



West Ham United Supporters' Trust

Board Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: 12/06/2023

Location: Virtual by Zoom

Present: Nick Drane, Kevin Hind, Mark Inskipp, Anthony Knight, Rachel McFetridge, Terry Reynolds, Sue Watson, Chris Wheal

Apologies: David Shaer, Richard Elliot

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 Board Meeting 9th May 2023 – No amendments. Minutes agreed as true record of said meeting.

Minutes General Members Meeting 15th May 2023 - No amendments – Document will be shared with our members via website and newsletter.

Matters arising covered by agenda items.

3. Consultation Document – Nick Drane

The document is the proposed WHUST Boards negotiating Policy with the Club, where the relationship currently sits with the club and where we would like it to be.

Ask FSA to review and provide input then ask ISC to support its use, on negotiations with the club about changes that the premier League wants to bring in.

AshleyBrown (FSA) has provided his feedback, doesn't see any issues with the document or the actions we plan to take.

In terms of setting up the shadow board we need to see whether the ISC will become the shadow board.

Responsibility

- Proposition – any feedback or changes to ND by 19/6/23 the Board
- View from the Board that we are comfortable with SW taking this to the ISC
- Red lines requested from the Board by Nick by the 19th June – red lines meaningful engagement driven by fans
- Regulator has said bill will be announced Oct 23rd in Kings speech, bill introduced in Nov, commencement close of season 2025
- CW – suggests we should send the document to the ISC asking for their input as it is a draft document and that we should report back to our members that we have created this document as we said we would.
- SW to provide feedback to the Board after the ISC meeting 22nd June

4. General Agenda Items

Feedback re 6foot2 and possible scenarios (CW)

Ashley has offered to facilitate a meeting at the end of June – no meeting confirmed yet

Andy from HU will share the response prior to the meeting.

FSA National Council position (SW)

FSA has a position available - Sue will stand . Board agreed with Company Secretary (MI) to countersign application.

Intrepid Irons feedback re DFO meeting and next steps (RM)

Designated Football Officer PC Andy Sheldon spoke about the violence against women and girls initiative, encouraged women to report violence however minor, also he'd like to be cc'd in on any incidents reported to the club via email. Rachel to draft reporting form and process to trial for the club. Women go to matches all year not just on international women's day, movement to make women feel safer at football - walk and talk strategy discussed – groups of women going to games as group so they don't feel intimidated.

Additional signage at the stadium to report incidents against women. Criminal behaviour would lead to a police incident. Interview with Andy re his role will take place soon.

Promoting the Intrepid Irons - Group are on Twitter and Instagram.

Crypto (RE) - SW feedback

FCA document re Crypto shared. This new regulation is around how cryptoassets are advertised.

You need Crypto to enter WHU platform for NFTs. WHUST are against any cryptoasset that is required for either having a say in the club or purchase merchandise.

Richard has put together a statement which WHUST will put out and send in a news article.

Feedback from Prague – re organisation from UEFA & West Ham (MI)

Transport was perfect.

Ticketing access was smooth, bars in the stadium open 2 hours after the match
Fan Park Good

West Ham did nothing to make our end feel like we were at a final, no proper flags.
No banners.

Team celebration was in one corner, no lap of honour, so fans couldn't see the trophy paraded. Family and friends of players all on the pitch.

Timing of the parade day after the final discussed in detail.

No porta loos –risk assessment questioned – health and safety concerns – not enough first aiders or ease of access when first aid needed.

Ticket sales again needs to be looked at by UEFA

West Ham should have organised a fan zone for fans that couldn't travel to Prague but wanted to watch the game as a group, rather than charge £60 for tickets to come to the stadium for hospitality.

Chris is writing an article for blowing bubbles and has asked those that travelled to Prague to send him feedback by Wednesday.

Was there a UEFA restriction stopping WHU doing a lap of honour.

Feedback to the FSE – Mark to collate.

WHUST, working with AST and Man City supporters' group, will be putting a motion to FSE/FSA AGM to ensure improvements to next year's European cups.

Ensuring diversity - how do we ensure the board and WHUST will represent all communities? (CW)

Question - how do we ensure diversity – Chris

Positive discrimination, identify groups that are not represented and target them.

Club have E&D plan and we need the stats of the make up of our fan base.

Terry to set up working group to move this on. TR,CW,KH,SW,ND,RM volunteered to work on this.

Scheme of delegation – initial discussion and next steps (KH/CW)

KH proposed that we adopt process where power and authority can be delegated to individual board members, the Scheme of delegation. We don't have to commit the board , if we make our own comments.

Fund raising and membership added to next agenda

Responsibility

- Application for FSA position to be completed and countersigned –SW/MI
- DFO interview to be arranged – RM
- Prague info to be provided, collated and sent to FSE-MI
- Crypto statement to be posted –Twitter SW, Linkedin/FB-CW
- Diversity initial meeting to be arranged-TR
- Scheme of delegation to be pulled together for Board review-KH/CW
- Fund raising and membership to go on next agenda-MI

5. AOB

- **Matchday Experience**

Anthony to meet with guys from the Carpenters Arms Stratford who arrange travel and events at away games – Ironwork Tours – Ironworks Alliance to see if they are interested in creating a Home End at Stratford, safe standing and family section. I will represent WHUST.

Responsibility

Mark needs newsletter articles – please send them in asap but certainly by the 19th June.

- **Mark to do poll on date for Board get together for a drink – will be a drink and meeting**

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held face to face as per doodle poll 2023at 6:30pm.

Meeting closed 20.09pm