

MEETING NOTES

Board Meeting 2017-01

Monday 9th January, 2017, 6:30pm

Attendees

Board Members Present

G Bielby (GB), Chairman
 R Richardson (RR), Vice Chairman
 A Hemingway (AH), Treasurer
 G Cannon (GC)
 S Pye (SP)
 P Walton (PW)
 P Fleming (PF)
 C Dyson (CD)
 G Whitaker (GW)
 R Mathers (RM), Secretary

Board Members Absent

S Dyson (SD)

Other absentees

None

Also in Attendance

None

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from SD

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th November 2016 were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

GW & SP are now set up with Trust e-mail accounts but have been unable to configure to their smartphones **ACTION: RM to forward instructions he received from Mike Scott for the 'Secretary' account.**

It was discussed that the HCST Board e-mail group still needed to be updated to only include current board members **ACTION: GB to contact Mike Scott re the administration parameters for the e-mail group. (RR to own the process going forward)**

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 (10): G Bielby (Chairman), R Richardson (Vice Chairman), A Hemingway (Treasurer), G Cannon, C Dyson, S Dyson, P Fleming, P Walton, G Whitaker (Co-opted), S Pye, (Co-opted)

Trust Secretary: R Mathers

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](#).**

4. Club Ownership Situation

The impact and feedback received from the HCST call for a 'fans boycott' of the recent FA Cup tie against Swansea City was discussed and summarised as follows:

- It was a decision that was not taken lightly by the Board and was done so with much sadness
- Even though the boycott appears to have been widely supported by our fans, (*leading to a wide level of national and local media coverage*), there is no pleasure to be taken from this as it is all because of an ongoing and well documented issue of concerns relating to the ownership situation of the club including a continued lack of concessionary match ticket prices for junior fans and senior citizens
- The only positive from the boycott to date was the monies raised for the HCST nominated charities by supporters donating their ticket money from the game. It was agreed to keep the donation links available for further donations to be received until the end of January.
- An official HCST statement was agreed as a next step to summarise the boycott impact and to call on the club owners to back the new head coach in the current transfer window to increase the chances of the team retaining Premier League status at the end of the season **ACTION – RR to draft communication for Board approval and make available for release by Thursday 12th January**

The current situation regarding the lack of concessionary ticket prices at Hull City and the associated Premier League rules was discussed, as this was raised by GB with Richard Scudamore at a Premier Leagues Fans Trust meeting back in July. **ACTION (1) – GB to write to Richard Scudamore (Chief Executive – English Premier League), to enquire if any further progress or contact has been made with Hull City regarding the concessions situation and also if the current wording of the associated Premier League Rules on concessions is to be amended at the end of this season to ensure this situation cannot be repeated for junior and senior citizen supporters at all Premier League clubs in the future**
ACTION (2) – GB also to approach the Football Supporters Federation (FSF) to make the wording on the rules for concessions as an agenda item for their forthcoming meeting with the Premier League

A summary listing of “Allam Quotes” and reference points is to be produced for use in the current Board campaign. **ACTION – GC to compile listing and make available to GW**

5. ART Project

GB stated that a member originally involved with the Anlaby Road Trust (ART) project had been in touch with him within the past month to establish the current level of HCST Board support and engagement. In summary:

- The HCST Board still support the project
- Clarity was required on any potential impact of the recent Stadium Management Committee (SMC) application for 'Security Gates' to be installed to the Argyle Street footbridge. The HCST Board are keen to work with and support the Newington Community Group on any potential objections to this application.
- GB has previously discussed the project with Councillor Stephen Brady during a Hull City Council/HCST meeting last year who also appeared supportive.
- There is an open evening meeting hosted by the Newington Community Group on January 21st **ACTION – GB to attend the meeting and feedback to the board as appropriate**

6. 2017 Plaques Project

GB also stated that the organiser of the 2017 Plaques project had been in direct contact with him over potential HCST support for the initiative and had also forwarded extensive documentation relating to an application of funding for the project.

It was noted that the level of potential HCST involvement was far greater than had been initially discussed when the organiser first initially approached the HCST verbally, and concerns were discussed in relating to requests for banking facilities, project management resource and that the project was not restricted to Hull City related landmarks but also



included other professional sports teams in the local area. The Board discussed these requirements and unanimously agreed that the structure of the Trust would not be able to support the request in its current status. **ACTION: GB to contact the project organiser to discuss the situation and advise that any HCST support would only be considered in its original form of being Hull City related** (Sub note – GB completed this action the day after the Board meeting but the project organiser confirmed he wished to pursue with his wider proposal and would therefore proceed without any HCST support)

7. Trust Merchandise

SP then gave an update on HCST merchandise, (inc costs and lead times), and advised as follows:

- An order for “Allam Out” t-shirts in M/L/XL & XXL sizes had been placed pre-Christmas but was due for delivery from the supplier within the next week.
- HCST branded pint glasses had been temporarily been removed from sale due to delays from the supplier of the boxes required for postage. However, delivery is expected this week and the glasses will be made available for sale again by the weekend.
- SP proposed that a bundle package of a HCST pint glass & key-ring be made available offering a £1 discount to purchasers. This was agreed. **ACTION – SP to arrange relevant link and price on HCST website**
- SP confirmed he was looking at potential designs and suppliers for a HCST branded baseball cap. **ACTION – SP to advise the Board on further progress**

8. HCST Website Domain Hosting

The HCST website domain host is currently managed by an American based supporter who has now indicated that he cannot support further due to work commitments.

