



## Board Meeting Minutes

7.00 pm, 19 April 2018

The Sun, Coldharbour Lane

In attendance: Alex Crane (AC) (chair), Alex Attack (AA) (vice chair), Isaac Parnell (IP), Nick Pittaway (NP), Alex de Jongh (ADJ), Mel Hughes (MH), Mark Scoltock (MS), Peter Wright (PW).

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Campbell (PC), Duncan Chapman (DC), Dominic Smith (DS), Darren McCreery (DM).

2. Agree March board meeting minutes

Draft minutes for the meeting on 15 March 2018 were circulated shortly before the meeting.

**ACTION: ALL to review draft board minutes and provide comments.**

*Post meeting note: the March board minutes were agreed by email and published on 25 April.*

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

3.1 *Update on recent developments with Meadow Residential*

DHST has had no direct communication with Meadow in the period since the March board meeting. Meadow did not respond to DHST's statements dated [7](#) and [12](#) March 2018, in which DHST called on Meadow to sell its land at Champion Hill, reinstate a fair licence to enable the club to return to the stadium; withdraw the threat of insolvency proceedings; and restore payment to the Club of bar profits generated by its activities (from 1 November 2017 onwards).

On 17 April, Meadow published documents on its website relating to a new pre-application for the development of the Champion Hill site. DHST was not consulted and was unaware of any plans by Meadow in this regard prior to publication of the documents. The pre-application appears to provide for significantly greater housing density than the previous proposal (including dwellings for over 700 people) and includes a modest club house facing onto Greendale. There is an offer to meet the costs of replacing the existing astro on Green Dale pursuant to a section 106 agreement with Southwark Council. However, the



documents make no substantive reference to DHFC and it is apparent that the clubhouse and pitch could not provide a viable home for DHFC without development on the other three sides of the pitch. Southwark have already made it clear that such development on Green Dale would be unacceptable.

In relation to the three trade marks registered by Meadow's Delaware affiliate (Greendales IP LLC) and which Meadow has said it is willing to assign to DHST, Tom Cullen (DHFC Limited director) has confirmed that DHFC Limited has instructed a legal advisor to deal with the assignment to DHST.

In relation to the statutory demand served on the Club, DHST has been in contact with the Football Committee and had emphasised the importance of making it clear that the alleged debt is disputed. DHST understands that the Club has written to Meadow to this effect. DHST is not aware of any subsequent correspondence.

DHST has drafted a letter to Meadow (with a view to sending it soon after the meeting) making a number of points relating to the termination of the licence to play at Champion Hill and Meadow's threatened use of insolvency proceedings against the Club.

The Board also discussed the very successful rally organised by the Save DHFC campaign on 17 March 2018.

### 3.2 *Update on recent developments with London Borough of Southwark*

Following the Southwark cabinet's approval (on 13 March) of a motion to seek to acquire the land at the Champion Hill stadium site, Southwark are understood to have put an offer to Meadow. As at 19 April Meadow has not, as far as DHST is aware, acknowledged this offer.

### 3.3 *Update on other political developments*

Prior to the meeting, DC updated the Board following the adjournment debate in the House of Commons on 16 March, which was attended by 30-40 supporters including several board members. The debate attracted widespread coverage and there was broad consensus between Helen Hayes MP, who called on Meadow to sell Champion Hill (adopting words from DHST's statement of 12 March) and the Sports Minister, Tracey Crouch MP. Notably, Tracey Crouch stated that her department would intervene to broker a settlement if Meadow and Southwark do not agree terms themselves. It is also notable that this offer is understood to have originated with the Minister.

Once again the board expressed its thanks to DC and a small number of other supporters (who have asked that their names are not made public) for their work leading up to the debate in briefing Helen Hayes.



3.4 *Update on new Southwark plan consultation*

No developments to report since the previous board meeting.

4. DHFC is fully owned by its supporters

4.1 *Update on fan ownership*

In view of ongoing uncertainty over the future of the Club, this was not discussed.

4.2 *Other relevant news from other Supporters' Trusts*

Nothing reported.

5. DHFC is a transparent and well run football club

5.1 *DHFC governance*

A meeting took place between members of the DHFC Football Committee (Liam Hickey and Tom Cullen) and several DHST board members following the match against Dorking Wanderers on Thursday 12 April. The meeting was requested by Liam and Tom and a number of issues were discussed, including the Club's current financial position and a proposal, outlined by Liam and Tom, for the Club to be run from next season by a new "Executive Board" comprising representatives from various stakeholders, including DHFC Limited's directors, DHST, ASPIRE, other supporters, and commercial partners. AC expressed DHST's interest in contributing to such a board and asked that DHST be kept updated as the idea is developed.

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

Match day operations at Tooting were discussed under item 7.5 (volunteering).

5.3 *Review of latest financial accounts for DHFC Limited*

The Board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from March): AC/IP to publish an addendum to the article (published on DHST's website, 14 March) on DHFC Limited's accounts relating to Healey Development Solutions (Dulwich) Limited**

5.4 *Update on merchandise*

DC and Clare Keeble have carried out a stock take of DHST's merchandise stocks, the majority of which has been retrieved from the mega-container, with the co-operation of



Chris Taylor. It has not been possible to stock a full range of items at Tooting and some clothing lines are currently available online only. DC and DS have been transporting stock to Tooting and some can now be stored there.

Following Nyren Clunis's 100<sup>th</sup> goal for the Club on 20 March 2018, the commemorative T-shirt was launched at the game on 12 April and sold very well (35 sold, and more have been ordered).

The Board agreed to carry forward the following actions, having heard no further news on the possible introduction of a new Club crest.

