

**The Portsmouth Supporters' Society, Trading as Pompey Supporters Trust 1st AGM,
Thursday 16th September 2010, Rifle Club, Goldsmith Avenue.**

Present

The Elected Board (EB) Brendon Bone (BB), Ashley Brown (AB), Jo Collins (JC) Chair, Barry Dewing (BD), Mark Dugan (MD) Treasurer, Ken Malley (KM) Vice Chair, Scott McLachlan (SM), Matt Partridge (MP) Vice Chair, Richard Sexton (RS), Pam Wilkins (PW), Tony Foot (TF) co-opted Secretary and around seventy members. List of those signed in attached.

Apologies received from

John Portsmouth Football Club Westwood.

TF, Secretary, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for joining PST. He outlined the rules for the evening. No one to speak for more than three minutes on any particular subject. He paid tribute to the Board and said that the entire steering group who had stood for election were elected. TF also thanked the Rifle Club for hosting the PST meetings.

Ordinary Business

1.1 To receive and consider the report of the Society Board and the statement of accounts of the Society for the period ended 31st March 2010.

JC, Chair, read out the Report of the Board, with amendments a).page 2 paragraphs 3 should read "Discussions took place between representatives of *the* Trust..."

b) Page 3 paragraph 4 should read "Supporters Direct and James Mathie, without *whose* assistance and guidance."

Report of the Board

"**The** season 2009/10 proved to be a traumatic one in so many respects for Portsmouth Football Club both on and off the pitch. It also marked the foundation of the Trust in response to those problems.

This report is a general overview of the establishment and activities of the Trust since the original meetings attended by a small but significant number of supporters drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds including existing Supporters Clubs across the City and other parts of the UK.

Following the initial ad hoc meetings, events moved swiftly with, first, the creation of a working group that subsequently evolved into a steering group, followed by official registration on the 23 December 2009 of the Trust under the Industrial & Provident Societies Acts 1965 – 78. Recently, the Election of the Board has taken place.

Other integral parts of the Trust jigsaw have been pieced together then later refined, first; by the working party, then a steering group and now the first Elected Board.

These include but are not confined to membership structure with its database and website facility encompassing many services designed to advise/inform members and reflect their views and opinions. Other important facets included the setting up of a dedicated communications team from the outset, which regularly have been interviewed by the national and local media. Sub groups have started; working with the local community on a variety of projects, providing merchandising, regular match day recruitment drives of members and particularly liaising with existing supporters clubs, whose existence has been a massive boost for start up of the Trust.

A number of Road shows and Open nights both in and out of the City were organised for fans and members of Supporters Clubs to attend and ask questions about the Trust, its principal aims and objectives. The Board recognises the importance of keeping all members informed,

advised and as up to date as is feasible of all that the Trust is doing or involved in and we will ensure that this continues to happen.

The Trust received both recognition and extremely helpful support and guidance from both the Club and existing Supporters groups for which the Board expresses its thanks.

Discussions took place between representatives of **(the)** Trust with a then Director of the Club with a view to purchasing shares in the Club, which sadly, but not unexpectedly, turned out to be a false trail.

Following the turmoil within the Club that took place with the CVA/Administration, Trust representatives in conjunction with its partner Supporter Clubs met with the administrators as well as some potential New Ownership Groups. We also took part in the planning of alternative plans to keep the Club in business or start a fresh club, whilst keeping this very much as the last resort scenario.

Again we recognise Fratton Park as the home of the Club but given the apparent threats to its future, the Trust has liaised with the Local Authority and other fans groups to increase the existing protection of the ground as a sporting venue and prevent any redevelopment for other use unless/until a feasible new stadium was both planned, approved and built.

Members should be aware that even though the immediate threat of liquidation of the Club has now receded both the alternative club and the ground protection are on ice but under the watchful eye of the relevant sub groups formed.

It was pleasing that a very significant percentage of Members exercised their voting franchise at the first elections. The Board has subsequently met the Club's new Chief Executive and senior administrative staff with other interested groups and in isolation on our own, with the Clubs new Chief Executive and other administration staff. These meetings have been used to strengthen the working relationships between the Trust and the Club but also to look at the possibility of eventual Trust share holding and representation at Club Boardroom level.

