members (8):** G Bielby (Chairman), R Richardson (Vice Chairman), P Fleming (Treasurer), G Cannon, S Dyson, S Pye, I Bunton, D Johnson **Co-opted Board Members (2):** R Anson, D Batte  
**Trust Secretary:** R Mathers

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

Aspecs Opticians, Brookes Menswear, Co-op Energy, Cross Solutions, Dinostar Experience, Dutton Moore, Essence Holistics, Felicity Hats, Finesse Internet, Frank Pullan Butchers (Cottingham), Frying Farmer Fish & Chips (Aldbrough), Fudges Den (Filey), Hemingway Bailey Ltd, Hornsea Town Walking Football, Hull City Ladies FC, Hull Kingston Radio, IT Forward, Leasing for Business, Nudge Websites, Photo Express, Rob McFadyen ADI, Ska & Soul, Skin Deep, Wags & Whiskers, William Gemmell Social Club, Wine On-Line. **Full details can be found at [www.hullcityst.com](http://www.hullcityst.com)**



**ACTION – RA to establish how the changes can be made on the website and PayPal in required. ACTION – Sub-group to arrange communication and publicity for the campaign once amended payment can be received**

- Details of a proposed 'Blue plaque' for 'Burnsy's Bin' need to be finalised. **ACTION – RA to confirm wording, costs and potential location considerations. ACTION – RM to discuss with RA due to a concern that the opportune time to present the plaque has been missed**

### 3. Matters Arising

All to be covered in agenda items below

### 4. Club Takeover Situation

There was no new information to discuss and the situation has not moved forward since the previous meeting.

The 'due diligence' process usually takes 2-3 weeks per person from a 'reasonable banking background', (i.e. UK, USA), so the Club ownership will not change before the end of the January transfer window and probably the end of the current season.

It is noted that Wigan Athletic was recently sold to new owners based in Hong Kong for a reported figure of around £23m which included the DW Stadium and took several months to complete

### 5. HCST Annual Report

PF gave an update on the content received to date and the further requirements needed to complete a draft version of the Annual Report that is due for release at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). **ACTION: PF to e-mail individual Board member requirements on outstanding content. ACTION: Individual Board members to ensure their submissions are with PF no later than MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY**

RA joined the meeting via video call and has suggested the report will need a consistent tone and some more visual impact which he can arrange via a work channel if required

### 6. Board Election Process 2019

RM gave an overview on the current Board election process, where 6 positions need confirmation

- RR & SD have announced they will be standing down from the Board at the AGM in March. GB wished to place on record an appreciation of the contribution made by both during their time on the Board
- GC & PF will be required to stand for re-election having served for 3 years
- RA & DB need to formally stand for election as they are currently co-opted to the Board

As required under the Trust Election Policy, RM stated that 3 members, (John Tindall, Tom Irvin and Richard Rooker), had volunteered to be part of the Election Management Group. (EMG). RM verified that all 3 are full and current members. A non-member, (Allison Branson), has agreed to act as an independent observer of the whole process.

The EMG will meet to review the Election Policy and process on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January and meet again to review Board member nominations on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

DB requested information on the male/female split of current membership. **ACTION – RM to forward information to the Board**

The Board discussed potential approaches to former players in relation to Honorary positions with the Trust

### 7. HCST Bank Account

Due to RR's decision to stand down from the Board in March, the authorisation list for payments and transfers from the Trust bank account need amending. A minimum of 2 Board members are required to authorise transactions. GB & PF will retain



authorisation with IB & DJ added once RR is removed. **ACTION – IB & DJ to send the following information to PF: Full name / Date of Birth / Nationality / Current home address / Any previous home address within 3 years**

## 8. Sub-Group Update

RA joined the meeting via a web call and advised on the following

- Sub-group Google document has been shared with Board members. All sub-groups need to include a 'mission statement' to their individual tab **ACTION – Sub-groups to agree mission statement content and insert by January 31st**
- RA confirmed that he now has full administration access rights from RR for both the Trust website and Slack channel
- RA is also able to add content to the website although he is reviewing an index listing of 1700+ pages of current content with view to archiving or removing historic or outdated content. **ACTION – RA to compile details of content to be reviewed for archive or removal and share with the Board once completed. ACTION – RA to advise on a proposal and potential costs to use a programme called 'Screaming Frog' to assist in the above.**
- RA is also exploring alternative options for hosting the website and is also reviewing set-up requirements for Trust owned e-mail accounts and web domains
- RM enquired as to how the Junior membership price could be reduced on the website/PayPal to enable a Membership sub-Group proposal to be fulfilled. **ACTION: RA to investigate and advise RM on potential timings**

RM gave a brief summary on the output from the Membership sub-Group and advised that 2019 is the first time that current 3-year memberships are due for renewal. (In total there are 482 memberships of 1 or 3 year due for renewal throughout the year)

An alternative HCST badge is being sourced for current 3-year members who renew their membership.

## 9. Mental Health Challenge (HCST – 'Spirit of Shankly')

GB & GC gave an update of conversation they had with members of the 'Spirit of Shankly' (SoS) Liverpool fans group back in November when attending Football Supporter Federation and Supporters Direct meetings.

