

MEETING NOTES

Board Meeting 2019-03

Monday 29th April, 6:30pm

Attendees

Board Members Present

G Bielby (GB), Chairman
 P Fleming (PF), Treasurer
 G Cannon (GC)
 S Pye (SP)
 D Johnson (DJ)
 D Batte (DB)
 R Anson (RA)
 B Hadgraft (BH)
 R Mathers (RM), Secretary

Board Members Absent

I Bunton (IB)

Guests

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from IB. (*Milestone birthday celebrations*)

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the previous Board meeting on March 4th 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 – GC & RR to collate and complete by 31/8/19**

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 produce a communication for this week's newsletter. ACTION – RM to ensure members resolution for amendment is included in the AGM for March 2020**

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 (9): G Bielby (Chairman), G Cannon (Vice-Chairman), P Fleming (Treasurer), S Pye, I Bunton, D Johnson, R Anson, D Batte, B Hadgraft
Trust Secretary: R Mathers

The Hull City Supporters' Trust Partners are:

COMMUNITY – Dementia Friendly East Riding, Hull & East Yorkshire MIND, Hull City Ladies FC
RETAIL - Aspects Opticians, Brookes Menswear, Dinostar, Dutton Moore Accountants, EasyPeasyPrint, Essence Holistics, Finesse Internet, Frank Pullen Butchers (Cottingham), Frying Farmer Fish & Chips (Aldborough), Fudges Den Holiday Cottage (Filey), Hornsea Walking Football Club, Hull Kingston Radio, IT Forward, Leasing for Business, Nudge Websites, Photo Express, Rob McFadyen ADI, Ska & Soul, Skin Deep Aesthetics, The 'H' Shop, Wags & Whiskers, William Gemmill Social Club, Wine On-Line, Zip Dry Cleaners.



DB has been writing to publishers of football books not necessarily related to Hull City where HCST could help raise publicity and awareness in return for promotional copies that could be used as prizes or giveaways from members **ACTION – DB to continue researching publishers and write to them on behalf of HCST**

DB suggested that as part of the website update works, ways to engage better with members should be proactively considered **ACTION – Membership sub-group to suggest potential ideas and feedback to the Board. CARRIED FORWARD**

3. Matters Arising

The Board would like to place on record their sadness with the recent passing of former player Peter Skipper and pass on condolences to his family & friends. Peter will always be remembered fondly by the fans who saw him play for the Club

4. UFSO Update

GB stated that the next National Council meeting he is attending is on May 9th and he will update the Board as required.

The UFSO AGM is also scheduled for Saturday 29th June. HCST attendees will be confirmed nearer the date

5. HCST Vice-Chairman / Co-opted Directors

The Board discussed the Vice-Chairman role as an outstanding action from the March meeting and confirmed there was still a strong need for the role to act as an effective cover for GB as & when required.

GC had previously expressed an interest conducting the Vice-Chairman role which was unopposed by other Board members present and following a vote he was unanimously appointed.

RM then reminded the Board on the availability and requirements of Co-opted Directors in line with Trust Rules.

There has been a recent enquiry from a full member to fulfil a co-opted position which RM will follow up directly with the individual. **ACTION: RM to contact the member, explain the requirements and responsibilities of a co-opted role and invite them to the next Board meeting to gauge their interest.**

6. Investment Opportunity

GB gave details of a direct approach he had received from a potential partnership opportunity with an independent group of investors. Talks are ongoing between both parties and further background information being collated. **ACTION: GB to update Board and involve 'Finance sub-Group members' as required**



7. 'Decade' Book Launch

Timings were confirmed for the launch event of Richard Gardham's 'Decade' book at Mr Chu's on Saturday 4th May.

The evening will commence at 7.30pm, with a Q&A likely to start at 8.30pm.

HCST have 2 tables booked with various guests joining our group. Buffet wristbands will be available on the night for £10 fee

8. HCST Newsletter

DB suggested that there needed to be a format change to the current weekly newsletter sent out every Friday.

Ideas included a change to a monthly publishing schedule and new regular content entries. **ACTION: The Communications sub-Group to compile a draft format with headings and issue to all Board members by 30/6/19 ACTION: GC to establish what other Supporters Trusts produce and provide a summary for the next Board meeting (29/7/19)**

9. Emmaus Football Tournament

PF confirmed that Emmaus were hosting a 5-a-side tournament on Sunday 30th June at the Goals football centre on Clough Road.

HCST will enter a team and also provide a donation to the charity which will be used as a contribution to the cost of medals and awards on the day. **ACTION: HCST social media channels to raise awareness of the tournament and request for members to volunteer as players (10 required) ACTION: PF to lead the team on the day of the tournament ACTION: PF to arrange for the donation to be paid from HCST funds to Emmaus**

10. Hornsea Walking Football Club

RM confirmed that the 'challenge match' against Hornsea Walking Football Club is to be played on Wednesday 5th June.

ACTION: HCST social media channels to raise awareness of the match and request for members of all genres to volunteer as players (10 required) ACTION: BH to lead the team on the evening ACTION: RM to contact Hornsea WFC management to agree donation towards the match costs

11. Hull City Ladies Meeting

GB gave an update on a meeting he had been invited to with members of Hull City Ladies (HCL) club management.

