



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**7.00 pm, 20 December 2017**

**Venue – Champion Hill Stadium**

**In attendance:** Alex Crane (AC) (chair), Alex Atack (AA), Peter Campbell (PC), Dominic Smith (DS), Duncan Chapman (DC), Alex de Jongh (ADJ), Nick Pittaway (NP) (for part of meeting).

1. Apologies for absence

Mark Scoltock (MS), Mel Hughes (MH), Peter Wright (PW), Isaac Parnell (IP), Darren McCreery (Secretary).

2. Agree November board meeting minutes

The November minutes were circulated shortly before the meeting and subject to one addition were agreed.

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

3.1 *Update on recent developments with Meadow Residential*

3.2

AC gave an update on recent developments. The Club had signed (under duress) a new licence enabling the club to play at Champion Hill until the end of the season. The club had been presented with a draft of this licence and DHST had provided comments on it which, alongside comments from the Committee, were fed back to Meadow. Comments related to various issues, in particular the suitability of the proposed new licence to the club's operational requirements. However, Meadow had refused to countenance any amendment to reflect these concerns and had insisted that the Club sign the licence or face being locked out of Champion Hill.

DHST remain involved in discussions taking place between Meadow and the Football Committee. In late November AC attended a meeting with Meadow at which Meadow signalled their intention to submit a revised planning application but said that they had reached an impasse with Southwark Council. The Club outlined the issues arising from Meadow's withdrawal of funding and Meadow expressed a willingness to cover any shortfall



in the club's ability to pay wages for November (an offer that the club did not, in the event, need to call upon).

Meadow subsequently issued an invoice for the licence fees it says have accrued over the past 2-3 years, which have not previously been invoiced. Meadow insist that the invoice is not required to be paid at present and it is unclear when they will insist on its payment. In addition to demanding that the Committee sign the proposed lease in unamended form, solicitors acting for Meadow had demanded that the club produce (at extremely short notice) a plan demonstrating its ability to pay the licence fee, including the licence fees covered by the recently-issued invoice, and all other debts – regardless of whether they are owed to Meadow or third parties.

AC reported that he had spoken to Meadow and made clear that DHST regards the issuing of threats against the club as unacceptable.

DHST is continuing to liaise with Supporters Direct to keep SD updated as to the current issues facing DHFC.

### 3.3 *Update on Southwark Council Assembly Meeting*

DC had co-ordinated a deputation to the Council Assembly meeting at Southwark's offices on Tooley Stret on 29 November. The deputation, including Gavin Rose and members of the Football Committee alongside AC, addressed the Assembly which was very well received. A motion expressing support for the club, and opening up the possibility that Southwark may provide practical support to the club if needed, was proposed by Cllr Catherine Rose, seconded by Cllr Sarah King, and passed unanimously. Cllr Rose had also put a question to Peter John, the Leader of the Council, in response to which he had expressed his strong support for the club.

AC has begun drafting an article on the Assembly meeting.

DC had been in contact with the office of Dr Rosina Allin-Khan MP following her expression of support for the club. Dr Allin-Khan had been unable to attend the Brightlingsea game on 9 December but may be able to attend a future match or event.

DC noted that messages of support for the club had been received from Harriet Harman MP and Helen Hayes MP in advance of the Council Assembly meeting in November.



3.4 *Update on new Southwark plan consultation*

AC reported that he has discussed the new consultation with DM and James Masini (advisor to DHST on planning matters). An informal consultation is currently open and a formal consultation will open after Christmas where DHST will write to Southwark supporting the Plan in its current form as the main points DHST raised have been sufficiently addressed.

**ACTION: AC to draft an article highlighting what DHST and those who have written in support of DHST's concerns, have achieved to date in ensuring that the new Southwark Plan makes suitable provision for DHFC.**

**ACTION: AC to respond formally to the consultation in early 2018.**

4. DHFC is fully owned by its supporters

4.1 *Update on fan ownership*

The Board agreed that actions to develop the Business Plan and Vision and Governance documents should be put on hold until there is further clarity on the ownership of the Club and Champion Hill.

The Board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from September): AC to hold further discussions with Tom and Jamal from DHFC TV to develop ideas for content relevant to fan ownership.**

5. DHFC is a transparent and well run football club

5.1 *Update on match day operations at the football club (including joint working)*

A number of operational issues had arisen at the Brightlingsea game on 9 December.