It would be right to say that the Trust has moved from an idea into reality with some considerable speed in a short space of time thanks to the sizeable support from you its members to its current position. It now represents a significant voice for the fans alongside older more established groups with whom it seeks to work in partnership. The Board is also conscious of the fact that as a fledgling organisation there is a significant way to go and much work remains to be done before the Trust is able to achieve and then realise those principal objects for which it has been created and can only do so with the continued important support of you its members.

This inaugural period for the Trust has been an exciting one not without some problems, as is only to be expected with any new venture, and for the Board a massive learning curve.

We must give a special mention to Supporters Direct and James Mathie, without **(their)** **(whose)** assistance and guidance from the outset has enabled PST to move from conception, to baby to toddler and on to the infant stage in double quick time. The forthcoming year will be one of consolidation and a continuation of all the good work done by all involved to date.

In conclusion it would be remiss not to mention the enormous valuable contributions no matter how great or small of all those who were, have been and still are involved at the sharp end of the Trust during its formation and evolution to its current position. There are of course far too many to mention individually in a report of this nature but suffice to say they know who they are and what they have helped achieve to date. The Board would simply wish to thank them all.

This concludes the Board Report for the AGM September 16th"

JC thanked the local media, the News in particular, for their support and coverage from the start of the Trust through to tonight.

There being no questions on the Board Report it was proposed by Graham Mitchell and seconded by Tony Atkinson that the Report of the Board be accepted. Carried nem com.

Accounts

PST is not obliged to produce audited accounts until the second AGM, but the Board felt that as promised, members needed to know the Trust's income and expenditure so far.

Although copies of the Accounts were available on line, none were available at the meeting.

MD read out the accounts.

See attached notes.

Accounts Questions

Q. Paul Dunne

Are there expenses and honorariums paid to the board?

A. TF No EB member is being paid, apart from occasional travel expenses for attendance of meetings. All the work done is voluntary.

Q. Paul Williams

What return has there been on the T-shirts?

A. MD £289.05 paid for 60, 40 have been sold at £8 = £320, there are 20 left to sell.

Q. Tony Ellis

Have the Board considered personal liability insurance against any action brought against it?

A. TF the constitution permits this, and TF will discuss with the board, given the sums of money involved, and something will be put in place to protect the members of the EB from honest mistakes - not from fraud, which should not be insured against. PST has public liability insurance for events.

Q. Graham Mitchell

Membership is £5 but it is possible to donate more, how much has been received in donations?

A. MD £1392 to date.

JC proposed a vote of thanks to MD for a very difficult job well done.

Derek Pullin proposed and Tim Harris seconded that the Accounts for the Society for the period ended 31st March 2010 be accepted. Carried nem com.

1.2 To record the election as members of the Society Board the following, namely:

Brendon Bone, Ashley Brown, Jo Collins, Barry Dewing, Mark Dugan, Ken Malley, Scott McLachlan, Matt Partridge, Richard Sexton and Pam Wilkins.

JC introduced the board members to the meeting and outlined their roles.

JC recorded her personal thanks to MP for the website.

The Elected Board members were formally elected.

1.3 To elect Murray, McIntosh, O'Brien of 204 London Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7AN as auditors for the ensuing year and authorise the Society Board to fix their remuneration.

JC pointed out that PST has two birthdays, one being the date it was formed under the FSA rules and the other the date it was formed at the first meeting.

Auditors need to be appointed, who must be qualified to present properly audited accounts from 23rd December 2009 to 31st March 2011.

It was proposed by Tony Atkinson and seconded by Darren Beer that Murray, McIntosh, O'Brien be appointed as the Trust auditors.

Carried nem com

TF said that in future we'll try and give more notice of the AGM date, so that motions can be put forward in good time. Two very interesting proposals have come in after the deadline date but both are important and we felt they should be discussed by the membership so they have been put forward as emergency motions for discussion.

Emergency Motions

1. Stadium Development

David Maples outlined the key issues to safeguarding Fratton Park for the future. Portsmouth City Council is supportive and sympathetic to the issue. The draft of the Council's fifteen year plan clearly states the continuation of Fratton Park as a football stadium or a new or improved development to a 35,000 seated stadium. The Council will only support the re-development of the Fratton Park site for other use if a new stadium has been provided.

The fifteen year plan is at present only a draft, the adoption of the plan is a lengthy process. It is due to be adopted in November 2010 followed by public consultation and then an examination by inspectors. It should be finally accepted by June 2011. The fifteen year plan will send a clear message to any prospective developers who think Fratton Park would be a development site for them, but will not stop the improvement of Fratton Park.

