

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hampton & Richmond Borough FC Supporters Society Ltd

23 November 2009, Hammond's Bar, Beveree, Station Road Hampton

Start 7.35pm

Apologies For Absence: Tim Hodgson, Paul & Maggie Revis, Carolyn Barry, Kathleen Robinson, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Stefan Rance, Mike Dolan, Chas Milner, Graham Wood, Harry Vernau

Proxies held from: Mike Dolan, Graham Wood, Harry Vernau, Chas Milner

Chairman's Report

I would like to start my report by extending a very special thanks to our loyal group of volunteers for their tremendous hard work and dedication over the past year and a half providing a critical contribution to the success of the Trust: without you, none of this would have happened. From those early days in January of 2008 to our incorporation on 29th April 2008 you applied your various skills putting in many hours on the various working groups that led to our successful launch. Continuing with our first public appearance at the Richmond May Fair in 2008, whenever a Trust event was put on you rose to the occasion with your selfless dedication and commitment making each of our events a great success. As most of our events, not surprisingly, involve football I would like to let our junior members know how much I appreciate their contribution, spending many hours between the sticks at our "Beat the Goalie" competitions. Finally, in introducing my report, my thanks also go to the Trust Board for all the support they have given me in my role as Chairman. Much of their work goes unnoticed, working behind the scenes but I can assure you that we have a dedicated, hard working Board who are determined to ensure the continued success of the Trust.

Reflecting on our first period of operation I am pleased to report on a period of steady progress. As with any business, we started out with a realistic financial budget that would have to be achieved to fund our objectives. Pivotal to this was the need to generate a membership base whose subscriptions would provide the initial impetus to the generation of the Trust's funds. What a response! You signed up in your droves and we rapidly reached a membership well in excess of 200 including a good number of Life Members and in the process generating well over £5,500 in subscriptions and donations. This, and a generous equipment purchase grant from Richmond Council's Initiatives Fund, enabled the football club to offer free football coaching to 100 children over two weeks in August last year run and financed by the Supporters' Trust. It also provided the springboard for further holiday fun weeks and the reintroduction of the Saturday morning mini soccer, run by Trust Director, Russell Clarke, now has over 50 children signed up, with regular attendances of over 30. The Trust pays a royalty to the Club for the use of the "top pitch" generating income for the Club.

The club was represented at various summer events in 2008 and 2009 including the Richmond May Fair and the Hampton Carnival during which our Supporters' Trust volunteers spread the word, about our increasingly successful football club and generating funds from the ever popular "Beat the Goalie" competition. We also started what may be called our first truly community venture when in August this year we were invited to set up our stall at an open day held by the Forge Lane Residents Association in Hanworth. A small but important result has been that we have attracted three new fans including two juniors who of course will be the life blood of the club in years to come. The next event for the Trust will be at the Hampton Hill Christmas Parade on Friday 27th November where we will have a stand *and for which the Club has kindly donated 200 under14's tickets for the Welling game on 19th December that we will be handing out on the night.*

Various social events have been held, organised by the irrepressible Lesley Rance, including the ever popular quiz nights and most recently the very successful Film Night launch of Nina's work "To BEaver or nor to BEaver" a review of the run in to last season. I would also like particularly to extend a special thanks to Trust Member Sandy McLelland who with his band

“The River”, has now put on four excellent performances at Trust and Club events at considerable personal expense. Sandy also applied his sought after professional talents in composing the score to Nina’s film; again at no charge. Sandy truly epitomises the spirit within the Supporters’ Trust: thank you Sandy.

We have made a promising start but there is obviously a lot of work to do. The Trust was born with a 20% plus shareholding in the football club, courtesy of a sale of most of his shares by former club Chairman and benefactor, Graham Wood, to the Trust, for a nominal consideration of £1 and a curry! It is our intention to work with the Club on community focussed projects including the improvement of the facilities at the Beveree, particularly where we are able to use our position as a “not for profit” organisation to attract Grant funding. To this end I am pleased to announce that the Trust *will* this month *be making* a £5,000 share purchase in the Club with the funds being used to refinance the purchase of the Programme Shop; *this, and a further £300 for the purchase of the old programme shop (which I understand will be used for the purchase of new goal nets) and £100 to sponsor young Nathan Collier for the season, will have seen the Trust inject £5,400 into the Club this month.*

The first operating period also saw the start of the Trust’s commercial activities with Trust Member, Phil Weller developing his contacts leading to an impressive array of sponsors coming on board generating a valuable source of income for the Trust. Phil’s efforts were assisted by the Trust Board making the decision to purchase programme space from the Club, which to date has contributed over £3,000 to the Club. As a result the Trust is now making a valuable contribution to the match programmes providing 20% of programme adverts and editorial.

