

# Hereford **United Supporters** Trust



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 September 2015**

The meeting was chaired by HUST Vice-Chairman Martin Watson and was attended by board member in charge of communications Andy Carr, 33 HUST members and 2 members of the EMG from the Shrewsbury Town FC Trust.

Apologies were received from the Chairman Chris Williams (absent due to an unavoidable work commitment), Treasurer Mike Langford (on holiday), Bulls Lottery Organiser Andy Swift (on holiday) and Sandy Kinnersley.

### **1.00 Welcome and Introductions**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Andy Carr and the members of the Election Management Group.

### **2.00 Chairman's Report on HUST's Second Year of Operation**

Chris Williams' report, copies of which were distributed to members present, was considered by the meeting. There were no questions on the report and it was accepted (nominator Tim Brown, seconded by Frank Williams).

The report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

### **3.00 To Receive Accounts to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**

Copies of pages 3 and 4 of the Draft Accounts were issued to the meeting.

The chairman explained that the accounts were in draft form as Lockett & Co, the accountants previously used, now refused to handle the accounts as HUST is an industrial and provident society.

When finalised, the accounts will be put on the HUST website and presented to a future meeting.

Acceptance of the accounts was deferred until the final accounts are published.

The draft accounts are attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

### **4.00 Questions and Answers on Second Year of Operation**

There followed a discussion on the second year of operation. Amongst the issues raised were:

Lack of communication. The chairman admitted that communication with members had been poor over the past few months and explained that this was why Andy Carr had been co-opted onto the board. He stated that much of the board's time had been spent on setting up the new club and that the small size of the board meant that members were doubling up on jobs. Now that the club was operational a quiet period is needed to regroup and plan for the future.

Roles and Responsibilities: The chairman commented that the Trust was now much larger than had originally been envisaged and appealed for members help stating the jobs could be moulded to fit the skills of volunteers. He requested anyone interesting in helping to contact Chris Williams and agreed that an updated statement of what help was required should be issued to members. He commented that at the last working group meeting only 4 members attended. He recognised that some willing volunteers may have slipped through the net and appealed for them to reconnect with the Trust. A suggestion was made that a skills audit of the membership be conducted.

Governance: A discussion took place on governance and it was recognised that a board member responsible for governance was a key role to be filled. The chairman asked for anyone who thought that they might fill this role to come forward.

Other Matters: Other matters raised and discussed by members included whether members would get a vote on who represented HUST on the HFC Board, where HUST goes next, that there is a need to drive things forward over the next 6 months, and that if board members are overworked and cannot do everything then there is a need for them to recognise it and take action. ***Upon which point the HUST vice-chairman, Martin Watson, announced he intended stepping down from his role but would continue until elections for the board took place.*** A member voiced her regret and asked him to reconsider. The meeting applauded the vice-chairman for his efforts.

A member commented that he thought that the Trust had lost its momentum and queried what he as a member got for his £10 membership fee. His query was answered from the floor: Shares in the club, help for UITC, representation on the HFC Board, reduced prices for junior members, and continuation of professional football in Hereford.

## **5.00 To Elect Members to the Board of HUST**

As the election of members to the board had previously been postponed by the Election Management Group, Roger Groves chair of the EMG was invited to take the floor and answer questions from the members.

A lengthy discussion took place. Mr Groves explained that members of the EMG had received complaints about HUST's election policy maintaining that due process hadn't been followed nor key dates met. When pressed on the point by several members present he was unable to give specific examples of how the process had failed and whether the failure was one of communication

or wrongful action. When questioned whether checks had been made to ensure that the complaints had been lodged by HUST members he stated that checks had been made with the HUST secretary. This was refuted by Martin Watson who has been acting as secretary for the past few months.

It was established that HUST has to have a special meeting to agree whether to follow whatever Supporters Direct election guidelines are current at the time of an election or a specific version. It was noted that if the policy decided by members is to always follow the current guidelines then there would be no need to hold further meetings to ratify any future changes. Mr Groves advised that the board need to appoint a new secretary to oversee the process and advise the board of any changes to the guidelines that occur in the future and to consult Supporters Direct and have them involved directly.

As a result of the election being postponed the meeting chairman, Martin Watson, drew the meetings attention to the fact that the current board cannot operate within the constitution as, following the resignations of Chris Oleksy and Tony Clifford-James effective from that date of the AGM, there are now too many co-opted members. Consequently they will be unable to conduct any new business including organising a vote on changes to the share issue, new money raising ventures or new expenditure. Anything already in place for example the Bulls Lottery will continue. He stated that a new strong EMG with SD input is required.

***Following a break the meeting reconvened.***

The chairman proposed, with the support of the EMG, that in order to expedite matters HUST should now go ahead with the election using the 2011 version of Supporters Direct election guidelines. This motion was carried by majority decision.

It was also agreed that a motion be put at the election meeting to follow whichever version of SD guidelines is current in the future.

**6.00 Call for Volunteers**

The chairman reiterated his call for volunteers.

**7.00 To Note the Date of the 2016 Annual General Meeting**

The 2016 AGM is to be held on Thursday 22 September 2016.

**8.00 To Consider n Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9.00 Closing Remarks and Thanks**

The chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Martin Watson was thanked by a member for chairing a difficult meeting and for all his hard work getting the new club set up. The member also thanked HUST for their

contribution and for their support of numerous local football clubs. His comments met with the general approval of the floor.

***The meeting ended at 8.45pm.***