



Board Meeting Minutes

7.00 pm, 16 November 2017

Venue – Champion Hill Stadium

In attendance: Alex Crane (AC) (chair), Alex Atack (AA), Peter Campbell (PC), Dominic Smith (DS), Duncan Chapman (DC), Isaac Parnell (IP), Nick Pittaway (NP), Alex de Jongh (ADJ).

Note: some actions agreed at the previous board meeting on 19 October 2017 were overtaken by events following Meadow Residential LLP's decision (announced on 23 October) to withdraw its planning appeals, and the associated decision to discontinue Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Limited's claim against Southwark for a renewal of the lease over Green Dale. These actions are shown in square brackets.

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Agree October board meeting minutes

AC discussed some minor amendments to the draft circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes, including AC's proposed amendments, were agreed.

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

3.1 Update on progress on ground development (Planning appeals / Greendale lease)

DC had contacted the leader of the Council, Peter John, and drafted emails (sent by AC) to ward councillors, and selected other councillors, seeking confirmation of their support for the future of the club in the light of recent statements made by Peter John. AC had received some replies, including from Cllr Sarah King, who has joined DHST.

On 23 October Meadow announced that it was withdrawing its planning appeals, which had been due to be heard in December 2017, and that DHFC Limited had discontinued its claim against Southwark for the renewal of the Green Dale lease. Meadow had announced that this put the future of the club under immediate threat.



DHST had published a response to Meadow's statement, and raised a series of questions with Meadow by email, on the same day. DHST subsequently worked closely with the Football Committee in pressing Meadow to clarify the practical implications for the club, its finances and its operations of Meadow's withdrawal of support, and has contributed to the football committee's correspondence with Meadow as well as corresponding directly with Meadow and Kevin Rye setting out specific concerns.

It was noted that Kevin Rye has implied that financial information was provided to DHST and the football committee 6 to 7 weeks previously with a view to an imminent takeover of responsibility for the club's finances. This is wholly misleading and this has been pointed out to KR by both Liam Hickey and AC. When the financial information was provided, the stated purpose of providing it was to assist with business planning in anticipation of a transfer to supporter ownership at the time the new stadium is ready (i.e. 2-3 years hence) and because it was said by Meadow that this would assist their position in the planning appeals.

AC and DM held a telephone conference with Supporters Direct on 1 November to brief them on developments and discuss support that SD may be able to offer DHST, both on a paid for and unpaid basis.

Available members of the board met on 5 November to discuss the developing situation. On 6 November the Football Committee released a statement bringing recent developments into the public domain.

The Harrow Borough game on 14 November had attracted significant media interest, with AC interviewed for Sky Sports News, the Guardian and the BBC (not all published/broadcast).

DC had met with Helen Hayes MP on 16 November 2017, and DHST has been contacted by the office of Dr Rosina Allin-Khan MP, Shadow Minister for Sport and MP for Tooting, who is interested in expressing support for the club.

ACTION: DC to contact Dr Allin-Khan MP's office to brief her and discuss possible support.

DC briefed the board in relation to the Southwark Council Assembly meeting at the end of the month, including the possibility of sending a deputation of up to six people to deliver a short statement, on which councillors can then ask questions. This would be an opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of the Club's activities, and the only way of getting the voice of the football club heard directly by the Council Assembly

ACTION: AC/DC to take forward actions relating to the Council Assembly meeting. DC to lead with help from AC. AC to discuss the composition of a deputation with Gavin Rose and the football committee. DC to begin drafting a statement.



[ACTION: AC to chase Meadow for a copy of the court's order (when a sealed copy is available) and in the meantime for the draft minute of the order prepared by the parties and submitted to the court for approval. The outcome of Southwark's security for costs application is now clear and DHST has received a minute of the order so there is no longer any real need to see the sealed order]

ACTION: All: to be prepared to respond to further developments quickly as they happen, prepare for different anticipated scenarios, and issue further updates to members promptly when we are able to do so.

Three actions had been superseded since the October board meeting.

[ACTION: DM to retrieve a copy of the ACV bid and circulate to board.]

[ACTION: AC to clarify with Meadow what specific documents (relating to proposed share transfers, surprisingly mooted by Meadow – see previous minutes) they intend to provide to DHST and when.]

[ACTION: AC to revert to Southwark to confirm levels of interest to attend one or more evening sittings of the planning appeal.]

3.2 *Update on new Southwark plan consultation*

Several of DHST's submissions have been incorporated into the latest version of the draft Southwark plan. These include an acknowledgement within the vision for East Dulwich, that the Club is "an important visitor attraction with a valuable community function" and that the site allocation for Champion Hill has now been amended so that any new development on the site includes provision for a stadium with at least the same size facilities as we current have. A new consultation period has now opened, providing a further opportunity for DHST to make submissions.

ACTION: AC to consider what further submissions DHST should make.