The second part would call on any new owner to start the process of redevelopment of Fratton Park and a demonstration that they had the intention of coming up with a properly financed plan and discuss with the Council what would be required for the development of FP. The initial consultation would cost £1000 to submit a planning application for the turning of Fratton Park by ninety degrees and increasing the capacity to 35,000. Once accepted the planning permission would last for five years. The planning permission for the previous plan to rotate the ground has expired.

JC thanked David and asked for questions

Q. Tony Atkinson - The Council has given a statement of intent, is there a time scale for when it becomes policy?

A. There is a published time scale for the adoption of the planning policy; the consultation was in the summer and closed in mid August. If it is adopted in November, which seems highly likely, if all the stages are followed it will be enforced after June 2011 and would then be in place for fifteen years.

Q. Barry Leonard - Is Mr Chainrai aware of this situation with the Council.

A. DM had no knowledge of this but as a successful business man he should do. JC pointed out that there is still no recognised owner for us to ask and that when an owner is confirmed the Trust will make them aware of this.

Q. Keith Blackburn - In the past there have been objections to the redevelopment of the Milton End because of the houses behind it, is this still true?

A. Yes, the existing houses on the South and East sides of the ground would have to be maintained, so any redevelopment will have to be mainly on the North and West sides.

Q. Graham Mitchell - Do we know which Councillors will be responsible for approving the fifteen year plan so that we can lobby them?

A. The approval will be by the full Council. Anyone can write to the planning department in support of the plan. We can also lobby local MPs and ask our local councillors to support the plan.

Q. Lyn Powell - If a new ground is built outside the City boundaries, how would that affect the redevelopment of Fratton Park?

A. We have been lucky to involve Chris Hoffam a planning consultant. It would have to be considered by the Council if in these circumstances the needs of the plan had been met. It is difficult for the plan to cover all eventualities. When the plan is drafted we will be in a stronger position. New stadiums plans have been presented for over forty years and as yet no one has identified a suitable alternate site and it is apparent that Fratton Park remains the best place.

SM Said "we all recognise that Fratton is PFC's spiritual home and we should aim to stay there as long as possible.

Paul Williams agreed and asked that PST should make a stand that the ground should stay at Fratton Park.

Q. Barry Leonard suggested that we should pressurise Sacha Gaydamak regarding the land he owns around FP, perhaps The News could help?

Q. Richard Thompson - What was in the last fifteen year plan, was Fratton Park mentioned?

A. It was very similar. The Council has been advocating turning FP round by 90 degrees since 1999. The Council would consider implement compulsory purchasing as regards Sacha's land if it is an impediment to the development of FP, but the financial resources top

carry out the plan would need to be in place before they would take that course of action. The last fifteen year plan also protected FP.

David Maples proposed the motion, seconded by Paul Dunne

"This meeting welcomes the steps taken by Portsmouth City Council towards adopting planning policies that would safeguard the existence of a stadium for professional football in Portsmouth.

This meeting instructs the Committee to continue to monitor and publicise the steps towards adoption of these policies. We believe that it is important that the Trust's membership shows support for the adoption of these policies.

We believe that the development of Portsmouth Football Club has been held back over a prolonged period by the failure of successive owners to provide a stadium with contemporary facilities and an adequate capacity.

We believe that the most realistic plan for the development (of) a modern stadium would be a phased redevelopment of Fratton Park.

We believe that any new owner will demonstrate their credibility by either taking prompt steps to achieve the first stage of this or demonstrating that they have a clear plan, the financial resources and willingness to construct an alternative stadium which complies with planning policies.

We instruct the board Committee to raise this in discussions with any actual or prospective new owner as a benchmark for any new owner's credibility and to report back to the Trust's membership."

Motion carried on a majority.

2. Tim Harris - London Supporters' Club Branch

Tim stated that whilst we would all like the Club to be bought by a millionaire, who would give the Trust the running of the Club, this is unlikely. As supporters we have no control over who buys the Club but he suggested it would be a good idea to decide what minimum requirements we need to put to a new owner on the ground development, training ground, youth development etc, which would show us how committed a new owner is. It is also important for fans to have a voice in the board. We would then avoid being misquoted by a new owner saying he has our support. He would hate for the Club to fold after all this time, but suggested that 'Plan B' needs to be kept under discussion. It would also show non members that PST has the best interests of the Club at heart, and members could say, and could involve members in what we need to be asking a new owner.