Through a combination of the share purchase, royalties from the soccer schools, the purchase of programme space, fund raising for injured players and the other contributions I have mentioned, the Trust will therefore have provided the Club with over £10,000 in funds since we started.

As I have mentioned I think it is fair to say that the Trust has made a promising start and although there is still a lot of work to do I think you can all be justifiably proud of your achievements. In recent weeks we have begun to work a lot closer with the Club and to this end the Trust will have an observer at all future Club Board meetings. I do believe that this is a reflection of how the Club sees the Trust as an important player in the future of the Club. In turn the club has nominated Brian Barwick as its liaison point with the Supporters Trust: Brian will be invited to all Trust Board meetings.

Going forward, we will continue to work with the Club to identify opportunities to develop our community activities and to develop the facilities at the Beveree for the benefit of the community.

Thank you

Larry Dann, Chairman, Supporters’ Trust

Questions were taken from the floor on the report and answered by Larry Dann and Tony Nash.

Secretary’s Report on Membership

It was reported by acting Secretary, Tony Nash, that total membership in the period to 31 August 2009 was 208 of which 11 were non voting junior members. This was a creditable total and was greater than some Trusts at league level.

As expected renewals have seen some reduction with so far 135 members broken down as follows:

- ⇒ 2 Honorary
- ⇒ 16 Life
- ⇒ 13 10 years
- ⇒ 21 5 years
- ⇒ 71 1 year
- ⇒ 9 Juniors

Questions were taken from the floor and answered by the Secretary. The AGM discussed in which ways the membership renewals could be boosted by mail shots, e-mail updates and flyers at home games.

Treasurer's Report on Financial year to 31 August 2009

Copies of the signed audited accounts were provided to members. The main highlights were presented by the Treasurer, Tony Nash.

A very successful first year financially boosted by initial membership fees of £4943. This figure will not be repeated next year as a number of members took out more than one year memberships.

Donations totalled £8335, with a large and generous donation from former club chairman, Graham Wood.

Grants were received totalling £3159 mainly from the Richmond upon Thames Initiatives Fund for equipment for the Soccer School project.

Sponsorship totalled £3,890, mainly reflecting advertising for the club programme and reflecting the hard work of Trust member, Phil Weller.

Other fundraising activities totalled £1,751 reflecting various local fairs etc.

Total income was £22,097

On the expenditure side the main costs came in running the Soccer Schools, two weeks of which were run free of charge as a condition of the Initiatives Grant. Advertising of £3454 represents the purchase of pages in the club match day programme. Other expenses include equipment written off of £2,342 (although all equipment is still functional) and administration and set up costs of £1,587. A donation of £1,000 was also made to the club to fund the operation of Rob Paris.

Net profit for the year was therefore £12,088 of which most has translated into cash held at bank of £11,858. Some small debtors and creditors remain outstanding over the year end.

Questions from the floor were taken and answered by the Treasurer.

The Trust's holding of shares in the football club is shown at cost of £1 in the balance sheet. The additional proposed purchase of shares of £5,000 will also be shown at cost although it was acknowledged the ability to realise this value was not possible in the short term. The additional share purchase will take the Trust's holding up to 22.1%, there having been some further sale of shares to new club directors which diluted the original Trust percentage. The Trust will hold 6,875 shares.

Funds have been available to the club via donations, mini-soccer royalties, programme advertising, Trust nights etc.

It was pointed out that members could help boost funds by supporting the Trust quarterly lottery and the Easy fundraising on line purchasing initiative which gives the Trust a small percentage of all online purchases.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Les Rance and seconded by Mike Fraser and the meeting unanimously approved the motion to adopt.

Appointment of Auditors

It was explained that it was necessary to reappoint Messrs Osbornes as accountants for the next financial year in case the Trust reached the audit threshold of £25,000 turnover. However, the intention was to move to an Independent Examination which is permitted under the rules where this threshold is not reached. This will save on audit fees.

Proposed by Elwyn Edmunds and seconded by Steve Barry and unanimously carried.

Amendments to Society's Rules

The three minor rule changes were explained and voted upon:

- a. That the requirement to have a company seal is removed from the rules and that official documents can be signed by two directors of the Trust under instruction from the Trust Board.

Proposed by Phil Torode and seconded by Phil Weller: unanimously approved

- b. That Rule 31 requiring that the Trust Secretary is (a) not a Member of the Executive Board and (b) any board or committee of management of any subsidiary company or society of the Society, is removed.

Proposed by Russell Clark and seconded by Alna Duddy: unanimously approved

- c. That notwithstanding the appointment of auditors, the Society has the power, via the Trust Board, to appoint an Independent Examiner to audit the Society's accounts providing that the Society falls within the criteria set for Independent Examination.

Proposed by Les Rance and seconded by Paul Robinson: unanimously approved.

Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.25pm