

Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Hampton and Richmond Borough FC Supporters' Society

29th January 2018, Hammonds Bar, the Beveree, Station Road Hampton

Acting Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm

- 1. Apologies for absence** Tracey Hathaway, Sandy McClelland, Nick Simon, Tim Hodgson, Maggie Sollors
- 2. Acting Chairman's Report on Trust Activities**

Phil Weller introduced the meeting by recalling the sad passing of the Club President Alan Simpson, OBE and thanked all at the Club for hosting a memorable funeral service. The Club's ties to Alan Simpson continue with Alan's Godson, Jaq Le Bars, now on the Club Board.

We also now have a new Club Chairman in Graham Wood and we welcome his return to the Club. He has the full support of the Trust, of which he was a founder member. Graham worked closely with the Trust to manage the takeover last year and it proved a complex and protracted business. Tony Nash, without whom the takeover may never have happened, decided to step aside to allow for a regeneration of the Trust Board with some new blood involved. Larry Dann also decided it was time to call it a day and stood down as Trust Chairman.

Phil Weller expressed the Trust's enormous gratitude to both Tony and Larry for their dedication to the cause since day one and we are pleased that both will stay involved with the Trust.

Russ Clarke also decided not to put himself forward again. We thank him for his help and contribution to the Trust.

Going forward, we have agreed with the Club Board that the Trust will reduce its 'safety fund' to £5,000. Any money that we can generate over and above this figure can be passed to the Club, in exchange for shares, in line with agreed priorities for expenditure, with the emphasis very much on infrastructure and the spectator experience.

Phil Weller will now take on the duties of the Trust Representative on the Club Board and will be attending his first Board meeting on 1st February. Gill Wilson will be the alternate in case of Phil's indisposition.

We recently called for new Trust Board members in light of the changes in personnel and the need to bring the Board back up to the desired level of 5-7 people. We received four new candidates and a returning candidate, all of whom were duly elected unopposed.

Phil Weller outlined some research that is underway with regard to ground grading issues. A Committee has been formed and Phil has been tasked with costing various options for maintaining and potentially expanding our capacity and facilities, to ensure we comply with whatever ground grading is applicable.

The Trust Board members introduced themselves (apart from Tracey Hathaway, who was absent)

Matt Glew, Seb White, John Ormerod are all new. Melissa Gillings is returning. Phil Weller and Gill Wilson are continuing. Trust Board roles will be allocated shortly, but we can confirm that John Ormerod has agreed to take on the key Treasurer role and is working with Tony Nash for a smooth handover.

We have had offers of support from within the Club fan base. We are grateful for these and welcome other offers of help in terms of skills and expertise of any kind.

Finally, the relationship with the Club is very positive and the Trust is very much the heart and soul of the Club, as well as being the major shareholder. We are looking forward to playing a significant part in supporting its future ambitions.

3. Secretary's Report on Membership

Phil Weller summarised the membership totals, which started strongly when the Trust was founded, dipped somewhat and are now climbing again. The 5 year and 10 year members will be renewing in August 2018 and Melissa Gillings will be contacting these members to remind them. It was noted that the Trust needs to increase membership and this will be a focus for the coming year.

4. Treasurers Report on Accounts

Phil Weller read out the Treasurers Report, put together by Tony Nash.

A significant year for the Trust due to the new investment from Graham Wood and the Trust, as part of the new Club Board structure. Donations were up significantly with the increase mainly accounted for by Graham Wood's investment of £40,000 in the Trust, which has in turn been invested in new shares in the Club. The Trust also invested £15,000 of its own funds in shares in the Club, which is reflected in the sizeable increase in share purchases of just under £63,000. In addition we made further donations of just under £8,000 to upgrade the floodlights and cut back trees as part of ground grading requirements. We also purchased a new mower, helped fund ground repairs and even contributed to paying wages when things were getting tight at the end of the season. Our trading on programmes and associated advertising remained steady on the previous year with overall income of £7,300. Boost the Budget brought in just under £3,500.

As a result of this investment activity, the year saw an overall loss of just over £9,000 and cash reserves reduce to £21,000. Since the year end we have invested a further £40,000 in the Club, with £25,000 of this coming from Graham Wood and the balance from our own

cash reserves. This is part of a financial plan which the Trust put together with the new Club Board of Directors, so we have complete visibility on how the funds are being spent. Going forward, assuming the strong working relationship is maintained with the Club, we expect to retain a smaller cash balance, with surpluses where possible being invested into various Club projects.

The meeting was asked to approve the accounts. Proposed by Lesley Rance and seconded by Les Rance and accepted unanimously.

5. Election of Directors

Phil Weller advised that sufficient candidates came forward to fill all the vacant positions and hence no elections are required.

6. Any other business

Phil Weller gave a short commercial update on programme and advertising board sponsors.

Phil Weller explained that Larry Dann has been offered the role of Life President of the Trust. Larry Dann confirmed that he is delighted to accept the position and wished the new Trust Board good luck for the future.

A question was asked about individuals buying shares in the Club. Tony Nash clarified that the maximum shareholding is 30% and it will depend on whether the Club wishes to attract new individual shareholders. It was suggested that anyone wishing to invest directs their investment via the Trust. The Trust is a major shareholder in the Club. Graham Wood invests via the Trust.

It was agreed that Phil Weller would ask the Club Board about smaller shareholdings and report back.

A question was asked about ground grading. Phil Weller confirmed that the Club currently has this in hand with help from several Trust members. We have a B Grading currently, although certain issues are being addressed. We are considering options to install barriers on the terraced area and to replace broken seats/install additional seats within the green stand. Ideas and options will soon be submitted to the Club Board for consideration.

A question was asked about supporters' coaches. The current view is that these are very expensive to organise and in the past were not well used.

The travelling fans were thanked for their support by Alan Dowson.

Meeting closed at 7:40pm