

Dulwich Hamlet Supporters' Trust
(Dulwich Hamlet Football Community Mutual Ltd)

Board Meeting Minutes

15 December, 2014, 7.00 pm

Venue – The Ivy House, 40 Stuart Road, London SE15

In attendance: Jack Bagnall (JB); Duncan Hart (DH); Darren McCreery (DM) Chair; Eddie Muraszko (EM) (part); Mark Panton (MP) Secretary, Isaac Parnell (IP); Fiona Scurlock (FS), Jack Spearman (JS) (part).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Guy Grater (GG), Andy Greig (AG), Jonathan Hunt (JH), James Masini (JM), Robert Molloy Vaughan (RMV).

GG has resigned from the Board with immediate effect. He will continue to help out with online sales and the summer community events. The Board agreed that it would publicly convey their thanks to Guy and recognise his contribution in a web article.

2. **Last meeting's Minutes:** Agree Minutes from 13 November 2014 meeting. These have been put up on the website and were agreed.

As an additional item to the agenda, Isaac Parnell, who is a supporter of the club was introduced. Isaac is a qualified accountant who will be able to assist the Treasurer and the Trust with its accounts, including preparing the annual accounts. Isaac will also support the wider work of the Trust, and indicated an interest in supporting work on ownership issues. Isaac agreed to be co-opted on to the Board and this was agreed by the Board.

MAIN ITEMS BY OBJECTIVE

3. **DHFC has a secure long-term home in East Dulwich:**

- 3.1 **Update from DM and JM on recent activity, including latest plans and consultation.** DM and JM have focussed on getting more community assets within the ground and more space for the fans within the ground. HPG have agreed to pursue covered ends at both ends of the proposed new ground. Capacity is currently planned at approximately 4,300. Overall, the position of the Trust on the ground development is linked to the two other central issues of length of lease and club (community) ownership. It was agreed that DM would draft a positional statement on these issues to be put up on the website, which would also assist with liaison with HPG and other stakeholders.
- 3.2 **Proposal to obtain report from Frank Whittle Partnership on HPG's latest plans for the new ground.** It was agreed that the report

was a good idea, but some details need to be finalised. It may be better to commission the report once further detailed plans are put forward by HPG, which is likely to be in January. MP to check the time-scale for obtaining a report from initial instruction. JM to contact FWP to discuss in more detail specific elements of the proposed report, including the issue of the lease.

MP / JM

3.3 Update from MP on Dulwich Community Council meeting on 3 December. MP stated that there seemed to be little opposition voiced against HPG's proposal for redeveloping Champion Hill at this meeting.

3.4 Update on petition to ensure that the needs of the club are fully integrated into the Council's plans. There was discussion on this issue related to the Camberwell Community Council meeting on 5 February, when the petition could be used to get DHFC on the agenda for this meeting.

FS

4. DHFC has an ownership model that involves supporters/community either fully or partly:

4.1 Update from FS on sub-group meeting on ownership and governance issues, including proposed meeting with Matt Rimmer. This relates to the three central issues of the ground development, lease and the ownership issues. The website article discussed at 3.1 will set out the Trust's position on these issues and FS will arrange meeting with Matt Rimmer.

FS

MP to contact James Mathie of Supporters Direct to discuss timetable for the health check, etc., after the meeting on 15 January.

MP

4.2 Meeting on 15 January for all interested supporters. The purpose of this meeting is to advise the supporters about fan ownership and to be able to put questions to a panel of experts. This will include presentation from James Mathie of Supporters Direct (confirmed) and discussion of the experience of Paul Millington, Vice-Chair, Enfield Town FC (confirmed). Jo Manning-Cooper, PST and DCMS Committee Chair is probably away on business, but will attend if this changes. Board members to contact Stuart Fuller of Lewes (FS) and Dan York of Fisher FC (DM) to attend on the panel. FS to email all interested parties.

DH / DM / FS

4.3 Potential third party funding for additional resources for the Trust.

MP explained some of the information provided by Tom Hall about funding resources that might be available to the Trust. There was interest in this idea for the future, but it was felt to be difficult to manage at the moment. MP to update regularly with further information.

MP

5. DHFC as a transparent and well run football club:

5.1 Further joint meeting between Trust and Football Committee.

Further meeting to be held after the supporters meeting on 15 January.

DM

5.2 Update on developments concerning Trust's request to the owners concerning covering behind the goals. DM read an email sent by AG concerning the views of the football committee and this information needs to be clarified.

DM

5.3 Latest DHST public communications The positional statement to be put on the website will set out the Trust's current position on a number of important issues. It was stressed that all communications should go through the Chair, JB and DH and the relevant lead on the issue.