HCL are seeing some exciting changes behind the scenes and are about to launch a new kit supplier and home ground for the 2019/20 season.

Concerns were discussed by the Board on the level of benefit received from HCST's sponsorship of a HCL player over the previous 2 years but it was agreed that the sponsorship could be extended by a further year provided that HCL fulfil their requirements and commitments to HCST **ACTION: RM & GB to further meet HCL management to discuss the**



2019/20 sponsorship fee being potentially phased and dependant on conditions being met ACTION: RM & GB to request that some HCL management and players become HCST members.

12. HCST Annual FCA Return

RM advised the Board that the annual Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) return was being collated in readiness for submission.

ACTION: PF to forward required information for the return and a copy of the verified HCST accounts for 2018 to RM by the end of May. ACTION: RM to forward return to FCA once all requested information is available

13. HCST Branded Plastic Drink Containers

DJ has a meeting scheduled with a potential supplier on 12/5/19.

DJ has also been e-mailing HCST logo information to various contacts and requested production quotes and is awaiting responses. **ACTION: DJ to update Board on designs and potential costs once received.**

14. HCST Sub-Groups

The updated from the sub-Group leaders were:

- **Communications – (RA)** Sub-group has had 2 meetings since previous Board meeting and are making good progress on some actions / RA advised that the website requirements are still being scoped and will potentially take considerable time to implement / Mission statement is completed and available to review on the shared Google sheet / Actions on the Google drive have been updated
- **Membership – RM** (Sub-Group actions are up to date and a mission statement has been completed / RM, IB & SP have been working on an opportunity to target Junior members at the Hull Youth Football Sunday League (HYSFL) AGM that is being held at the K.Com stadium on 20/5/19
- **Finance – PF** No sub-Group update other than the potential investment opportunity detailed in section 6 above
- **Community – TBC** In view of GC being appointed into the Vice-Chairman role, DB was asked to consider being the lead for this sub-Group **ACTION: DB to consider and confirm decision with GC & GB** / No further update available / **ACTION: Meeting required prior to next Board meeting**

15. HYSFL Opportunity

As detailed in section 14, the Membership sub-Group have been working on a potential opportunity at the HYSFL AGM meeting later in the month and agreed with the HYSFL Board. **ACTION: IB/SP/RM to confirm final version of a double sided leaflet to be produced, (inc a HCST membership form) ACTION: IB/SP/RM to arrange to distribute leaflets at the HYSFL AGM ACTION: IB/SP/RM to confirm to the Board the sponsorship details, (both financial and regular**



inclusion in the Trust newsletter and social media channels), that will be made available to the Junior/Youth football team that generates the largest number of new HCST Junior members

16. Spirit of Shankly Initiative

RM questioned the continued inclusion of this initiative as a Board action considering the muted response since its first suggestion back in October and further that there has already been high profile support for the MIND charity through their partnership with the EFL.

It was agreed to remove this initiative as a 'separate' action. **ACTION: Communication sub-Group to ensure the MIND/EFL sponsored overnight walk in July is publicised via social media channels in advance of the event and encourage HCST members to get involved should they wish to do so.**

17. HCST Summer communication

RM reminded the Board that regular communication channels should remain during the close season as there had been concerns expressed in recent years that HCST had been too 'quiet' during Summer periods

18. Board Updates

Chairman

- No further updates

Treasurer

- PF updated that DJ has now been added as a bank account signatory

- PF stated that there is £2,548 in the HCST PayPal account and £10,254 in the Unity bank account. The former HCST Barclays account has now been closed.

Merchandise

- SP confirmed that good stock remains on most HCST merchandise items and has requested a small quantity of the new design black HCST badges to make available for sale from the website **ACTION: RM to arrange delivery to SP of a quantity of black badges**

Secretary

-RM advised that there are currently 960 HCST members, (150 x Lifetime / 614 x 3 year / 150 x 1 year / 20 x Junior) This is an increase of 11 YTD but 3 down on the March Board meeting summary

- RM advised that recent trends have seen an increase in 3-year members upgrading to Lifetime as their current memberships expired and added that all renewals had been processed and posted to members

-RM also advised that there was still around 200 memberships YTD that were outstanding for renewal

19. HCST Aims & Objectives Review

The Board reviewed the current Aims & Objectives listing and confirmed they are still current. A further review will be completed later in the year.

20. AOB

- GB confirmed that he will be raising the recent events at the Sheffield United game at the forthcoming UFSO meeting, had already discussed the incident with Amanda Jacks, (legal expert at the Football Supporters Federation), and was aware that Amber Nectar had raised a freedom of information request to Humberside Police.

- The Board acknowledge that the incidents are now subject to an investigation by the Club, Stadium Management Company and Football Association but remain extremely concerned by the reports of families being visibly distressed by the scenes witnessed.

- IB's 'Last Man Standing' competition continues to prove popular and has generated positive feedback

- DB suggested that HCST organise a competition connected to this Summers Womens World Cup in France **ACTION: DB to produce competition format**



Next meetings

- **Board Meeting – Monday 29th July**



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.