

# **DULWICH HAMLET SUPPORTERS TRUST**

## **2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

30 June 2015 at 7.00 pm at Dulwich Hamlet Football Club

Report on the questions and answers that were raised during the meeting

### 100 Club

A question was raised concerning the spending of 100 Club funds. James Masini stated that it was possible that funds could be spent on the 'health-check' to be undertaken by Supporters Direct on the football club prior to any hand-over by Hadley property Group. This would cost £6,000. Further questions were raised about whether payment of legal fees that might be included in such an audit fitted with the original objectives of the 100 Club. After some further discussions concerning the original objectives that involved members of the audience, James Masini stated that the issue would be kept under review. If necessary a meeting and or ballot of members of the 100 Club could be called to agree significant expenditure and discussion of the Club's objectives. This would be at the discretion of the Trust board.

### Lease on Green Dale

A question was raised as to whether it would be better to try to obtain a short lease on the land previously leased by the football club rather than no lease at all. James Masini stated that the aim is to try to achieve a long lease or freehold on the land so that the football club is not in a similar position in a matter of a few years.

### Trust position if planning application ultimately rejected by Southwark Council

James Masini stated that the Trust has kept an open mind on this issue. The Trust, through the Fan Ownership Subgroup and with the assistance of Hadley, is trying to understand the existing financial situation at the current ground. There is obviously a long way to go with the planning proposals and how they are received by Southwark Council, and the Trust is conscious of having to plan for a number of different scenarios. Understanding the operational costs at the current ground is part of that process.

### Is the Trust Speaking to other community groups?

James Masini stated that the Trust kept in contact with local community groups. We are all still awaiting the full plans from Hadley Property Group. The Trust will liaise with community groups and others where appropriate.

### What about personal liability for owners under the Community Benefit Society Model?

Fiona Scurlock, leading for the Governance and Ownership group, said that the Trust was working closely with Supporters Direct and we would need to ensure that the CBS model was structured in such a way that there would not be any personal liability.

The Governance and Vision document is in its early stages and at a fairly high level at the moment, but these are the sorts of detailed issues that need to be worked out. The Trust is not only working with Supporters Direct, but has established contacts with a number of other supporter-owned clubs such as Enfield Town, AFC Wimbledon and Portsmouth in order to learn from them and to establish best practice.

Is there enough money coming in to the club to run it on a sustainable basis?

The Trust has received some details from Hadley property Group and would hope to be in a position in the future to answer those types of questions. There are a number of issues connected to the finances of the football club, which do not just include the gate money. These also include the bar, football pitches and the rental on facilities such as the gym.

There is some jargon in the Governance and Vision document and we need to get facts about the history of the club correct.

We need to ensure that all supporters can understand the Trust's documents so need to make them as jargon-free as possible. The Trust is open to comments and would very much like to hear from supporters with any views on this document. The same goes on the history side. We have focused on developing the vision and governance part of the document, and recognise that it's important to also get the history correct.

Would Trust keep the membership fee at £10 once fan ownership is secured??

This will be considered by the Board for at the appropriate time.

Who would be on the body that took over the club from Hadley and would there be positions for owners of shares from the old limited company?

This issue is one that it was accepted would need to be considered in detail with Supporters Direct and Hadley Property Group as part of any hand-over.

Do we have anything to learn from clubs such as Banbury Utd, Bath City (and others that were named) that are involving supporters in ownership and have not evolved through major problems at the clubs?

Duncan Hart said that Bath City had originally approached DHST for advice and had now moved a long way ahead with their ownership plans. The answer to the question is 'yes', as the Trust is always open to ideas and (as mentioned above) is in regular contact with a number of supporter-owned

Have we spoken with Gavin Rose?

Fiona Scurlock confirmed that members of the Trust have had a number of meetings with Gavin Rose and Hadley Property Group.

Who would have final say in key decisions, for example removing a manager?

James Masini said that no decision had been taken but that it would be logical that the responsibility for key decisions rested with an elected governing board, rather than being voted on by all members. At least a 1/3 of the board would be elected annually.

If members were unhappy with the decisions that were being made then this would provide the opportunity to change the governing board.

*These are notes from the meeting, which are meant to assist those who could not attend and not a verbatim record.*

END