6. DHFC has a growing Supporters Trust that communicates regularly with its members:

6.1 Proposed Trust/supporters meeting on 15 January 2015. See para 4.2.

6.2 Update on Trust annual accounts for year ending 2013 from EM. EM confirmed for y/e 2013, there was a profit of £1,346 and over £800 had been provided to the football club from the share of club shop profits. EM confirmed the Trust was in a sound financial position. Accounts will be filed with Supporters Direct and the Financial Conduct Authority.

EM

6.3 As an additional item on the agenda, it was agreed that the Trust would try to sponsor another game before the end of the season. EM will liaise with Liam to organise this, (see also item 8.5).

EM

6.4 Discussion of donation to Supporters Direct in addition to annual membership fee of £100. Given the on-going assistance that has been provided by SD, it was agreed to provide a further donation of £100. EM to action. MP to inform SD of the decision.

EM / MP

6.5 **Trust Mega Shed**

6.5.1 New (Christmas) merchandise ideas / orders

RM has designed another T-shirt. He is looking into options for a bulk order.

RM designed scarves will also be available shortly.

RM

Cuffed jogging bottoms and dog collars / jackets were considered, but it was agreed to not proceed due to concerns over ability to sell sufficient numbers.

GG has stepped down from the board. JM will update the rota to add IP and FS. Further discussions are required to ensure a smooth transition of other responsibilities. DR said that GG was arranging further copies of keys for the shed and storage to be provided for all Board members. As part of this discussion, it was agreed that it would be simpler if the shed would shut during most of the actual game and would only open before the game, at half-time and after the game.

JM / EM

EM reported that as part of the year end accounts he would do a full stock take before 31 December.

7. DHFC has strong links with its surrounding community:

7.1 **On-going communications with local councillors and planning officers, including invites to attend future home games.** JB and DH met with councillor Jasmine Ali and she was very positive about the work the club is doing on anti-discrimination issues. She will write about the club on her blog and supporting a sustainable future DHFC. JB and DH also attended an open council meeting and Jasmine introduced them to Cabinet Members Barrie Hargreaves and Mark Williams. DH and JM subsequently met with Councillor Nick Dolezal.

7.2 **Update on FARE anti-homophobia campaign – delivery of banner to Altona 93 by DH/JB.** There was very positive feedback from the supporters of Altona. An article, together with photograph, to be put up on the website. There has also been positive feedback from Kick-it-out about the work of the Trust and the football club.

JB

7.3 **Altona FC visit fundraising meeting.** JB and DM met with Mishi Morath and Shaun Dooley about the football club playing in Altona in 2018 to celebrate the club's 125th anniversary. Estimated cost to fund the team to play in Altona is £8,000. Altona will also playing DHFC on 11 July 2015. Further details of fundraising activities will be updated when available.

JB / DM

7.4 **FARE £100,000 refugee project application.** No update on this.

JB

7.5 **DHST membership of Fare.** Awaiting approval from FARE's quarterly meeting. FARE will be happy to advise and work on future projects with the Trust / club.

JB / DH

7.6 **LGBT history month in February.** Events being organised involving the Trust and the football club. This will include a friendly between a Dulwich X1 vs Stonewall FC on 11 February 2015. Further details will be updated when available.

JB

7.7 **Street Soccer project.** JB has sent emails to link-up Mishi Morath with the group and it is now part of the Football Committee's remit.

7.8 Mental Health awareness week in May. JB working with MM and Crystal Palace Eagles Mental Health team. Further meeting in January

JB

8. AOB

8.1 **Fixtures notice board outside of ground.** HPG applying for relevant permissions. Estimated cost will be approx. £500. DM will email liaise with Matt Rimmer.

DM

8.2 **SE22 Magazine and ticket offer.** Three people responded to the offer. The advertisement runs to the end of the season and will be reviewed at that time.

JB

8.3 **Visit of Bath City Supporters Trust board member to game on 20 December.** Keen to speak with Trust members. JB is meeting him before the game and he is keen to meet other Trust members.

JB

8.4 **"Women's Place is at the Match".** FS and DM attended the seminar and felt there was a difference between what happens at Premiership games and at DHFC. They spoke with Anwar Uddin from Wingate & Finchley who suggested there was funding available for inclusion projects if the Trust has any further ideas.

All

8.5 **International Women's Day.** There was discussion about charitable work by the Trust and the club around International Women's Day on 8 March, with a suggested match sponsorship by the Trust of game scheduled for 7 March (see also item 6.3).

EM / JB / DH

8.6 JS and DM to put together a new newsletter for members.

JS / DM

8.7 Next board meeting to take place on 12 January 2015.

END