



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**7.00 pm, 18 January 2018**

**Venue – Mr Lawrence Wine Bar, Crofton Park**

In attendance: Alex Crane (AC) (chair), Alex Atack (AA), Peter Wright (PW), Duncan Chapman (DC), Nick Pittaway (NP), Mel Hughes (MH), Mark Scoltock (MS), Alex de Jongh (ADJ).

1. Apologies for absence

Isaac Parnell (IP), Peter Campbell (PC), Dominic Smith (DS), Darren McCreery (DM).

2. Agree December board meeting minutes

The December 2017 minutes were agreed.

3. Feedback from meeting with Football Committee members

A constructive meeting took place on 17 January with Liam Hickey, Tom Cullen and Andy Greig (DHFC Football Committee) attended by AC, AA, DC, PW, MS and ADJ. A range of issues relating to the Club's current situation and financial position, and the role of the Trust in providing support to the Club in the future were discussed. It was noted that it may be necessary for the Trust to consult its members in relation to the nature of the support it should provide, and it was acknowledged that the Football Committee recognised this and would respect the views of the Trust's membership.

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

4.1 *Update on recent developments with Meadow Residential*

AC gave an update on recent developments. The situation remains fluid and sensitive, but there are no substantive developments in relation to the ownership of Champion Hill or control of DHFC Limited, or any possible future planning application. The board noted that the lease on Green Dale was due to expire on 20 January.



4.2 *Update on recent developments with London Borough of Southwark*

DHST is maintaining ongoing dialogue with a number of Southwark councillors, primarily via DC.

4.3 *Update on new Southwark plan consultation*

The formal consultation on the New Southwark Plan has been extended until 27 February 2018. AC has discussed this with James Masini (advisor to DHST on planning issues). The New Southwark Plan addresses the main concerns previously raised by DHST and we will now write to Southwark in support of the Plan.

**ACTION: AC to draft letter to Southwark in support of the draft New Southwark Plan insofar as it affects DHFC/Champion Hill.**

One action was carried forward.

**ACTION (from December): 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.**

5. DHFC is fully owned by its supporters

5.1 *Update on fan ownership*

In the light of the withdrawal of the planning application by Meadow Residential/Greendale Property Company, and the uncertainty this has created, the board agreed that some actions relating to fan ownership should be placed on the back burner for the time being, in particular the action from September for AC to hold further discussions with Tom and Jamal from DHFC TV to develop ideas for content relevant to fan ownership.

5.2 *Other relevant news from other Supporters' Trusts*

MH had circulated a note on Bath City's first year as a fan owned club, and the minutes from the special general meeting at Merthyr Town. The board also noted an article concerning the Hartlepool Supporters' Trust, referring to the difficulties of using Trust funds to provide direct funding to the club (<https://www.hufcsupporterstrust.org.uk/news-article/trust-statement-16-jan-2018-/65>).



6. DHFC is a transparent and well run football club

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

DHST has asked Chris Taylor, Meadow's General Manager at Champion Hill, to sign the Southwark Women's Safety Charter on behalf of DHFC. Chris has confirmed that they would be signing up to the Charter at the first opportunity.

**ACTION: AC to chase Chris Taylor for an update.**

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**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.**

6.2 *Review of latest financial accounts for DHFC Limited*

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION: AC/IP to publish article based on IP's review of the latest accounts filed by Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Limited and Healey Development Solutions (Dulwich) Limited.**

6.3 *Update on merchandise*

MS reported that there has been a very good response to the cotton retro DHFC shirt, with over 40 pre-orders.

A further order of replica shirts has been placed. This will be the last order this season.

MH reported that following very strong sales in the run up to Christmas, a large order of stock is due to be delivered by 20 January. This includes 100 bar scarves, with a further 200 in production.

MS and MH have designed a limited edition rainbow scarf to mark LGBT History Month. This will go on sale at the game on 3 February (v Met Police), with a share of profits going to charity.

The proposed new Club crest was discussed and the Club have now got the new crest drawn up.

In light of recent actions by Meadow regarding Champion Hill, the Board also discussed insurance for stock.



**ACTION: MS to draft an article and promote the scarf for LGBT History Month on social media; and consider which charity should receive a share of profits.**

**ACTION: MH to discuss the suitability of the new crest for merchandise.**

**ACTION: MH to hold discussions with the Football Committee with a view to ensuring that the new crest has appropriate trade mark protection.**

**ACTION: AC/DC to consider arrangements relating to the insurance of DHST merchandise stock.**

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**

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

7.1 *Membership update*

PW reported that membership currently stands at 569. The introductory letter for new joiners is now available in German.

7.2 *DHST comms*

AC/PW reported that the DHST newsletter for January 2018 had been drafted and would be sent to members shortly.

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

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

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

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

It was agreed that the anticipated consultation of members in relation to the use of DHST funds should take precedence over the possible survey of members that the board has been considering at recent meetings.



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

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

DC, PC, DS, MH and MS had run a DHST stall at an event at the Six Yard Box bar in Elephant & Castle on 21 December 2017. DC reported that it had been a worthwhile event, with good merchandise sales and opportunities to discuss DHST's work.

As discussed at the previous meeting, the Copleston Centre (one of the Club's charity partners for this season) has invited DHST to have a stand at its "Copleston Mix" event on 10 February. At present PC is the only Board member available, so an appeal for volunteers will be made.

In advance of the meeting, PC reported that he had made an application for a grant from FARE to fund publicity and a new "Football v Homophobia" banner in advance of the game on 3 February marking LGBT History Month, which had unfortunately been unsuccessful.

PC also reported that admission to the game on 17 February (Enfield Town) will be free for staff at King's College Hospital and the Maudsley.

**ACTION: NP to contact regular volunteers to see if any can assist PC at the Copleston Mix event.**

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

8.2 *Fixture poster partners scheme*

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

8.3 *Volunteering*

NP reported a continuing good response to his requests for volunteers to assist with programme and 50/50 sales, and in the megacontainer. There is a pool of about 15 regular volunteers, of whom 4-5 are usually available at any given match, in addition to members of the board.

At the meeting with the Football Committee on 17 January there was a discussion in relation to the ways in which the volunteers co-ordinated by NP could best support the needs of DHST and the Club. It was agreed that in view of the importance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Scheme to ensuring that the Club can cover its expenses, there is a particular need at present for volunteers to assist with the bucket collection at the exit to the ground at full time.

The board also noted that Mick Ruane has volunteered to repair divots on match days, before the game and at half time. This saves the Club £50 per match.



8.4 *Trust governance and miscellaneous items*

**Carried forward**

**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.**

8.5 *Christmas party*

MS had drafted an article for the website to confirm the sums raised and thank those who donated prizes. The funds raised have been transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Man fund.

9. DHST finances

10. Following the meeting IP provided an update as to DHST's financial position as at the date of the meeting. As at 17 January 2018, DHST funds stand at £76,506 (cash at bank £38,153, Paypal £3,957, 100 Club funds £34,395).

Outgoings since the 18 December 2017 include merchandise supplier invoices totalling £2,689.

11. AOB

- 11.1 The December 2017 licence between DHFC Limited and Dulwich Hamlet Licences Limited (a new company controlled by Meadow, incorporated on 24 November 2017) permits the Club to use Champion Hill on matchdays only. As a consequence, DHST cannot currently hold board meetings at Champion Hill. The Board discussed alternative venues for future meetings, with a suggested option to be explored further by MH.

**ACTION: MH to explore alternative venue for DHST board meetings.**

11.2 *Date of next board meeting*

Thursday 15 February, 7.00pm.

Venue TBC

Meeting ended 9.35pm