

YORK CITY SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED

AGM FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-9

29 March 2010 at York City Social Club, Bootham Crescent at 19.30 hrs

Present:

YCSS Board: Steve Beck (Chairman), Ian Hey, Sophie Hicks, Simon Mallett, David Brewis (Secretary).

Members: 37 members

Apologies for absence: Malcolm Clarke, Alwyn Fletcher, Jonathon Horner, Rob McGill, Phil Robinson, Pete Rookes

1. Introduction & Welcome

Steve Beck welcomed members to the meeting including a special welcome to Mr Alf Patrick.

2. Apologies for absence

See list above.

3. Minutes of Previous meeting

Circulated at meeting. Proposed as a true record by Graham Bradbury, seconded by Martin Jones. Passed unanimously as a true record.

4. Matter arising from minutes of last meeting.

Nil.

5. Review of activities in previous year.

Sophie Hicks – YCSS representative on YCFC Board and responsible for Community activities.

- Community activities extended into Ryedale and Selby areas and coaching extended to more than 80 schools in York – up from 5 originally.
- Now interacting with over 10,000 kids pa.
- Running 12 after school clubs and 2 lunch clubs every week.
- Previously allocated 250 free tickets per home game to schools but with poor uptake. Changed policy this year to direct tickets to junior football clubs with increase in uptake.
- Working with various local charities.
- Partnership with NYCFA – joint hosting for football tournament for those with disability and also currently organising football carnival for June.

- Have expanded joint initiatives with police to tackle antisocial behaviour – successful and now expanding into more areas.
- Also worked with, and supported by, CPP during the year
- Successful Young Sportswriter competition.
- CPP Challenge Cup Final to be held at BC at last home game of season. Biggest ever entry for this in current season although condition of BC pitch has not helped.
- Good to see increased involvement by YCFC players this year.
- Only major problem this year – funding.
- Last year lost £2-3,000 this year expecting to lose £8-10,000. Investigating changing status of community operation to become a charity.
- SH has also taken over responsibility for running Fans' Forum – working well so far.

Simon Mallett – Trust Activities

- Two new members on Trust Board – Thom Feeney and Mike Palfrey.
- Thanks to Graham Bradbury for help in organising Golf Day and Champions/Centurions Dinner.
- Board has been in discussion with JMP re the future funding of the football club. JMP has now provided all of the finance agreed in the Reconstruction Agreement in 2006.
- Noted the current financial situation at the football club i.e. that c £200-300,000 funding is required per annum.
- Stated that currently no agreement on funding has been agreed with JMP.
- Discussed the political situation relating to the new stadium and stated the Trust view that a community stadium is needed in York.
- Finished by emphasising that YCSS will continue to try to ensure that the football club has a secure future.

6. Ratification of the re-appointment of Trust Board members Sophie Hicks and Simon Mallett.

Sophie Hicks and Simon Mallet were required to resign from the Board having served for 3 years and offered themselves for re-election. No other nominations were received.

83 proxy voting papers were returned by the specified date of 23 March 2010 and the total numbers of votes cast were as follows

	At the meeting		Proxy votes			Total	
	In favour	Against	In favour	Against	No vote expressed	In favour	Against
Sophie Hicks	37	0	78	2	3	115	2
Simon Mallett	37	0	77	0	6	114	0

The re-elections of Sophie Hicks and Simon Mallett to the Trust Board were therefore ratified by the meeting.

7. Ratification of the independently examined Trust Accounts

Ian Hey presented the key points from the truncated financial report.

Question from floor: Annual report shows no donation to club although reporting a surplus for the year. Why is this?

Answer: This is a timing issue – in fact 2 sums of £6,500 have been donated for youth development.

Contents of the financial report unanimously accepted by the meeting.

8. Re-appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

It was agreed unanimously by the meeting to reappoint Brett Davis of Townend as independent examiner.

9. Any Other Trust Business and Questions

Q: Could we amend Trust Rules so that juniors could become members of the Trust thus increasing interest in the Trust and providing some security for the future of the organisation.

A: David Brewis to investigate and to report back.

Q: We need to fill both of the 2 allocated Trust Board positions on the football club board (only one has been filled since Steve Beck resigned). Can anything be done to ensure this happens?

A: None of the current Trust Board members can meet the requirements of time and commitment to take the place on the club board. Once again there was no election for Board members this year. More volunteers for the Trust board are needed.

Q: What has happened to the trust website?

A: Was originally looked after by Mike Brown but no longer so action is required. The possibility of the Trust having a presence on the club website was mentioned. It was agreed that Ian Hey would investigate possibilities.

Q: Why is there little or no mention of the Trust or any of its activities in the match day programme or indeed on the now defunct website?

A: We need more board members including if possible one with some expertise in maintaining a web presence and communication.

Q: What is happening about the wall?

A: This scheme was originally set up to contribute funds for the new stadium but has met a variety of construction problems. It is recommended that existing bricks are removed and carefully replaced, at the expense of the Trust, for the start of next season.

Q: Referring to the Radio York interview with Steve Beck on the morning of the meeting – if, as had been reported in the discussion on the financial report, the Trust had made two donations to the club's youth scheme, why were they not mentioned in the interview?

A: Steve Beck stated that the donations had actually been mentioned in the interview.

Q: When the Trust was originally formed there was a body coordinating activities and fund raising. Could this level of commitment and activity be recreated?

A: A fall off of interest in all Trusts tends to happen once the crisis that has often precipitated the formation of the Trust has passed so the current situation is not unusual. The next big issue for the club is the provision of a new ground and this may lead to the re-invigoration of the Trust.

Q: It is difficult for potential volunteers to understand how much time and commitment is required to make a contribution to the Trust board. How much time is required? Has the Board actually asked identified persons to join it? Surely there must be some members present who would be willing to join the Board?

A: Clearly the election process has not worked in attracting board members and it may be that an issue important to the club is required to prompt more volunteers. The Board hoped that members of the various supporters groups would be willing to become involved in the Trust. Also a "Meet the Board" session would be set up to enable prospective (co-opted) Board members to obtain information.

Q: The structure of the various supporters groups is very fragmented.

A: Agreed that the fragmented nature was difficult- will ask for nominations to join the Trust Board at the next Supporters' Consultative Group meeting.

Statement from Floor: In view of the situation regarding the ground, what is now needed from the Board is to define what skills it needs to reinvigorate the Trust and then to publicise those requirements.

The meeting closed at c21.50.

David Brewis
YCSSL Secretary

04 April 2010