



FEBRUARY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first annual report of the Hull City Supporters' Trust. This provides a summation of ten months of hard work to bring together two organisations – the Tigers Co-operative, one of the country's first-ever Supporters' Trusts, and City Till We Die, the fans' group that successfully campaigned to stop the name-change of our beloved Hull City AFC.

During 2014 the memberships of both Tigers Co-operative and City Till We Die voted overwhelmingly for the merger, recognising that not only were there more battles ahead over our identity, but also that the vehicle of a strong Supporters' Trust was the best mechanism of representing City fans' voices in the long-term. We are delighted that you are a member of the new Hull City Supporters' Trust and we hope that you will play an active part in its growth and development. Together, we can make things happen.

Mark Gretton (Chair, City Till We Die and Interim Chair, Hull City Supporters' Trust)
Frank Beill (Chair, Tigers Co-operative)

REPORT OF CITY TILL WE DIE CHAIRMAN (Mark Gretton)

The City Till We Die campaign group was formed in September 2013, in response to growing opposition amongst Hull City supporters regarding the name-change to Hull Tigers as proposed by owner Dr Allam. The group was a collective of people involved in a number of supporters' clubs, fanzines and websites associated with Hull City as well as the Tigers Co-operative supporters' trust. CTWD's arguments against the proposal were successful and the name-change was rejected at the Football Association's Council meeting in April 2014.

On 19 April 2014 CTWD held its first general meeting at which members attending fully endorsed a proposal

to merge with the Tigers Co-operative. What follows is a review of CTWD/HCST activity from then to date.

- *April 2014* - Begin process of merging City Till We Die and Tigers Co-operative (for details, see Secretary's report and Tigers Co-operative Chair's report)
- *June 2014* - Mark Gretton and Kate Ogram present on the 'No To Hull Tigers' campaign at the Supporters Direct (Scotland) conference, Stirling
- *July 2014* - Mark Gretton, Mike Scott, Ian Waterson meet with Steve Brady, Leader of Hull City Council, to discuss the future of the KC Stadium
- *July 2014* - In partnership with Hull City 'Ulltras arrange travel and accommodation for fans going to Trencin, Slovakia

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.

Trust Board Members:
 To be confirmed

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

- *July 2014* - Mark Gretton, Rob Harmer, Rick Skelton, Geoff Bielby attend initial Fans' Working Group meetings organised by Hull City AFC
- *August 2014* - Rob Harmer becomes CTWD's representative on regular Fans' Working Group meetings
- *August 2014* - Following the meeting with Steve Brady and advice from Supporters Direct, a decision is taken to apply to Hull City Council to have stadium listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Andy Mills leads on this
- *November 2014* - New website designed by Gavin Borthwick and Ian Walters goes live
- *November 2014* – working group of fans to examine how to improve the atmosphere at home games is hosted by CTWD and chaired by Chris Cooper
- *November 2014* – Fans' Working Group accepts the principle of fan involvement on the club's Safety Action Group
- *December 2014* - CTWD T-shirts designed and produced by Rick Skelton go on sale
- *December 2014* - Application to have KC Stadium listed as an ACV is rejected by Hull City Council due to various concerns. These concerns are addressed and the application is resubmitted
- *December 2014 - January 2015* - Series of contacts with the FA detailing our concerns about apparent 'name change by stealth' tactics of Hull City owners
- *January 2015* - Mark Gretton and Andy Mills meet with Hull City Council representatives to discuss progress of ACV application
- *January 2015* - Mark Gretton and Mike Scott invited to Newcastle where author and journalist David Goldblatt addresses a meeting of Newcastle United fans about publishing a Football Manifesto ahead of the General Election
- *February 2015* - Hull City Council informs Hull City Supporter's Trust that its nomination was successful and the KC Stadium is being listed as an ACV
- *Throughout the period* - various local and national TV, radio and print media appearances on a variety of matters linked to Hull City AFC and CTWD/HCST, mainly undertaken by Ian Waterson and Mark Gretton

REPORT OF TIGERS CO-OPERATIVE CHAIRMAN (Frank Beill)

The Tigers Co-operative was incorporated in 1999 to be one of the first Supporters' Trusts. It came out of the group of fans who opposed the way in which the then owner, David Lloyd, was running our football club. Membership expanded rapidly in 2001 when the club went into administration. Total membership at that time approached 2,000.

