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2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

10 July 2019

7pm, Dulwich Hamlet Football Club, London SE22 8BD

Existing Board Members

Alex Atack (<i>Joint Chair</i>)	Elected July 2016
Mark Scoltock	Elected July 2016
Alex De Jongh (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	Elected July 2016
Duncan Chapman (<i>Joint Chair</i>)	Elected July 2017
Dominic Smith	Elected July 2017
Nick Pittaway	Elected July 2017
Mel Hughes	Elected July 2018
Alex Smith	Elected July 2018
Mark McGann	Elected July 2018
Michelle Chapman	Elected July 2018
Paul Griffin	Elected July 2018
Liam Ball (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Co-opted January 2019

Philip Mitchell (*Secretary*) – Appointed September 2018.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES – Apologies were given at the meeting from DHST members Mark McGann, Paul Griffin, Neil Cole, Mark Scoltock, Patricia Leahy, Duncan Hart and Dominic Smith.

2. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – 5 July 2018. Copies were available at the AGM. No additional comments were received. The Chair (Alex Atack) signed the minutes as an agreed record of the meeting.

3. CHAIR’S REPORT (Alex Atack & Duncan Chapman)

The Joint Chairs reviewed the events of the last year against the Trust’s Objectives for the period ([Chairs Report Presentation](#)).

The Club’s position at the time of the last Trust AGM was desperate, with the exile at Tooting causing immense financial pressure and great uncertainty. Since then, while uncertainty continues in some respects, the situation has improved considerably. The Trust has contributed to this improvement, in part by investments in the Club in return for shares. The sums involved are ~£18K in 2018, and ~£40K to date in 2019.

One of the Trust’s Objectives for the period was to increase shareholding and representation, with a long-term vision of ownership of the Club. The shareholding has been increased to approximately 20%, and the Trust has now secured two seats on the Football Club Board. One seat has been taken up by Duncan Chapman. The Trust’s nominee for the second seat will be determined once the new Board has been formed.

We have also progressed towards the aim of the Club being transparent and well-run. The change in ownership has produced a great improvement in the quality of Club management, although greater transparency is still required.

The Trust Board aims to increase revenue from the 100 Club lottery (the source of the majority of the investment made in the Club) considerably, in part by folding into it the Club’s 1893 lottery, which is to be closed down.

The number of members has reduced during the year, but this is not a surprise, since many people joined out of sympathy for the Club’s extreme plight in 2018, and some of those people did not renew because the perceived level of risk has reduced. The level of membership (535) remains healthy.

The Trust's Vision, Mission and Objectives were revised during the year; the new versions can be found on the website.

DC thanked retiring Board members, particularly Alex Atack and Dominic Smith, who are not standing for re-election. He also thanked Duncan McCreery (the previous Secretary), Isaac Parnell (the previous Treasurer), and Alec Koundarjian, who has provided IT advice.

DC concluded by noting that the return to Champion Hill was the most significant event of the year.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Liam Ball) - The Treasurer presented a summary of the Trust's finances ([Treasurer's Report Presentation](#)), including contributions to the football club and other organisations in the last year. He also noted that we are close to the threshold for VAT registration.

The 2018 accounts will be lodged with the Financial Conduct Authority by the end of July.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT (Philip Mitchell) – The Secretary reported on issues related to the operation of the Board. Throughout the year the Board was led by Joint Chairs (Alex Atack and Duncan Chapman) and a Vice-Chair (Alex de Jongh).

The previous Secretary (Darren McCreery) resigned early in the period, and was replaced by Philip Mitchell following a request for applicants. (In accordance with guidance for Supporters' Trust, the Secretary is appointed by, and is not a member of, the Board.)

The Treasurer (Isaac Parnell) resigned in January and was replaced by Liam Ball, who was co-opted on to the Board.

12 monthly Board meetings have been held since the last AGM. Minutes of all of these meetings have been published.

The Secretary explained that as the current DHST Constitution is based on an outdated model (from the Football Supporters' Association, previously Supporters Direct), the Board has examined the implications of moving to a newer Model, and is likely to propose such a move in the autumn.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - The Chair (Alex Atack) opened the meeting to questions from the floor.

