

MEETING NOTES

Board Meeting 2019-04

Monday 29th July, 6:30pm

Attendees

Board Members Present

G Bielby (GB), Chairman
 P Fleming (PF), Treasurer
 G Cannon (GC), Vice Chairman
 S Pye (SP)
 D Johnson (DJ)
 D Batte (DB)
 R Anson (RA)
 I Bunton (IB)
 R Mathers (RM), Secretary

Board Members Absent

R Anson (RA)
 B Hadgraft (BH)

Guests

M Frampton
 M Rayner
 J Cannon
 P Jago (Minster Village Sportswear)
 J Uttley (Minster Village Sportswear)

1. Apologies

Belated apologies were received in advance of the meeting from RA & BH

2. Minster Village Sportswear

The meeting commenced with a presentation and proposal from Paul Jago and John Uttley from Minster Village Sportswear who offer an extensive range of replica retro football & multi-sport shirts.

The main points of note were: Shirts are available from infant size to adult 7XL / Regular retail price of £35 (inc p&p, printed name and number) / There are no copyright issues to consider from a HCST perspective / HCST would receive a % of any Hull City retro shirts sold post a written agreement between both parties / Lead times for orders are approximately 3 weeks / Shirts are available in short or long sleeves **ACTION: JU to arrange for the supply of a Tiger stripe retro shirt to GB**

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.



ACTION: HCST to promote shirt to gauge supporter interest via away games, social media channels, website etc

3. Introductions

GB introduced Matthew Frampton and Mike Rayner to the meeting who are both interested in joining the Trust Board in a co-opted Director capacity. Jean Cannon was also introduced as a potential Secretary following RM's decision in May to stand down from the role post a notice period of 3 months to find a successor

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the previous Board meeting on April 29th were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record.

Actions carried forward were: 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 –RM to include a 'members resolution for the next AGM' as part of the handover process to JC for the Secretary role**

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 (2nd time)**

DB has forwarded a revised format for the weekly HCST newsletter but is still awaiting publication on the Trust website **ACTION: GB to ask RA to post the newsletter on the website no later than Wednesday 31st July**

GB expressed disappointment that HCST had not submitted a team in the Emmaus 5-a-side tournament on 30th June

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. CARRIED FORWARD**

DB updated the Board on recent activity of the Luton Supporters Trust as evidence of how a Trust should work proactively with its parent Club and suggested that HCST needed radical action to begin to heal the relationship with the Senior Management at Hull City.

5. Club Bids / FSA Updates

HCST are aware of a consortium who had expressed an interest in purchasing the Club had recently withdrawn from the process.

GB gave an update of the recent Football Supporters Association (FSA) AGM that he had recently attended and shared a copy of the annual report with the Board members present.

GB also advised that the minutes from the English Football League (EFL) meeting he had attended on May 25th were due for release over the coming week.

6. Club / EFL Contact

RM confirmed that there had been no form of contact from the Club since an e-mail from Vicky Beercock on May 13th.

RM also confirmed that he had not received a response to an e-mail sent to Andy Pomfret (EFL) although Deborah Dilworth (FSA) was now chasing Andy for a response

GC confirmed that he had not has a response to an e-mail sent to the Club in relation to a reciprocal ticket pricing agreement that has been backed by the FSA and a number of other Championship clubs for the 2019/20 season



7. HCST Director Proactivity

GB expressed disappointment at the lack of proactivity by Board members and via HCST social media channels over recent months and reminded the Board members present of their individual and collective responsibilities as Directors of the Trust. GB stated that HCST were opening themselves to criticism for the lack of proactivity and visibility to members and the wider fan base and that all Board members needed to 'up their game'

An honest exchange of views and opinions were shared in debate including potential next steps to improve the working relationship with Hull City and a review of events over the past year that lead to the current 'stand-off' situation. **ACTION: GB to have separate discussions with RA and BH who were absent from the meeting.**

8. K.Com Stadium Perimeter – Change of Use

RA had forwarded an acknowledgement that Hull City Council (HCC) have recently signed a 'change of use' agreement for the perimeter area of the K.Com stadium bordering West Park.

GC stated that the Asset of Community value in place for the Stadium will be due for renewal having been in place for almost 5 years **ACTION: GC to establish the details and process required to renew this status ACTION: GB to contact Stephen Brady & Matt Jukes at HCC to arrange the annual update meeting with HCST**

9. HCST Newsletter

DB stated he was happy to take ownership of the revised format for the HCST newsletter.

