



# West Ham United Supporters' Trust

## Steering Committee Minutes

**Date of meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Location:** Virtual by Zoom

**Present:** Nick Drane, Richard Elliott, Kevin Hind, Mark Inskipp, Rachel McFetridge, Terry Reynolds, Sue Watson, Chris Wheal

**Apologies:** Anthony Knight, David Shaer

### 1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting and matters arising

Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 agreed as a true record.

Action log was reviewed briefly and outstanding actions rolled forward. In particular, the planned Mission Statement will be finalised after the AGM.

### 3. AGM Preparation

Mark provided an update to the committee as to the current position: -

- The Independent Examiner has completed their examination of our initial set of accounts. Mark will send these out ahead of the AGM.
- Mark reminded us of the AGM agenda: -
  - Sue will introduce the meeting and report on the trust performance
  - We will briefly comment on the accounts
  - Mark will run through resolutions as Company Secretary, firstly to disapply audit requirement / accept the Independent Examination, and then to appoint the Directors. 10 candidates for the Director posts stepped forward. These will seek approval at the AGM .
  - Nick asked if we had a plan B contingency if Zoom video failed, Wifi goes down, etc. Mark will specify contingency arrangements in the AGM Zoom invite to the extent that we would need them. (For example we may not need a physical vote if we already have sufficient proxy votes in favour of any specific resolution).
  - The new Board will be announced, if the proposed Directors are voted in. We will need to hold a separate meeting in order for the Board to elect new Chair and Treasurer, Chris suggested we do so straight after the AGM as a separate meeting.

- The Annual Report - all felt that this was very high quality, thanks to Chris and his wife for its preparation. We will share this following the AGM, and there was unanimous support to share this report much more widely – with WHUST members, with fan groups, with the club, with the FSA and with journalists amongst others.

**Actions:**

**Minor revisions to the Annual Report ahead of its release and distribution of AGM materials as described above.**

**3. AGM Preparation Communications and Media Strategy Feedback and Discussion**

Chris reminded the committee that we have 3 Goldsmiths students at the London Stadium ahead of the Chelsea game undertaking some filming and Board member interviews ahead of our planned launch onto Instagram and TikTok.

**Actions:**

**Everyone who is able to, to attend the Stadium Store at 10am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

**4. Fan Led Review**

Nick understands that Lucy Frazer, the new Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport has been briefed on the upcoming White Paper and that the DCMS will be meeting with the FSA next week, ahead of the release of the White Paper later this month. Nick has also had some discussions with Andy Eldridge of Chelsea ST, and will see if he can refresh the London ST group; fans will need to come together more once the White Paper is published and its recommendations are codified. We are still waiting for details re fan engagement though; it was noted that the club are likely to have to move a long way just to meet any minimum standards.

**Actions:**

**N/A**

**5. Current workstream update**

**Independent Supporters Committee** -there is a meeting between the ISC and the club scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February. Agenda items include: -

- The club's Fan Engagement Plan - the ISC is waiting for details
- History and Heritage, including a museum.
- Welcome pack for season ticket holders
- Catering position, including strategy for next season

There was an ISC meeting yesterday (7<sup>th</sup> February), where the FSA report into the recent complaints between ISC members was discussed. Still waiting for final FSA outcomes.

## 6.AOB

- Chris was previously promised in 2015 by the club that commemorative stones would be placed for his grandfather and uncle (whose ashes were scattered at Upton Park), but he can't find them. Chris will write to the club again (cc'ing in WHUST) and we will take up on his behalf if the response is unsatisfactory.
- Mark advised that there will be no Greater Anglia or Elizabeth Line trains for 3 of next 4 home games.
- Richard asked for any email addresses held for fan groups, which he will then email as part of his Membership Group activity towards getting new affiliate members; Richard will also email out the annual report. Mark will send details of the groups that he has.
- Rachel is keen to arrange an interview with the club's Metropolitan Police Dedicated Football Officer Andy Sheldon, possibly via the Goldsmith's students.
- International Women's Day – Rachel and Sue are meeting with Sophie Lawson from the club on 13<sup>th</sup> March, looking to start Intrepid Irons shortly thereafter, liaising with club and Nicola Cave at FSA with a potential for getting FSA affiliate status for Intrepid Irons. Rachel will reach out to Nicola in due course.
- Sue advised that the ISC flagged up in November the prospect of a West Ham Museum to show WH memorabilia. Club hasn't responded yet, but it is on ISC's agenda to discuss further. A group (that includes Inclusive Irons, Hammers United and a range of fans with a strong interest in the history of our club and (a historian) Max Portman) want to set up a museum, Sue thinks that WHUST should have a representative in that group. Sue will confirm to the group that we will put forward a representative (maybe Anthony?, otherwise Terry).

**Actions:** Mark and others will send Richard details of fan groups held;

Rachel will progress Intrepid Irons discussions with FSA;

Sue to confirm to Max Portman that WHUST would like representation on the Museum working group.

## 7. Date of next meeting

6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The meeting ended at 8:24pm