GC and Goronwy Brookes (SoS Secretary), discussed the possibility of engaging and challenging all professional teams on the M62 corridor to embrace the partnership link between MIND (Mental Health charity) and the English Football League (EFL)

GB has been in direct contact with Claire Thomas. (Communications Manager for Hull & East Yorkshire MIND), for several months and is aware that they have been granted permission for a bucket collection from Hull City AFC on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March (Queens Park Rangers home game)

**ACTION – Board members to forward suggestions to GB & GC for events to support this initiative ACTION – GB & GC to liaise with SoS, EFL, United Football Supporters Organisation (UFSO) and local media as required.**

## 10. Centenary Plaques / ART Project Update

GB stated there has been no progress since the previous meeting on the installation of Centenary Plaques awarded to Raich Carter, Billy Bly and Andy 'Jock' Davidson at the K.Com stadium.

## 11. Board Updates

### Chairman

– GB confirmed that his election as a Championship rep on the UFSO national council had been extended to 3-years following Malcolm Clarke (Stoke City) being appointed UFSO Chairman

### Treasurer

- PF updated that there was £3,477.18 in the HCST PayPal account and £9,358.95 in the Unity bank account
- PF also advised that there was around £100 remaining in a dormant Barclays account that he is in the process of closing and will transfer the funds into the Unity account



## Merchandise

- SP confirmed that good stock levels remained for all merchandise items although that recent sales had been slow

## Secretary

-RM advised that there are currently 949 HCST members, (134 x Lifetime / 619 x 3 year / 177 x 1 year / 19 x Junior)

-RM also advised he has registered for a Supporters Direct webinar on January 15<sup>th</sup> that is discussing available options for Supporters Trusts/Organisations can process payments

**ACTION - RM will review all current Trust Policies and Rules for suitability and forward any suggested amendments to the Board prior to the AGM**

## 12. AOB

- SP asked to be added to the Communications sub-Group once RR & SD have stood down at the AGM in March

- RM enquired as to 'next steps' for the proposed HCST plastic pint glass for use on matchdays at the William Gemmill.

**ACTION – GB to follow up a joint funding approach with Mel**

- **ACTION - RM to contact Vicky Beercock at the Club to enquire if there are any fans to entice fans back to matches following the teams excellent recent run of results**

- PF enquired if HCST were due for an external audit due to legislative changes. RM stated that nothing had been received from FSF or SDr to state this was the case. **ACTION – PF to forward a list of questions to GB. ACTION – GB to raise with SDr/UFSO for clarity**

- GB advised that he had been contacted by Amanda Jacks (FSF Solicitor) in relation to a banning order recently issued to a Hull City supporter in connection to alleged racial and homophobic abuse during a game. She has concerns over the validity of the order due to the mental capacity of the supporter and has asked GB for any local contact details for a person/organisation to represent the support. Ann Holland at the Club is aware of Amanda's concerns. **ACTION – RM to contact Vicky Beercock to advise on HCST's role in this enquiry and that HCST in no way are representing the supporter**

## Next meetings

- **Election Management Group (RM + volunteer members) - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January**
- **Membership sub-Group – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Election Management Group (RM + volunteer members) – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Annual General Meeting – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (n.b. Subject to the Birmingham City game being moved for TV)**
- **Board Meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**



## **HULL CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST AIMS & OBJECTIVES 2018/19**

### **Short-term objectives**

(1) Bring about the return of concession tickets for the young, old and disabled Campaign to bring back proper concessions with no restrictions and fair prices across the board. This will be a big step towards Hull City becoming a happy club again and in the long-term could make a huge difference to the club's future support.

(2) Restore the use of the club's proper name. Push for the consistent use of only Hull City, Hull City AFC or The Tigers by the club. The use of incorrect names is something that we know angers supporters and needs to be remedied in order to move forward.

(3) Engage in continued meaningful dialogue with Hull City. Maintain a relationship with the club to consult on matters which affect supporters. This can prevent major, disruptive issues such as the concessions situation and associated fallout, but also quickly address more minor issues in calmer times.

### **Medium-term objectives**

(4) Strengthen FA heritage rules Engage with the FA to implement rules protecting the heritage of clubs to prevent future unwanted name change attempts or similar.

(5) Support national supporter initiatives This includes pressing for legislation to reform football and including supporter representation on club boards as well as the campaign for safe standing and the 'Twenty's Plenty' ticket price initiative.

(6) Anlaby Road Tribute Project Develop a lasting tribute to the original Anlaby Road ground and potentially some of the players who played there.

### **Long-term objectives**

(7) Giving supporters a voice on the Board In football things can change fast and we need to be ready. This isn't about grabbing power for the sake of it, this is about ensuring that fans become positively involved with the Club and exert influence at the highest level.

(8) Bringing benefits to community assets Hull City is more than a football club, it is part of the community. It is part of the city's soul, and in the Stadium, it is part of the city's infrastructure. We want to explore how we can ensure supporters get a say in how these community assets are managed and developed in the future.