**ACTION: NP to discuss issues with the Football Committee with a view to passing feedback to Chris Taylor, Meadow's General Manager at Champion Hill. NP to update proposed article when in a position to do so.**

5.2 *Review of latest financial accounts for DHFC Limited*

IP has carried out a review of the latest accounts filed by Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Limited and Healey Development Solutions (Dulwich) Limited.

**ACTION: AC/IP to publish article based on IP's review.**



### 5.3 *Update on merchandise*

*MH provided an update to the Board prior to the meeting*

Matchday and online sales have been very busy with all pink and blue bar scarves sold out. MH has re-ordered but there is a delay due to the pink colour yarn being discontinued from the yarn supplier. The pink yarn is being specially dyed for us and MH is working with the supplier to source yarn for future orders.

MH has sent has new photos of stock to Purple, the provider of the online shop.

Last online order date has been agreed with Purple (15<sup>th</sup> December). DHST and Purple will add a banner to their websites to raise awareness to website visitors of the deadline.

At the Armistice Day service, AC and MH discussed with Liam Hickey the possibility of re-introducing an older style of Club crest in the future. MH to ask Tom Cullen about getting Kind Studio to draw up the crest so it's ready for future use. Liam Hickey requested that we obtain protection (i.e. trade mark registration) for the crest so that it had protection against use by any unauthorised suppliers who might look to sell merchandise without a licence.

MS has been working on a design for a new retro shirt which will be available in 2018.

**ACTION: MH to arrange banners for websites regarding Christmas order deadline.**

**ACTION: MH to progress crest design work and provide update.**

**ACTION: MS to progress retro shirt and provide update.**

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from September): AC to amend DHST ad in match day programme to include reference to DHST online store**

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

#### 6.1 *Membership update*

Membership numbers have increased to approximately 550, including Cllr Peter John.

#### 6.2 *DHST comms*

AC had an article published in the matchday programme for 9 December and MS continues to provide monthly articles for SE22 magazine.

In addition to its regular thrice-yearly newsletters to members, DHST has published further recent communications to members. The next regular newsletter is due in January 2018.



**ACTION: AC to draft further articles for forthcoming match day programmes.**

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from August): AC and MS to update the comms plan from August 2016 and report back on progress before the next meeting.**

6.3 *Promotion of 100 Club / future 100 Club plans*

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from August): IP/AC to discuss further with 100 Club promoters.**

6.4 *Possible survey of members and fans which provides us with feedback on DHST in general and fan ownership*

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from November): Board to consider timing of possible survey at future meetings.**

7. DHFC has strong links with all fans and the surrounding community

7.1 *Update on plans for community engagement and supporting other causes*

DHST has been invited to have a stand at an event at the Six Yard Box bar in Elephant & Castle on 21 December 2017, at which a selection of merchandise will be available for sale. DC is co-ordinating this and DS, PC, MS and MH would also be attending the event.

DHFC has been invited to have a stand at the Copleston Mix, an event run by one of the club's current charity partners, the Copleston Centre. The Football Committee has suggested that DHST take this forward. The event coincides with the away game at Lowestoft and would require at least one board member to be available in the evening.

ACTION: Board to confirm availability to assist with the event.

**ACTION: PC to update on any relevant upcoming community events at next meeting.**

7.2 *Fixture poster partners scheme*

There has been an excellent response from several poster partner businesses to requests for prizes for the Christmas party raffle and auction.

Cllr Catherine Rose has confirmed she can put up posters in the Council notice boards in her ward, and DC has spoken to her about getting councillors in other wards to do the same.



**ACTION: NP to provide update at next meeting.**

7.3 *Volunteering*

The board agreed to close one action (AC and AA to discuss involving ASPIRE volunteers further and report back before the next meeting). Offers of volunteering from the supporter base have been very good in recent months and it was felt that there is no immediate need to make arrangements for ASPIRE to provide volunteers.

7.4 *Trust governance and miscellaneous items*

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from July): DM and ADJ to progress review of the DHST's policies and constitution and report back prior to the next board meeting.**

7.5 *Christmas party*

The party was a success, raising £1,603 for the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Scheme. AC proposed that the board round this figure up to £2,000 and the six board members present (NP having left the meeting) voted unanimously in support of this proposal.

**ACTION: MS to draft an article for the website to confirm the sums raised and provide thanks to those who donated prizes.**

8. AOB

8.1 *Use of photos on DHST website/publications*

DHST has previously agreed that it should pay Duncan Palmer for use of his work by DHST. DP has now confirmed that he will invoice DHST for payment of any future photos DHST wishes to use.

8.2 *Date of next board meeting*

18 January 2017.