4. DHFC is fully owned by its supporters

4.1 *Update on fan ownership*

AA has prepared an updated and more concise version of the "Vision & Governance" document first published by DHST about two years previously. It was agreed that a version of this should be published in due course, despite current uncertainty as to how fan ownership can be achieved, with a fan ownership section created on the website.

Due to recent events and the uncertainty created as to the survival and future ownership of the club, it was agreed that it is currently difficult to make much progress in relation to business planning.



ACTION (from September): Fan ownership sub-group to continue working on the business plan and vision and governance document a view to producing a draft by the end of October.

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

The board agreed to carry forward one action in the light of ongoing uncertainties.

[ACTION (from October): AC/IP to consider the requirements of the Supporters Direct club “healthcheck” further and feed requests for information back to Meadow to assist with business planning.]

5. DHFC is a transparent and well run football club

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

The board agreed to carry forward the following action, as the uncertainty created by recent events have meant that there has not been an opportunity to discuss match day operations further with Meadow/Chris Taylor.

ACTION (from September): NP to update on progress on discussions with Meadow relating to match day operations at the football club, and to publish article once in a position to do so.

5.2 *Review of latest financial accounts for DHFC Limited*

Comments and questions arising from the financial information received from Meadow had been compiled into a spreadsheet by AC. These comments have been included in the comments sent back to Meadow by the Football Committee.

ACTION: AC/AA/IP/NP/DS/ADJ and other board members to continue to review financial information received from Meadow with a view to identifying relevant information for inclusion in any future business plan for the transfer of the Club to fan ownership, and add further questions to AC’s spreadsheet, with a view to discussing further progress at the next meeting.

5.3 *Update on merchandise*

MH had provided a merchandise update before the meeting. Online sales have been strong, particularly following recent news regarding the financial position of the club. It was agreed that the website should be updated with a banner advertising the last date for Christmas orders (the last day for processing orders will be 15 December; processing will then resume on 4 January 2018). New lines were discussed, including in relation to the 125th anniversary celebration. It was agreed that existing stocks should be replenished. The 2018 calendar went on sale at the Harrow game, with 17 sold on the night.



ACTION: MH to send new photos of stock to Purple, the provider of the online shop.

The board agreed to carry forward the following 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 currently stands at around 518 members, up by roughly 190 since the October board meeting.

6.2 *DHST comms*

AC had written an article for the programme for the game against Harrow. A communication to all members should be sent in the next week or so.

MS updated the board prior to the meeting on DHST's Twitter account. Amongst other statistics, DHST has put out 56 tweets in the past 28 days and gained 136 new followers (now 1,409).

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

The board agreed to carry forward the following 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 the following 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 briefly discussed the possible survey of members. It was agreed that a survey should be put on hold for the time being, in view of the current uncertainty arising from recent events, particularly in relation to the path to fan ownership, and the competing demand on board members' time on match days.

ACTION: 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*

PC noted that a collection for Southwark Foodbank will take place at the Brightlingsea game on 9 December. PC will liaise with the Football Committee to establish whether there is likely to be any need for DHST to arrange for volunteers to assist with the collection.

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

7.2 *Fixture poster partners scheme*

Production of the poster for November 2017 was made more difficult by the delay in confirming fixtures (some of which have subsequently changed). Some new businesses have joined the poster partners scheme, including the George Canning pub on Grove Lane.

ACTION: NP to update further on progress at next meeting.

7.3 *Volunteering*

There has been an excellent response to recent appeals for help from volunteers, with several supporters joining the list of volunteers co-ordinated by NP in the last two months. Their help has been invaluable, and the board placed on record its thanks to all of them.

The board agreed to carry forward the following action.

ACTION (from March): AC and AA to discuss involving ASPIRE volunteers further and report back before the next meeting.

7.4 *External communications update*

In addition to the statements referred to above, DHST has prepared articles (written by MS) for SE22 magazine and the Peckham newsletter.

7.5 *Trust governance and miscellaneous items*

The board agreed to carry forward the following 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.

7.6 *Christmas party*

Prior to the meeting MS had provided an update on preparations for the DHST Christmas Party after the game on 9 December. MS and others are urgently seeking clarification from Meadow and Chris Taylor as to whether all profits from the bar on the evening will go to the



club (i.e. not just profits up to 7.00pm – on a normal Saturday profits after that time go to Meadow's subsidiary, Healey Development Solutions (Dulwich) Limited).

8. AOB

8.1 *DHST bank account*

IP reported back to the board having investigated whether it would be beneficial to change DHST's banking arrangements. The conclusion is that there would be no worthwhile benefit to switching the account to another bank. The board agreed to make no change to the existing arrangements.

8.2 *Use of photos on DHST website/publications*

The board agreed to carry forward one action.

ACTION (from October): AC to consider whether payment should be made via Picfair or some other means.

8.3 *Raffle in aid of 12th Man fund*

Andy Greig is organising a raffle in aid of the 12th Man. The board agreed to contribute a prize of £50 to spend in the mega-container.

8.4 *Date of next board meeting.*

14 December 2017.

Meeting ended at 21.16.