Q1: What the Trust's shareholding in the Club by percentage, and what is the aim?

A: The current shareholding is approximately 20%. We have no specific target. We have agreed in principle to invest a further £8K.

Q2: Are we going to invite the women's team and supporters to join DHST?

A: Yes. Note also that we hope to use the Sunday women's matches to engage with people in the community who may find the Saturday crowds too intense.

Q3: Although the Board has done a fantastic job in the year, why have we dropped the Objective of owning the Club?

A: The Objective of full ownership clearly made sense when there was a prospect of ownership being transferred to the Club as part of the ground development. Although that is no longer the case, the position which has been reached, and the future prospects, look healthy. The Trust's new [Vision](#) focuses on the health and quality of the Club, and the Trust's influence. That does not require full ownership, but is not inconsistent with it.

Q4: Why does our Vision focus on East Dulwich? Is that limiting?

A: We of course care about attracting and retaining support from other areas, but we see the Club's traditional home area continuing as the hub.

Q5: Does the Trust have a position on supporter segregation?

A: This is the responsibility of the Club's safety officer. When segregation was in force last year, it was because the advice he was given effectively gave him no choice. The Trust has no formal position on the topic.

Q6: Are the shares we have acquired newly created?

A: Yes.

Q7: Is there clarity over whether the Club has historically followed due process in share and ground sales?

A: There is little clarity about historical events. The current situation is much clearer, and we are hopeful of long-term clarity if the planning application ends satisfactorily.

Q8: What input has the Trust had into the current planning application, and should we seek the advice of FSA's stadium experts?

A: We agree that using FSA (ex-SD) in this respect is a good idea - we already have some professional time available from them, and could use it for this purpose. We are disappointed at the degree of influence we have had in this area to date and recognise that this needs to improve, but note that the appointment of our first Board member is very recent, and there will soon be a second.

End of Q&A session

Thanks were put on record from the floor, to the members of the DHST board (and all other volunteers at the club) for all their hard work over the year. In particular, thanks were given to Alex Atack for her work on the DHST board over the last three years, which has included being joint chair for the last year, and to Dominic Smith. Neither of these Board members has sought re-election.

7. RESOLUTIONS – The Treasurer proposed the following resolution:

“To disapply the requirement to appoint a qualified auditor for the financial year 2019”

For a resolution of this nature to pass, in addition to it gaining a majority at the meeting,

- less than 20% of the votes cast at the meeting must be against the resolution
- less than 10% of eligible members must vote against the resolution.

23 votes were cast in favour of the resolution. No votes were cast against. There was one abstention.

The resolution was therefore PASSED.

No other resolutions were submitted.

8. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD – RESULTS –

At the AGM Alex Atack, Mark Scoltock, and Alex de Jongh resigned from the board at the end of their tenure as required by the rules. In addition, Dominic Smith gave notice that of his resignation from the board. These resignations created 4 spaces on the DHST board for the 2019/2020 season. 5 nominations were received for these board spaces, triggering the need for an election, the ballot for which was held between 17th June and 3rd July.

42 eligible members submitted valid ballot papers in the election, with an additional 2 ballot papers treated as spoilt. The total number of valid votes cast amongst the candidates was 160.

The outcome of the election was as follows:

NAME OF CANDIDATE	Votes
BALL, Liam	40
de JONGH, Alex	39
KOUNDARJIAN, Arec	25
SCOLTOCK, Mark	35
WRIGHT, Peter	21

The four successful candidates were therefore announced as Liam Ball, Alex de Jongh, Mark Scoltock and Arec Koundarjian. They are duly elected to serve on the board for a period of three years along with the non-retiring existing Board members. The first meeting of the new board is scheduled for 31st July 2019.

Thanks were put on record to all the candidates who put forward nominations and to the members who voted in the election. Thanks were also extended to Michelle Chapman & Dominic Smith from the DHST board and to Mark Doidge for their help in managing the election of new board members. (Mark Doidge is from Whitehawk, and kindly provided external oversight of the election process.)