

## MEETING NOTES

### Annual General Meeting 2017

11<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 12:00noon

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

#### 1. Attendees

G Bielby, R Richardson, A Hemingway, S Dyson, P Walton, G Cannon, P Fleming, G Whitaker, S Pye, R Mathers, J Cannon, R Anson, M Richardson, J Tindall, A Guy, J Guy, M Guy, J Anderson, J Beale, A Fleming, M Whitaker, J Spencer, T Richardson, J Gill, S Rooker, S Buttle, C Cooper, J Richardson, J Pindley, M Phillips

#### 2. Apologies

Received from C Dyson, P Helsby, C Smith, D Mars

#### 3. Welcome from the Chairman

Geoff Bielby welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the introduction page documented in the Annual Report. He also declared his appreciation of both current board members who are standing down due to work commitments - Alan Hemingway (Treasurer) and Cath Dyson (Director). Both have made significant contributions to the board during the time they have served.

#### 4. Acceptance of 2016 AGM Minutes

Richard Mathers referred to the 2016 AGM minutes available on the Trust's website. These were approved by Sue Dyson and Phil Walton as a true record of the meeting held.

#### 5. Financial Statement

Alan Hemingway presented the Trust's current financial position, (also documented in the Annual Report). The HCST have provisionally made a deficit of £3,834 during 2016, (versus a surplus of £1,771 in 2015). The deficit is primarily explained by slightly lower membership fees, (partially due to the introduction of 3 year and Lifetime Trust memberships), and lower merchandise sales although a new range of products only became available until Q4 of the year.

With regards to the 3 year and Lifetime memberships fees received, only the first year of these memberships has been put through, meaning the accrual of only 2 of the 3 year and 9 of the Lifetime\* years of these memberships with the

**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, G Cannon, C Dyson, S Dyson, P Fleming, A Hemingway (Treasurer), A Mills, R Richardson (Interim Chairman), P Walton.

**Interim Secretary:** M Scott

**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](#).**



remain declared over future years (*\*It is assumed that the Lifetime membership is a 10-year period purely for accounting purposes*)

Alan also explained that the Trust had spent no money on the artwork project or player sponsorship compared to 2015, but had increased the level of charity contributions in the past year and there were costs associated with 'protest activity' against the club's membership scheme and the lack of concessionary prices, which included expenditure on 'red cards' and the cost of the billboard advertisement on Anlaby Road.

He also reminded the members present that all of the HCST Board give up the time involved in their duties voluntarily and receive no financial reward for doing so.

The Trust's financial position remained healthy, with a closing balance at the end of 2016 showing £14,053, which excluded a further £7,044 held in a separate account relating to funds collected on behalf of the last Megan Pratt that is awaiting distribution to good causes close to the Pratt family.

The Trust's accounts were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

## 6. HCST Annual Report

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

- > He gave a review of the work carried out by the Trust in the previous 12 months which included the 'Scrap The Scheme' campaign and the 'Red Card' protests that generated high levels of national media coverage, the '#AskEhab' campaign following Steve Bruce's now infamous radio interview prior to him leaving the club, which led to a 'first edition' t-shirt being worn on a Match of the Day 2 interview, and numerous other opportunities across radio, TV and the written press locally and nationally that has seen the exposure and reputation of the HCST increase.
- > Geoff gave an overview of the inaugural Football Supporters Federation (FSF) led Premier League Fans meeting that was held with Richard Scudamore, as well as the subsequent meetings that both he and Phil Walton have attended where unanimous support has been received from the other 19 Premier League clubs and the FSF to press for an amendment of the wording to the League's own 'Rule 8' concerning concessionary pricing
- > January saw HCST reluctantly call for a fans boycott of the FA Cup tie against Swansea, which as Geoff explained was a very difficult decision for the Trust Board to take, although the clubs decision to close the North and West Upper stands for the game helped to raise the profile of this protest! (*2 local charities also benefited by donations raised*)
- > Finally, Geoff rounded up the year by sharing a response he has recently received directly from the Premier League after he had chased them for an answer on the amendment to the concessions wording in their Rule 8. Further evidence on how HCST are continuing to work behind the scenes for the benefit of all our supporters

