

MEETING NOTES

Special Board Meeting 2019-01

Sunday 8th December, William Gemmell Club, 3:00pm

Attendees

Board Members Present

G Bielby (GB), Chairman
 G Cannon (GC), Vice Chairman
 S Pye (SP)
 D Johnson (DJ)
 D Batte (DB)
 R Anson (RA)
 J Cannon (JC), Secretary

Board Members Absent

P Fleming (PF), Treasurer

Guests

M Frampton
 M Raynor

G Cannon in his position of Vice Chair acted as Chair of the meeting as agreed by the Board.

1. Apologies

P Fleming (PF)

2. Election of co-opted members.

A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously to elect M Frampton and M Raynor onto the board as co-opted members.

3. Discussions about concerns over the Trust Leadership

It was noted that two members of the board had requested the meeting as per the Society's rule 69.

The Vice Chair stated that he would allow all those present to present their views before any proposals were considered.

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 (7): G Bielby (Chairman), G Cannon (Vice-Chairman), P Fleming (Treasurer), S Pye, R Anson, M Raynor, M Frampton.

Trust Secretary: J Cannon

The Hull City Supporters' Trust Partners are:

COMMUNITY – Dementia Friendly East Riding, Hull & East Yorkshire MIND, Hull City Ladies FC
RETAIL - Aspecs 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 ADL, Ska & Soul, Skin Deep Aesthetics, The 'H' Shop, Wags & Whiskers, William Gemmill Social Club, Wine On-Line, Zip Dry Cleaners.



DB raised concerns over the drop in membership recently. He also expressed concerns over the Trust's inability to have a meaningful relationship with the club and whilst he acknowledged that the Trust has had an effect as a pressure group, it was no longer cohesive and was letting members down.

RA stated that whilst there had been a drop in members, he did not feel that it was because of the Trust's leadership.

JC also stated that with any organisation there would be an initial peak and it was inevitable that members numbers would drop. There would also be a knock on effect of the decline in support of the club generally

GB stated that he had recently written a personal letter to Assem Allam requesting that the Trust be re admitted to discussions. As of now there has been no reply.

The EFL and FSA are aware of this letter and have received copies. The Club are actually breaking DCMS guidelines in choosing fans representatives as they should be elected by fans.

He also stated that no other Hull City supporters groups are affiliated to the FSA and therefore do not have any contribution to national football issues.

MR concern was the lack of public dialogue with the club and felt that this would probably not change whilst the present owners were there, it may change if new owners were found. He was also concerned that social media was asking what the purpose of the Trust was.

SP understood DB's points regarding the present Chairman seemingly blocking dialogue with the club, however was concerned that if the Trust was an independent body and if it was seen that the Club could dictate how the Trust was run it would lose this independence. Precedent would have been set and the Club may expect the Trust to give in on any future disputes.

DJ was concerned about the negativity within the Trust board at this present time. She also expressed concerns that the history between the Club and the present Chair hindered his ability in the running of the Trust.

RA was not convinced that the removal of the present Chair would open the door to be admitted into Supporters meetings. He did agree that there was a need to remove personal views and that the Trust should act as a unified body.

MF agreed that the Trust should be seen as an independent body but the longer HCST are not seen to be involved with the Club there is nothing to attract new members.

He could see no reason not to change, if the present Chair resigned and the Club would still not admit HCST, fans would realise that it was the Club causing problems, not the Trust.

GC understood that there were concerns over the personal history between the present Chair and the Club, however as direct communication had recently been re-opened between the Trust and the Club, which the owners are aware of, we do not know what may be achieved in the near future.

GB added that although we may not have been involved at the end of the recent changes regarding pricing, concessions etc. pressure from the Trust had certainly had an impact.

DB reiterated that he could not see a future for the Trust if the negativity of the supporters and lack of direction from the Trust continued.

GC noted these concerns but stated that the Board needed to find a way of coming together as everyone had the best interest of the Trust and its members at heart. The dispute is on how we do it.

RA agreed that anything should be in the best interest of the HCST and that there should be consensus from the board. He also asked when the next Supporters Committee was to take place.



DB said that he had had a personal conversation with a member of staff at Hull City and had been assured dialogue would formally resume with a change of Chair.

DB proposed that GB step down as Chair into another role, or in an honorary position, and someone else take over this role until the AGM. This was seconded by MF.

MR queried that if the club were to be sold or the owners had an exit strategy was this worth it in the long term.

GB proposed that as he had written to Assem Allam and had a meeting with Debora Dilworth of the FSA, we should wait for a response. In the meantime we contact the Club and ask directly that if he were to resign as Chair would the Trust be accepted back by the Club. This was seconded by SP.

A vote was taken on the proposal from DB with 2 for, 4 against and 1 abstention. This was therefore defeated.

A vote was then taken on GB's proposal with 5 for and 2 against. This proposal was therefore carried.

The acting Chair closed the meeting with an appeal that the Board should unite as although everyone may not always agree everyone had the success of the Trust at heart.

The meeting closed at 16.10pm



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.