**ACTION (from February): MH to discuss the suitability of the new crest for merchandise.**

**ACTION (from February): MH to hold discussions with the Football Committee with a view to ensuring that the new crest has appropriate trade mark protection.**

6. DHFC has a growing Supporters' Trust that communicates regularly with its members

6.1 *Membership update*

PW reported that membership currently stands at around 600 (no significant change over the past month).

New membership cards have been ordered. PW to amend existing membership forms for summer fairs to comply with GDPR. Post summer, new forms to be ordered.

PW provided a detailed report setting out proposed actions to be taken by DHST in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when it comes into force on 25 May 2018. The Board agreed with PW's recommendations and thanked PW for his work on this to date.

**ACTION: PW to progress GDPR compliance further and report at next board meeting.**

DHST had sponsored the matches against Thurrock and Balham. Boardroom tickets were offered to members.

6.2 *DHST comms*

DHST has not made any further public statements since the statements issued on 7 and 12 March, and communications relating to the membership consultation, but will update members when there are significant developments to report. DHST continues to receive and respond to frequent media enquiries and requests relating to recent actions by Meadow.

MS continues to prepare monthly articles for SE22 Magazine.



AC prepared an article for the match programme against Worthing on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

DHST's regular (thrice-yearly) newsletter to members will be sent in May.

**ACTION (ongoing): ALL to consider drafting articles for forthcoming match day programmes.**

The Board agreed to carry forward one action.

**ACTION (from March): PW/AC to prepare revised communications to address the current situation at the Club, including DHST's position in relation to Meadow lines based largely on recent statements.**

*Promotion of 100 Club / future 100 Club plans*

The position statement to be issued following the consultation of DHST members will comment on the future use of funds raised through the 100 Club.

### 6.3 *Membership consultation*

PW and AC have analysed the responses to DHST's consultation on the future use of funds held by DHST, consulted with Supporters Direct and prepared a draft DHST position statement for consideration by other Board members. This was circulated to other Board members prior to the meeting. No request for additional funding (over and above the existing level of support provided by DHST) has been received from the Club, apart from the recent purchase of new footballs).

**ACTION: ALL to consider draft position statement with a view to publishing as soon as possible.**

Post meeting note: the position statement was published on 27 April.

## 7. DHFC has strong links with all fans and the surrounding community

### 7.1 *Update on plans for community engagement and supporting other causes*

Prior to the meeting, PC confirmed that DHST has booked a pitch for the Dulwich Festival Fair on Goose Green on 13 May.

**ACTION: PC to co-ordinate volunteers to run DHST stand for Dulwich Festival Fair.**

DHST has also booked a stand for the Goose Green Primary School Fair on 7 July. PC will need to liaise with ASPIRE pre-academy to confirm whether they are able to provide coaches to run a Beat the Goalie stand.



**ACTION: PC to make contact with ASPIRE pre-academy coaches.**

DHST also has a pitch booked for the Lambeth Country Show (21/22 July).

**ACTION (ongoing): PC to update on any relevant upcoming community events at next meeting.**

7.2 *Kids competition - monthly fixture posters*

The Board agreed to carry forward this action, in view of the current difficulty of producing monthly posters. MS will consider an alternative competition such as a raffle, and discuss it with Liam Hickey.

**ACTION: MS to discuss alternative competition or raffle with Liam Hickey.**

7.3 *Saturday 14th April - fundraiser at EDT*

DHST's fundraiser was well attended, with two coaches bringing supporters back to East Dulwich from Tooting & Mitcham. A total of £2,340 was raised for the 12<sup>th</sup> Man scheme. Cash raised has already been paid to the 12<sup>th</sup> Man, and IP will transfer the auction proceeds. The Board would again like to record its thanks to the EDT, which provided its upstairs rooms free of charge for the event, and to Clare Keeble for organising the coaches.

7.4 *Fixture poster partners scheme*

**ACTION (ongoing): NP to provide update on poster partners scheme at next meeting.**

7.5 *Volunteering*

DHST has been supporting the Club in recruiting volunteers to assist with match day operations at Tooting. NP has continued to liaise with potential volunteers in advance of each home game.

**ACTION (ongoing): NP to provide update on volunteering at next meeting.**

7.6 *Trust governance and miscellaneous items*

The Board agreed to carry forward this action, in view of the uncertainty created by recent events and the need to prioritise work in other areas.

**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.**

8. DHST finances and expenditure



8.1 *Monthly update on DHST finances*

Following the meeting IP provided an update as to DHST's financial position as at the date of the meeting. As at 18 April 2018, DHST funds stand at £80,985.51 (15 March 2018: £77,128.08) (cash at bank £43,451.43; Paypal £2,643.66; 100 Club funds £34,890.42).

8.2 Significant outgoings since the 15 March 2018 meeting include merchandise supplier invoices totalling £1,500, the merchandise profit share for April 2018 of £384, game sponsorship (vs Balham) of £120, and coach hire from Tooting to the fundraiser £350.

**ACTION (ongoing): IP to provide monthly update on DHST finances at next board meeting.**

8.3 *Update on DHST annual accounts to 31 December 2017*

IP reported that work on the annual accounts is underway.

**ACTION (from March): IP to update at next meeting on progress on the preparation of DHST's accounts to 31 December 2017.**

8.4 *Request to DHST to purchase of new footballs for Club*

The Club has asked DHST to fund the purchase of 20 new balls for use by the Club (£18 each). This was approved at the March board meeting and DHST has now received an invoice from the Club.

9. AOB

9.1 *Date of next board meeting*

17 May 2018 (subsequently moved to 23 May).

Meeting ended 10.04pm