

Hull City Southern Supporters Annual General Meeting

Date: 29 June 2011

Time: 7pm

Venue: Spread Eagle, Woodstock Street, London

In attendance:

Adrian Hoggarth, Ian Thomson, Chris Swales, Harvey Fletcher, Paul Ashbridge, James Lockwood, Oliver Gardham, Richard Gardham, Dan Heap, Jon Tennison, Richard Leave, Andy Clark, Michael Powell, Steve Lee, Graham Burgess, Tony Page, Chris Benson, Iain Armitage.

Apologies:

Mike Scott, Keith Potter, Paul Gamble, Andy Ellis, Nick Cliffe, Martin Batchelor, Sue Brown, Marilyn Campbell.

Agenda

1. Chairman's Report (Adrian Hoggarth)

The main events discussed at the AGM last year, the Meet the Chairman evening and the Charity/Legends Night, had not got off the ground last season for which the Chair apologised. There were mitigating circumstances.

We did try to organise the Meet the Chairman evening for the night before Watford away, but the club declined on the basis of their concentration on the play-off push at that point. Next season we will be pushing for this to be confirmed, although noting that most of the London/southern fixtures are towards the end of the season.

On the Charity/Legends Night, Rich Gardham has spoken to Garreth Roberts and he is keen to come down and help us with this. We will get this organised as soon as possible next season.

We did not sponsor City again last season given their sponsorship rates. Graham Burgess noted that he would have a word through his contacts about getting HCSS in the matchday programme. We are looking at alternative ways of showing our support financially, such as through the charity event.

2. Membership Secretary's Report (James Lockwood)

We had 206 members registered for the 2010/11 season: 169 adults, 15 OAPs, 22 juniors. This compares to 255 members last season and 282 the season before.

Unfortunately one member had to have his membership cancelled. Earlier in the season a match ticket was ordered by a member. The member did not turn up to collect his match ticket, nor did he pay for the ticket. Many people spent a lot of time trying to chase him up, but he never returned any calls made by HCSS committee members. The committee pay for ordered match tickets through their own personal bank accounts, so members not paying up results in committee members exposing themselves to interest payments on their credit cards. The failure of the member to pay for an item he had requested caused a great deal of inconvenience to the committee, who are doing the job voluntarily, and ultimately cost HCSS the match ticket price. Following repeated attempts to contact him without success, the committee voted unanimously for the member's membership of HCSS to be cancelled.

3. Treasurer's Report (James Lockwood)

Current HCSS Account Balance: £2,008.66

The meeting discussed ticket prices for next season and a member suggested dropping the price of membership for kids to zero on the basis that the current bank balance of HCSS would

allow us to do this and that it would be a good way of encouraging the next generation of Hull City fans to get involved with the club. A motion was tabled to keep the current adult membership fee of £6 and reduce the price for kids (16 and under) to zero for the 2011/12 season. This was passed unanimously.

4. Ticket Organiser's Report (Rich Gardham)

The HCSS ticket operation enjoyed yet another relatively successful season in 2010/11. Yet again, I dealt with the main admin tasks and general organisation, while Martin Batchelor was responsible for dealing with the ticket office and distribution, Mike Scott did all the website work that made ordering and payments so easy, and Oliver Gardham did all of the statistical stuff. As always, my thanks, and no doubt the thanks of all HCSS members, go out to these people for their sterling work season in, season out.

Thanks to the outstanding work done by previous ticket administrators and continued by Martin over the past few years in establishing and maintaining an excellent relationship with the club and the ticket office, we managed to get all of the tickets we ordered. While we kind of expect to get as many tickets as we want for London games, getting all the tickets we asked for for the Forest game – 30 something – was quite an achievement given the high demand among City fans. Maintaining this relationship with the club remains of paramount importance in everything we do.

While, as always, dealing with the HCSS members is a thoroughly pleasant task, there were a few downsides to last season. While I don't want to dwell on them, and I will stress that the vast majority of members are great to deal with, I will just explain what happened and what we did to ensure that these incidences remain rare.

First, both Martin and myself missed a great deal of the start of the Crystal Palace game because people coming to collect tickets hadn't arrived in time (and two didn't arrive at all). We will not do this again. If you are not at the designated pub to collect your ticket half an hour before kick off, then you cannot expect to receive it.