Richard Mathers delivered his Secretary's report:

- > Richard expressed his gratitude to the previous Secretary, (Mike Scott), for the handover completed and the administrative set-up received as part of the role.
- > He then gave an overview to the members present of the duties required in the role and how this all needs to be embedded into the routine of a busy work schedule.
- > He also encouraged all members to use the contact e-mail address more to engage with himself and the Board on the matters that are affecting them and the topics they feel as members the Board should be working on.

## 7. Election of Board Directors

Richard Mathers outlined the process to elect 2 new Board directors and thanked the shareholders that formed the Election Management Group – Michelle Richardson, John Tindall & Peter Catchpole who were supported in this process by an independent observer and non-member named Mark Phillips. This group assisted Richard in ratifying the details of all prospective Board members and decided on the voting process as outlined in the HCST Election Policy.

Both standing candidates were co-opted onto the Board during 2016 and gave a brief presentation on themselves.



### **Greg Whitaker**

- > Lifelong City fan
- > Was co-opted onto the Board following the resignation of Andy Mills and has maintained the Trust's website, managed the content and production of the Trust's Weekly Newsletter and written numerous press articles on behalf of the HCST in local and international newspapers
- > Greg is keen to use the Trust website, newsletter and social media platforms to continue to push for open and honest dialogue between the Club, HCST and wider fan base

### **Steve Pye**

- > Another long-term City fan
- > Was also co-opted onto the Board following the resignation of Risk Skelton and has fulfilled the role of Merchandising Officer, during which time Steve has sourced new products inc '#Ask Ehab' t-shirts, HCST branded key rings and pint glasses
- > Steve is looking forward to supporting the rest of the Board on any initiatives being progressed as well as expanding the range of available HCST merchandise

On a show of hands, each of the above candidates were approved unanimously as elected Board Directors of the Trust (Both had been ratified by the Election Management Group).

Following an enquiry from Phil Walton, Richard confirmed that there was currently 1123 members of the HCST

## **8. Resolutions**

Richard Mathers noted that no formal resolutions had been received from shareholders in advance of the AGM, but one Trust policy amendment was put forward for ratification by the AGM.

The amendment related to Rule 33.2 of the HCST Election Policy and the advanced publication of information on the election candidates to allow the wider membership base to make a more informed decision during the election process. This amendment was approved unanimously on a show of hands.

## **9. 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 some will need to be re-allocated to individual Board members following the decision of Alan Hemingway and Cath Dyson to stand down.

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

## **10. Any Other Business**

- > Phil Walton suggested that dependent on how the situation over the club ownership develops, a strategy for members and supporters to lobby their local MP's should be considered. (*Our membership base indicates at least 11*



*MP's would be covered should this be an adopted strategy*). It was agreed to discuss this proposal further at the next HCST Board meeting.

- A question was raised asking if the rules on concessionary prices was different in the Football League compared to the Premier League. Richard Mathers will establish and communicate the answer via the Trust's weekly newsletter.
- Geoff Bielby confirmed that Peter Fleming, (*current Board Member and a Qualified Accountant*), had agreed to take over as HCST Treasurer from Alan Hemingway and they were to arrange an imminent handover for the role.

## **II. 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. The meeting closed at 13.14.



# 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) **Meeting attended and dialogue channels opened with Tom Rowell**

*Aim 3: Acquiring a stake in Hull City and attaining representation on its board 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**
3. Grow the Trust membership through recruiting Partners offering benefits to members (led by Alan Hemingway) **Progressing (Currently promoting current partners in weekly newsletter)**
4. Development of Trust merchandise attractive to members (led by Steve Pye) **Progressing (New ranges include '#AskEhab' t-shirts, key rings, HCST pint glasses – further lines being sourced)**

*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**