It was agreed that the newsletter will be published in a web-based format and with each publication forwarded to local media contracts, (i.e. *Radio Humberside, Hull Daily Mail etc*)

It was also agreed that there should be the introduction of a 'Know your Board' section to raise the profile of all Board members

10. Book Launches

Following the successful recent launch of the 'Decade book', HCST have been approached to assist in the launch and publicity of 2 forthcoming books written by Alfie Potts Harmer and Greg Whitaker

Alfie Potts Harmer book is connected to former Hull City, Stoke City and England player Neil Franklin and is due for launch at Waterstones, Hull on Friday 16th August. Various guests and a presentation are being arranged as well as requests to local media outlets to publicise the event

Greg Whitakers book is due for launch 2-3 weeks later and he has made direct contact with GB & RM to request support. **ACTION: GB to contact Alfie Potts & Greg Whitaker to finalise details of both launches and HCST involvement**

It was agreed to include the Amazon link to both books within any web or social media publicity for either books

11. Membership Consultations

DB updated the Board on a recent survey conducted by Birmingham City Supporters Trust post the recent departure of their manager Gary Monk and suggested HCST should arrange a survey with the wider Hull City fan base on current issues.

RM explained that a survey had already been drafted by the membership sub-group previously and had input from the now merged Football Supporters Federation. It was agreed that any HCST surveys would be open to the wider Hull City fan base and not just HCST members **ACTION: DB & SP to revise the suggested survey and launch it by the end of August.**

12. Hull City Ladies Football Club

It was noted that there had been no follow up contact from the management team at Hull City Ladies in relation to extending the working relationship and sponsorship opportunities with HCST. It was agreed that the growth of the Women's game and



supporters group engagement was an FSA strategic objective and so the relationship should continue. **ACTION: GB to contact Danny Johnson at Hull City Ladies to establish support requests from HCST**

13. HCST Partners

RM advised that Country Golf located on East Links Road in Hull have agreed to offer HCST members 10% discount off driving range and par 3 rounds on production of their membership card. **ACTION: RM to forward Country Golf logo and brief company bio to GC and RA for inclusion on social media channels and also the Partners section on the Trust website**

14. HCST Media Requests

DB forwarded a motion that HCST required a spokesman and media officer to deal with short notice enquiries from TV, radio and written media outlets and stated he was happy to fulfil the role. The motion was accepted by the Board members present with GC adding he was happy to be involved in such requests if DB was unavailable.

15. HCST Sub-Groups

Due to the lack of recent proactivity by the various sub-Groups, all are required to have held update meetings prior to the next Board meeting. It was agreed that meetings can take any format including the use of Skype, Google chat, Skype etc

The Membership sub-group will now comprise of SP/GC/DJ and JC

The new Community sub-group will be headed by GB and supported by PF & GC

ACTION: All sub-Groups to have met and prepared updates prior to next Board meeting

16. Board Updates

Chairman

– No further updates

Treasurer

- PF updated that DJ has now been added as a bank account signatory with IB removed
- PF stated he had been contacted by previous employees of Hemingway Bailey who had discovered some boxes of old HCST related documentation. PF will go through the documentation and retain/dispose as appropriate
- PF stated that there is £3,076.30 in the HCST PayPal account and £9224.14 in the Unity bank account. He also gave a full breakdown of expenditure since the last Board meeting.

Merchandise

- SP confirmed that good stock remains on most HCST merchandise items and that both versions of the HCST badge were now on sale via the website

Secretary

- RM advised that there are currently 891 HCST members, (157 x Lifetime / 565 x 3 year / 149 x 1 year / 20 x Junior) This is an decrease of 58 YTD and 72 down on the April Board meeting summary
- RM advised that there are a further 204 memberships still due for renewal between April & July and a further 97 between August and the end of December **ACTION: GC to arrange a new mailshot to the expired members**
- RM requested details as to who he can handover all HCST related documentation, electronic files and stock in his possession. **ACTION: RM to advise GC/JC of a suitable evening to complete the handover w/c 5th August**
- RM reminded the Board that his home address was currently the HCST registered address. **ACTION: Registered HCST address is to be transferred to GB's home address**
- RM advised that he had requested the minutes from a recent Stadium Advisory Group meeting via the relevant department within HCC. **ACTION: RM / JC to forward the minutes to the rest of the Board once received**



17. HCST Aims & Objectives Review

The current Aims & Objectives need a review will be added as an agenda item at the next Board meeting

18. AOB

- It is noted that there is a new CEO at the Tigers Trust **ACTION: GB to contact the new incumbent by way of introduction**

- GC stated he had represented HCST at the recent ERCFA 'Grassroots Award' ceremony. He noted that there is a serious shortage of volunteers within a number of junior football clubs across the region. **ACTION: HCST are to publicise the need for junior football volunteers via the newsletter and social media channels**

- GB wished to express his gratitude to RM & IB for their significant contribution to the HCST Board during their respective periods of service and that the contribution of both would be missed

Next meetings

- **Board Meeting – Monday 23rd September**



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.