In the same game, one of the members who didn't turn up for the game then did not pay for his ticket and did not return our calls or e-mails asking for an explanation. After we'd exhausted all other options, this member was expelled from the HCSS. We try not to be draconian in what we do, but this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated.

Finally, we were getting quite a few people wanting to apply for games after the ticketing deadline had passed. This was involving us having to keep contacting the ticket office to change our orders quite frequently, so we decided – in the interests of us maintaining our strong relationship with the staff there – that we'd have no exceptions: if someone wants a ticket for a game after the HCSS deadline has passed, then they will have to go through the club.

Looking at next season, we will continue to order tickets for all away games for members along pretty much the same lines as we did last season.

I will be happy to continue fronting the HCSS ticketing operation for the coming season, but it would be good to have some cover. I don't know for how much longer I'll be able to continue in the role, and also I will be overseas for the time when orders will be coming in for the first away game of the season at Ipswich. Having someone else able to do what I do would be useful.

5. Travel Organiser's Report (Paul Ashbridge)

Paul reported that there were two major trips organised last season - Norwich and Ipswich. Suggestions were made for organised travel next season, and trips to Ipswich, Brighton, Peterborough and Southampton were discussed. It was reported that train companies are not bothered about groups of football fans travelling together and not prepared to offer group discounts. Instead, HCSS will look to organise travel for selected games and publicise these trips. Paul said that after seven years in the post he would be stepping down (and was thanked for his efforts).

6. Marketing Report (Tony Page)

There was not a great deal to report and discussion moved to the role of the Marketing Officer for next season.

7. Tigers Eye Editor's Report (Andy Clark)

Tigers Eye was not produced last season and the meeting discussed alternatives. It was thought that a season review/yearbook would be an alternative for next season. Andy Clark and Rich Gardham will discuss their ideas for this. There was also discussion over how HCSS can utilise social media and the HCSS website to provide more frequent information for members.

8. Sports and Social Secretary's Report (Iain Armitage)

Iain reported that the football team had a reasonable season in the 2nd division of the APFSCIL League but was in need of new players to boost its numbers and there was discussion of how matches could be publicised next season, such as on HCSS Announce. Interest could be increased through the writing of match reports. Iain is stepping down as football team manager.

The pool team had been resurrected and had completed its 3rd season in the APFSCIL League. Chris Buckley is running the pool team now.

There was interest at the meeting in forming an HCSS 5-a-side team and this will be looked into.

9. Website and Travel Guide Report (Mike Scott)

Mike Scott was not in attendance but it was agreed that he had done a fabulous job producing the Travel Guide (with some assistance from other members) and maintaining the HCSS website.

10. Committee posts for 2011/12 season

The Chair proposed changes to the HCSS Committee in order to try to increase the number of members who get involved in running HCSS and to spread out the work among as many people as possible. Chris Swales had produced a spreadsheet outlining the roles performed by committee members and suggesting new/amended roles for next season. The existing HCSS Committee (pursuant to the HCSS Constitution) voted to change the HCSS Committee to the following roles. Following this decision, members nominated and seconded members for HCSS Committee positions. There were no contested posts so no voting was required.

The 2011/12 HCSS Committee will be as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Chairman | - | Adrian Hoggarth |
| Secretary | - | Chris Swales |
| General Counsel | - | Ian Thomson |
| Website Controller | - | Mike Scott |
| Treasurer | - | James Lockwood |
| Membership Secretary | - | James Lockwood |
| Ticket Organiser | - | Richard Gardham |
| Travel Co-ordinator | - | Dan Heap |
| Travel Guide Editor | - | Mike Scott |
| Social Secretary | - | Harvey Fletcher |
| Sports Secretary | - | Iain Armitage |
| APFSCIL Representative | - | Paul Ashbridge |
| Tigers Eye Editor | - | Andy Clark |
| Social Media Co-ordinator | - | Andy Clark |
| Marketing Officer | - | Tony Page |

11. Any Other Business

Given the changes to the Committee structure in particular, the meeting ran on longer than expected and was closed at this point. However, it was noted that further discussion was needed concerning the allocation of tasks to Committee members and the rules for the allocation of tickets. Both of these matters will be progressed following the AGM.