Following a weekly newsletter posting, an enquiry based response had been received from a London based supporter for potential advice, however following further Board discussion, it was agreed that it would be more suitable solution would be to outsource the requirement to a specialist 3rd party as the potential annual costs were relatively small.

ACTION (1): GW to contact the London based supporter to thank them for their kind offer. ACTION (2): AH to approach potential 3rd party service provider and advise the Board as appropriate

It was noted that there may be potential short term support available from Andy Medcalf if required which GC has offered to support

9. AGM / 2017 Board Elections

CD & AH have offered to stand down from their roles for potential re-election, whilst GW & SP will need to formally stand for election as their roles are currently co-opted onto the Trust Board. RM confirmed that this will satisfy the Election Policy of the Trust.

With regards to the election process, RM confirmed that:

- 3 verified full members of the Trust, (Michelle Richardson, Peter Catchpole & John Tindall), had offered their services to form the Election Management Group (EMG). A potential independent observer of the process, (non-member), had also been approached as required under the Election Policy.
- The initial meeting for the EMG has been set for Tuesday 17th January, during which the associated notifications, candidate documentation, deadline for nominations and voting process would be discussed and agreed. **ACTION: RM to arrange for any EMG related communications to be made available to Trust members as required**
- A further EMG meeting would be arranged for mid-February (Date tbc)
- The previously proposed date of Saturday 25th February, (subject to a fixture change of the Burnley home game), was still the working date for the AGM



- GB confirmed that the function room of the William Gemmell had been agreed with the Gary Rowan, (WG landlord), as the AGM venue

10. Blokes United vs HCST Football Match

RR confirmed that there were now enough member volunteer players for the football match to be played against members of Blokes United which will be played on Sunday 22nd January at Haworth Park.

RR also confirmed that HCST member and partner Chris Smith had kindly offered to lend the team a kit for the game.

It was discussed if the HCST should have their own football kit for future matches and for events such as the annual Megan Pratt 6's tournament. **ACTION: RR to establish potential costs and advise to the Board**

11. 2015/16 HCST Action Plan

It was agreed that Board members should update their individual actions prior to the AGM and for inclusion in the Trust annual report. **ACTION: All individual actions to be updated in writing to RM by Friday 17th February**

12. Board Updates

- Chairman – GB had covered all points earlier in the meeting
- Secretary – RM reminded GB & AH that reports from the Chairman & Treasurer respectively would be required for inclusion in the Annual Report to be presented at the AGM.
- Treasurer – AH advised that the Trust funds currently stands at £14,466.48 (Inc £977.68 in the PayPal account). There is also £6444.10 in a separate holding account for the Megan Pratt fund
- Membership – RM advised that there are currently 1121 HCST members, including 71 Lifetime members
- Merchandise – See section 7 above

13. Any Other Business

CD reminded the Board of request of support relating to a 'Street Life Museum' initiative being arranged by Les Motherby for the City of Culture programme during July until September and an opportunity to arrange for HCST membership forms to be available on the display (Additional HCST related memorabilia items were discussed as potential donations for this initiative)

RR reminded Board members that there was a Google drive available for document sharing etc although this needed to be accessed through individual G-mail accounts

14. Date of next Board meetings

- > **EMG meeting – Tuesday 17th January**
- > **AGM – Saturday 25th February**
- > **Next Board meeting – TBC (Mid-March post AGM)**



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
2. Broadening our appeal
3. Exploring the opportunities that being a Trust gives us

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

4. Giving supporters a voice on the Board
5. Bringing benefits to community assets
6. Developing productive relationships with other supporter groups

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 club owners & heritage (led by Geoff Bielby) **Progressing through FSF & Supporters Direct meetings**
2. Through our participation in the FSF Heritage Working Group, engage with the FA to strengthen its heritage rules (led by Geoff Bielby) **Progressing**
3. Challenge, through our public statements and the local media, the “name-change by stealth” of Hull City AFC (led by Ryan Richardson) **Progressing**

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

4. Continue the dialogue with Hull City Council about the role the Trust can play (led by Geoff Bielby) **Direct meetings with Councillor Stephen Brady**
5. Represent the views of shareholders and the wider community at the Hull City Fans' Working Group (led by Geoff Bielby) **Outstanding meeting requests with Tom Rowell**

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

1. Support national initiatives pressing for legislation to reform football and include supporter representation on club boards (led by Geoff Bielby) **Progressing through FSF & Supporters Direct meetings**
2. Develop ways to recruit members to the Trust (led by Sue Dyson) **Progressing (Action plan in place)**
3. Grow the Trust membership through recruiting Partners offering benefits to members (led by Alan Hemingway) **Progressing (Plan to promote 2 partners per week in forthcoming weekly newsletters. Action – AH to contact listed partners to ensure published HCST member offers remain as stated prior to newsletter promotion)**
4. Development of Trust merchandise attractive to members (led by Steve Pye) **Progressing (See section 6 above)**

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

1. Develop the content of the Trust's website and social media platforms to provide up-to-date information about the Trust and the club (led by Greg Whitaker) **Progressing (Regular local and national media exposure)**
2. Develop the on-line Hull City museum (led by Martin Batchelor) **Progressing**
3. Engage with the City of Culture 2017 organisers to set up a heritage and Arts project (led by Sue Dyson) **Progressing (Through Les Motherby's Tiger Rag initiative)**

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

4. Support and publicise national campaigns such as Safe Standing and Twenty's Plenty (led by Geoff Bielby) **Progressing through FSF & Supporters Direct meetings**