



Hartlepool United Supporters' Trust Annual General Meeting Minutes

Time and Venue:

Thursday December 7th 2022 @ 7pm
Held at The Corner Flag

Trust members present:

Richard Ward, Michael Weir, Alastair Shepherd, Ron Harnish, Julia Newton, Geoff Newton, Jo Grylls, Colin Grylls, Paul Larter, Stephen Larter, John Cooke, Tom Atkinson, Ken Shepherd, Stan Sabey, Joan Sabey, Mark Reeve, Michael Gough Snr, Maria Niland, Ray Mincher,

Proxy vows:

7 proxy votes were sent in by members, all giving the Chair as their proxy. As the meeting was quorate the following business took place.

1.0 Apologies for absence:

1.1 Michael Gough Jnr, Eddie Kyle, Bob Ord, Bill Wass, Ed Parkinson

2.0 Approval of minutes from AGM held on 9th December 2021:

2.1 The minutes of the previous AGM were considered and approved.

(Proposed by John Cooke / Seconded by Joan Sabley / unanimously approved by those in attendance)

3.0 Chair persons report:

3.1 The chair (Julia Newton) welcomed all to the meeting and gave an overview of the last 12 months, including thoughts on the current situation with the club on and off the pitch.





3.2 Ongoing dialogue with the club was re-iterated.

3.3 Disappointment was expressed at the way in which our previous manager and key players were allowed to leave and at the turnover of staff behind the scenes.

3.4 The chair expressed HUST's ongoing desire to support the club in an advisory capacity, through community activities and financially in the future.

3.5 HUST will continue to recruit new members and encouraged others to renew.

3.6 Feedback on the Fan's Forum was provided. At that meeting our chair raised questions about the Fan-Led Review published earlier in the year, which were addressed by Mr. Hobin. We continue to push for transparency and better communication from the club.

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Presented by co-opted member Richard Ward, who also compiled the accounts. In summary:

- Turnover 21/22 - £22,701 (£19,563 in 20/21)
- Excess Income over Expenditure - £12,925 (£10,638 in 20/21)
- Main income is from membership fees, lottery, donations and HUST's golf day.
- Income has risen compared to the previous 12 months.
- Membership remains strong, with a slight reduction in overall fees due to a larger number of lifetime members signing up in 20/21.
- The number of corporate members has also increase in the past 12 months.

4.2 Accounts were compiled by Richard Ward from detailed annual records and reviewed by HUST Board before being independently reviewed by two HUST Members, including one chartered accountant. The final version was approved by the HUST Board.

4.3 Members present unanimously voted to accept accounts assessed by members independent of the board and without the need for a further formal audit. Members also approved submission to the FCA. (Post meeting note: Accounts were filed with the FCA on 9th December 2022.)

4.4 Richard Ward invited questions on the accounts prior to vote.

4.5 **Resolution A** - to approve the accounts for year ending June 2022.

Proposed by Richard Ward / Seconded by Ron Harnish / unanimously approved by those in attendance.





4.6 **Resolution B** - to approve new membership costings (£10 for an adult / £5 for a student or over 60s member)

Proposed by Richard Ward / Seconded by John Cooke / unanimously approved by those in attendance.

4.7 Membership costings now revised to simplify sign up and renewals process, whilst being mindful of the current cost of living crisis.

5.0 Fundraising Report

5.1 Richard Ward presented an overview of the lottery, which remains a good source of income, bringing in around £500 / month.

5.2 Ron Harnish gave a review of the Evening with Paddy Kenny Event, which made a small profit.

5.3 Ron also gave a review of the Annual Golf Day 2022, which raised c. £2,500 for HUST's investment fund.

5.4 It was noted that HUST's 2023 Golf Day is shaping up well with teams keen to sign up.

5.5 Richard Ward expressed thanks to those who had donated additional prizes to the lottery, including The Anchor and Hops and Cheese.

6.0 Community Report

6.1 Michael Weir led an update on HUST's community involvement.

6.2 2022 saw the launch of HUST's Community Ticket Fund, which involves money being raised specifically to provide tickets to those who might otherwise struggle to attend matches, due to perceived barriers being in place.

6.3 The initiative began with a football match against long-time supporters of Pools, Camerons Brewery, with players donating their match fees to the fund.

6.4 HUST were proud to support Rainbow Laces once again and worked with Hart Gables to provide tickets for some of the service users to come along to the match. We received fantastic feedback from those who attended. HUST were also honoured with an award for this work.





6.5 HUST once again played a match against Sanctuary Rangers, with match fees partly contributing to their forthcoming season.

6.6 HUST linked up with Andy's Man Club for Suicide Prevention Day, with an honest, and encouraging article produced for HUST's website and the club's match day programme.

6.7 There was also a link up with the North East Autism Society, which saw HUST produce a visual storyboard for any autistic supporters visiting the Suits Direct Stadium. HUST interviewed a number of autistic fans and those with autistic children to hear their experiences.

6.8 Finally, HUST are proud to partner Her Game Too, who are promoting football as a game for all, including taking practical steps to facility and encourage female fans. HUST will continue to amplify their message on social media and support where we can.

7.0 Media and Communications

7.1 Alastair Shepherd gave an update on social media, which has seen a decent rise in Twitter, Facebook and Instagram followers in the last 12 months.

7.2 He also fed back on media appearances on BBC Tees and the ITV news.

7.3 Alastair gave an overview of exclusive articles added to our website in the past 12 months, which included interviews with the 1993 team prior to the Crystal Palace match, interviews with HGT, an interview with Sanctuary Rangers and interviews with fans.

7.4 Lastly, Alastair updated members about a letter recently sent to Mr. Singh respectfully putting questions on behalf of our members. Broadly these questions were:

- Will finances be made available in the January window?
- For clarity on the current level of debt at the club?
- About the long term vision for the club?
- Whether players leaving in the summer was a football or financial decision?

8. Report from The Election Management Group

8.1 As overseen by the EMG, there were fewer candidates than available places for the board, so it was not necessary to hold an election this year. By show of hands members unanimously voted to approved Mark Reeve and Tom Atkinson to the board.

8.2 Lee Crowe, Nick McNaughton and Dave Jolly are stepping down from the board and thanks was expressed for all their contributions.





8.3 The HUST board for 2022 is as follows:

- Tom Atkinson
- Jo Grylls (existing)
- Paul Larter (existing)
- Julia Newton (existing)
- Ed Parkinson (existing)
- Mark Reeve
- Alastair Shepherd (existing)
- Michael Weir (existing)

9. Membership Report

9.1 Michael Weir updated on membership levels, which remain broadly as 2021, with just shy of 600 members. (The number of members varies slightly from month to month depending on the timing of renewals.)

9.2 Where members have not renewed HUST seek feedback, albeit a number of new members also signed up this year.

9.3 Three new corporate members signed up in 2022; Klinger UK, Evolution and Fortune.

9.4 Michael expressed gratitude to both or existing and new corporate members.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Ron Harnish provided an update on the youth setup at Pools, which has developed from the team sponsored by HUST, The Supporters' Association and South-East Poolies in 2020. The FA now pays for 10 scholars with the Supporters' Association contributing funds on a monthly basis.

10.2 The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

ENDS.