When Adam Pearson and his unnamed partner took over the club appeared stable and progressive and membership of the Co-operative began to decline; the establishment of the Official Supporters Club by Hull City was a response by the club to the strength of the Tigers Co-operative.

Membership continued to decline but the Co-operative continued because its committee always believed that there would be another crisis with our football club and a Supporters' Trust would be needed. The rules of Supporters Direct state that it will recognise only one Trust for each football club and if that Trust were to fold it would not assist in the formation of a new one.

When the name-change issue emerged the majority of the Co-operative's members were opposed to the owner's plans and supported the campaign to retain Hull City AFC as the club's name. The Tigers Co-operative took an active part in CTWD activities.

On 28 April 2014 the Co-operative held a Special General Meeting at which members unanimously voted to explore the merger with CTWD. Below is a review of Tigers Co-operative activity from April 2014 to date.

- *July 2014* – Annual General Meeting is held
- *July 2014* – constitution updated to Supporters Direct model rules
- *August 2014* - Members are balloted on merging with CTWD and the membership supports the move
- *September 2014* – Special General Meeting is held and a members decide decided that most of the £25,000 of funds remaining be donated to football related good causes with the remainder into the



new Trust to achieve the original aims of the Co-operative. The donations are:

- £6,000 grant to Hull Sunday Boys League and the East Riding Girls League to help teams and youngsters who are prevented by financial hardship in participating in playing football. Clubs will be able to apply for grants normally of up to £100
- £6,000 to the Teenage Cancer Trust, Hull City AFC's nominated charity partner
- Discussions are taking place with the ERCFA about donating a further £6,000 to help disabled teams and players in Hull and East Yorkshire to play football and to attend matches at the KC

REPORT OF HCST SECRETARY (Mike Scott)

I have been Secretary of CTWD since the AGM in April 2014 until the merger in December 2014, since when I have been acting as Secretary of HCST. The principal activities of my role have been:

- *April 2014* – CTWD FGM votes to proceed with merger with Tigers Co-operative, followed by a full vote of the CTWD membership via email
- *May/August 2014* – agree merger details with Margaret and Frank Beill from Tigers Co-operative
- *May-September 2014* – regular liaison with Jacqui Forster, legal officer at Supporters Direct, to map out the merger arrangements that would best suit SD needs and processes
- *November 2014* – conduct poll of CTWD and Tigers Co-operative members to select a new name
- *December 2014* – purchase website domains and email addresses to match new name; launch HCST Partners scheme
- *January 2015* – transfer to new website hullcitysupporterstrust.com; commence membership scheme for shareholders and junior members; create first HCST Partners page with discounts for shareholders at a range of stores and service providers; review Tigers Co-operative rules in discussion with Jacqui Forster; agree partnership with Co-operative Energy

- *February 2015* - make arrangements for this AGM as membership nears 650; issue first 550 HCST membership cards

REPORT OF HCST TREASURER (Alan Hemingway)

I have been acting Treasurer for Hull City Supporters' Trust from the 1st January 2015 (prior to then I was Finance Officer for CTWD). At this time we incorporated assets from CTWD and Tigers Co-operative into the new organisation. CTWD brought over just over £1,600 and the Co-operative brought over just under £8,000. These amounts are staying in the existing bank accounts because a new HCST bank account cannot be created until the Board of Directors is appointed. Signing authorities will stay as they are until the new account is created.

I have prepared a forecast for the next 15 months and, based on 550 members, we are forecast to make a small surplus. These numbers do not take into account any merchandise sales.

The Trust's financial figures will be recorded in cloud-based accounting software; this means board members can access the financial information for updates when required. Hemingway Bailey will be maintaining this information free of charge.

Indicative budget for HCST in 2015 is below:

Hull City Supporters' Trust 2015 Forecast		
		£
Income		
Adult Members	550 x £4	2,200
Junior Members	50 x £2	100
		2,300
Costs		
Web Hosting & Domains		150
Accounting Software	QBO	144
Venue Hire	AGM	160
Postage	600 @ 60p	372
Insurance		250
Membership Cards		450
Printing & Stationery		100
Supporters Direct		100
FCA Registration		100
Paypal Charges		200
		2,026
Surplus / (Deficit)		274

