

MEETING NOTES

Annual General Meeting 2018

10th March 2018, 12:30pm

William Gemmill Social Club, 507 Anlaby Road, Hull HU3 6EN

1. Attendees

G Bielby, R Richardson, P Fleming, S Dyson, P Walton, G Cannon, S Pye, I Fleming, R Mathers, T Wilkinson, J Tindall, C Wilde, D Johnson, C Johnson, D Hartnett, A Dearing, I Waterson, C Smith, T Richardson, J Richardson, C Hind, C Bell, D Smith, A Flockton, B Wilkinson (Guest)

2. Apologies

Received from P Johnson, P Helsby

3. Welcome from the Chairman

Geoff Bielby welcomed everyone to the meeting, went through the agenda for the day, (*inc the need to elect or re-elect members to the Board as part of the Rules of the Trust*), and gave an overview of his introduction in the Annual Report. He also declared his appreciation of both Phil Walton, (*standing down from the board due to work commitments*), and Greg Whitaker, (*who stood down last July to take up a role with the BBC*). Both have made significant contributions to the board during the time they have served.

4. Acceptance of 2017 AGM Minutes

Richard Mathers referred to the 2017 AGM minutes which were issued as a pre-read with the agenda and are also available on the Hull City Supporters Trust (HCST) website. These were approved by Phil Walton and Arthur Dearing as a true record of the meeting held.

5. HCST Annual Report

Geoff Bielby delivered his Chairman's report to the meeting:

- > Geoff gave a background to HCST which has been trading since January 1st 2015
- > He then reviewed by month the work carried out by month the Trust in the previous 12 months which included HCST representation on the Supporters Committee meeting arranged by Hull City Football Club, (*the Club*), direct

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 (Chairman), R Richardson (Vice Chairman) P Fleming (Treasurer), G Cannon, P Walton, S Pye I Buntun (Co-opted), P Johnson (Co-opted).
Interim Secretary: M Scott

The Hull City Supporters' Trust Partners are:

Aspecs Opticians, Brookes Menswear, Circle 87 Café, Co-op Energy, Cross Solutions Chimney Sweep, Dinostar, EasyPeasyPrint, Essence Holistics, Finesse Internet, Frying Farmer Fish & Chips (Aldborough), Fudges Den (Filey), Harpers Fish & Chips (Beverley), Hemingway Bailey Ltd, Hornsea Walking Football Club, Hull City Ladies FC, Leasing for Business, Nudge Websites, Photo Express, Rob McFadyen ADI, Ska & Soul, Skin Deep, Wags & Whiskers, William Gemmill Social Club, Wine On-Line. **Full details can be found [here](#).**



involvement with the Centenary Plaques project organised by Hull City Council, HCST involvement and then withdrawal from the Hall of Fame event organised by the Club and a summary of the infamous Supporters Committee meeting on February 7th (*A summary which was backed by C Wilde & B Wilkinson who both attended the meeting as Committee members*)

- > He also mentioned his recent election for 1 year to the Supporters Direct England & Wales National Council.
- > Geoff added he was cautiously optimistic that finally some progress was being made with the Club via the Supporters Committee on the key issues of Concessionary ticket pricing, Club Branding and the Club crest.
- > Geoff ended his report by explaining the background to the Club ballot on a revised pricing model, with numerous e-mails offering feedback sent by Supporters Committee members prior to the ballot being announced.

Richard Mathers delivered his Secretary's report:

- > Richard made a comparison to the current position of the Club to the previous AGM 12 months ago, (*i.e a relegation fight & a recently appointed new manager*), and the difficult relationship between the Club and the Supporters, but like Geoff thought there was reason to remain optimistic
- > He reported that HCST membership numbers had declined in the previous 12 months, but that it was noticeable that over 75% of the current membership were longer term, (*3-year and Lifetime*), members who clearly believed in the direction and approach of the Board.
- > The current membership breakdown is 10 x Junior Members / 175 x 1 year / 520 x 3-year / 113 x Lifetime (Total = 813). Richard added that 82 members has joined/renewed since the aborted Supporters Committee meeting on February 7th
- > An acknowledgement was made to the ongoing support to HCST from both Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation
- > He also encouraged all members to feedback and correspond with HCST more and to ask family and friends to join HCST to strengthen the voice of supporter representation

Pete Fleming delivered his Treasurer's report:

- > Pete began his summary by thanking the previous HCST Treasurer, (*Alan Hemingway*), for the quality of a smooth handover of the role.
- > Pete stated that HCST provisionally report a deficit of £1,333 for the year ending 31/12/17, which could primarily be explained by a reduction in Membership numbers although the situation was helped by costs being lower for the year
- > He then explained how 3-year & Lifetime membership payments are apportioned as on an annual basis through HCST accounts
- > Even though there were no charitable donations made by HCST in 2017, a contribution of £120 was made towards the cost of a banner in memory of former player Les Mutrie who sadly passed away during the year with a further £350 spent on player sponsorship for Amy Halloran, who is the goalkeeper for Hull City Ladies. (*n.b. The Ladies team do not receive any direct support from Hull City Football Club*)
- > Pete then explained how PayPal costs for HCST reduce if members join or renew for the higher membership fee options, (*i.e. 3-year & Lifetime*). Chris Smith asked for further clarity on these costs with Pete replying that a charge of 37p made to PayPal for 1-year memberships, rising to £1.50 for Lifetime memberships.
- > Chris Smith asked for clarity on how a Lifetime membership was apportioned through HCST accounts with Pete stating this was a 10-year process on the current fee. (*i.e. £4 per year*)
- > Pete closed his report by reminding members that the Board are not paid or reimbursed for any of their time of travel costs on a routine basis, although travel costs can be claimed for travel to meetings held by Supporters Direct or Football Supporters Federation in locations such as London.



6. Election of Board Directors

Richard explained the HCST Election process, and that an Election Management Group, (EMG), was required to agree the voting process and verify that the members standing for nomination were full HCST members and had also been nominated by full members.

2 full HCST members volunteered their services for the EMG this year. John Tindall, (*2nd year running*), and Tom Irvin, with the whole process overseen by Alison Branson who was an independent observer and non-HCST member.

There were 6 vacancies available for election, with 5 full members submitting nomination forms. Geoff Bielby & Ryan Richardson standing for re-election, (*having served 3 consecutive years on the Board*), Ian Bunton & Pete Johnson standing for election, (*having served the Board as co-opted Directors for part of the previous 12 months*), and finally Deborah Johnson was also standing for election.

Richard added that the election/re-election process followed Rule 63 listed in the HCST Rules document, (*available to view via the website*)

The candidate statements had been issued with the AGM Agenda as pre-reading and hard copies were also made available to meeting attendees on the day. Questions were invited for the 5 standing candidates, but none were received from the members present.

Once the 5 nominations were received before the deadline set, the EMG met to review them all and also advised that as there were 5 candidates for 6 vacant positions, Rule 35 of the HCST Election Policy, (*also available to view on the HCST website*), would apply, and that voting would be via the members attending the AGM.

Richard proposed that a vote accepting all 5 candidates as a group which was agreed, and the members attending the meeting voted unanimously by a show of hands to accept all 5 candidates to the HCST Board.

Chris Smith requested that Geoff Bielby be re-elected as Chairman in recognition of his efforts with the Supporters Committee in recent months. Richard advised that the Board were meeting on Monday 12th March and the structure and roles of the Board as an agenda item, but Chris's comment would be noted at that meeting

7. Proposed Member Resolutions

Richard stated that no formal resolutions had been received from shareholders in advance of the AGM.

Members present were asked if they had any Resolutions to proposed but none were forwarded which is noted for the purpose of the minutes.

8. Review of HCST Priorities

Geoff Bielby presented a review of the Trust's existing aims, objectives and actions that guide its day-to-day work. (*See the Annual Report for details*).

Good progress was being made on all the current objectives, although the plan will be reviewed at the next HCST Board meeting and any amendments documented in the minutes produced and published via the HCST website and weekly newsletter

9. Any Other Business

- Ian Waterson asked if the Annual Report and AGM minutes would be published. Richard confirmed they would be within the next week via the HCST website and the next weekly newsletter produced.
- Chris Hind requested that thanks should be noted for the Board for volunteering their time and expertise on behalf of HCST members and Hull City fans in general, especially with direct Club contact.
- Chris Smith requested an update on the Anlaby Road Tribute project. Geoff explained the background to the project with an original plan to raise funds for a statue or artwork to be located near to the original ground for the



Club, which is located near to the South-East area of the K.Com stadium perimeter. (*Commonly known as the 'Railway Triangle'*). However, the Centenary plaques project that Geoff was directly involved with was seen as a suitable alternative, and that the families of Billy Bly, Andy 'Jock' Davidson and Raich Carter had requested that the plaques commemorating these players were placed on the exterior of the K.Com stadium facing the area above. This proposal is supported by Hull City Council and some senior Club officials but awaits formal permission from the Club owners.

- Chris Smith asked for the HCST Board stance on Assem Allam's previous quote in the Decembers Supporters Committee meeting that he would sell the Club for £1 and put the club in the hands of a 3rd party management team. Geoff stated that he had offered a £1 at the meeting, but is all seriousness, where as Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation encouraged supporters Board presence and club ownership, it was probably not feasible that HCST could 'own' a club playing in the Championship or Premier League.

10. Meeting Close

Geoff Bielby thanked everyone for their attendance and also the rest of the HCST Board for their commitment and support in the past year. He also welcomed the newly appointed Directors.

He also offered gratitude to the management and staff at the William Gemmell (WG) for their continued support and use of their facilities, and reminded the members present that Board Directors were available at the WG prior to every home game.

The meeting closed at 1.50pm.