Q. Paul Dunne - Were the Club asked to attend tonight's meeting?

A. Lucius Peart is a member and was invited and was willing to attend, but was unable to for personal reasons. Johnny Moore is also a member but is on holiday. David Lampitt is not a member and this is a members only meeting.

Q. Barry Leonard - Have the PST board met David Lampitt?

A. Yes, there is a report of the meeting on the website.

It was proposed by Jake Payne and seconded by Chris Wallace that the motion that " Pompey Supporters Trust opens up a discussion on what the minimum requirement that fans require from a new owner of the Club in terms of the ground, club structure, training facilities, youth development and the community department" be accepted.

Q. Would this create a mandate? **A** Yes. Motion Carried by majority.

Any Other Business

Q Barry Leonard - People would like to be able to decide on a match day that they want to go to the match without having to buy a ticket in advance at Rodney Road. i.e. pay in cash or with a credit card on the gate.

A. AB - This has been raised with David Lampitt. The turnstiles cannot be used to take cash now that they are electronic. It might be possible for people to select a seat and buy and print tickets online. David Lampitt has agreed that the Club will look into making it easier for people

to turn up and pay on the day. He will also look into whether it might be possible to use a credit card to pay for pre booked tickets.

Q. What is happening with the Community Department?

A. BD - PST has been speaking to PFC, the Council and the Community Department. There is willingness at PFC to become a community club. There are projects under discussion with a local arts centre, possibly for some murals and street art. PST is also working with Faith in Football to organise a community coach to an away game for disadvantaged children, possibly to Watford. It is hoped to get local businesses involved as well. The Study Centre is asking for donations of books. There is a Respect programme running in Bransbury Park. Express FM and Portsmouth TV, an internet community TV station, are both hoping to set up spots for the Trust.

SM pointed out that it is a members Trust and that the board have had very little feedback from members as to what you would like us to do. The Elected Board are here to serve the members.

Q. Tony Ellis - Can PST take on board the needs of disabled supporters, some of whom have supported Pompey for many years?

A. BD - Yes this is something we will look in to.

Q. Paul Dunne - Is there a membership target/aim and a strategy for getting more members?

A. JC - To get as many members as possible. Tony Goodall said that there are too many people who talk a lot but don't do anything and that perhaps members could all undertake to sign on another member.

TF - Supporters Direct said that a trust target should be 10% of the average home gate, which we are well over. We would like as many members as we can get and hope to do more road shows to help bring in new members.

Mike - Said that communication to fans is a problem, both on and off

Portsea Island. Information tends to be internet based. There needs to be other avenues for getting information to people so that they know what is going on. Perhaps a column in the News?

BB said that the News is willing to help us and be part of the Trust, and also with Express FM, a new station which is doing its best.

Q. Audrey Moreland - Why are there no membership forms available in the South Stand?

A. RS - The Trust has a table in the Victory Lounge on match days and also on the bus behind the Fratton End where people can join from 12-3 at every home game. Members can volunteer to help with this. Some people just won't join up. Members can make proposals to the Trust. Being a member can help change things. PST has achieved a lot; a new owner would have to talk to us because we hold the power and influence.

Q. Sue Maskell - PST is a victim of its own negative publicity and is being undermined by a lot of moaners. PST should get out and say what it does. The power is in people working together and the people who back the Trust. But we have to tell people what you're doing.

A. JC- I don't think we will ever convince everyone and some people will never join. Some people will never understand the difference between the Trust and a supporters' club. A trust can buy shares in the Club, a supporters' club can't.

Tony Goodall said once the Community plans go ahead the Trust should sign people up and make things happen.

JC stated that Sue's ideas are good but people come forward with good ideas then won't help, we need members to be more active in helping.

KM asked what Sue would like the Trust to be doing?

MD said that we hand people out flyers and they just throw them away, which is very disheartening. We have a good membership compared to other clubs.

AB said that we should acknowledge that we need more positive press and that people know more about what we are doing.

Q. Are PST details in the match day programme?

A. BB - The programme has a supporter's page which will include PST. Every third match there will be a PST page.

Q. Tim - Will flyers be handed out before home games and will the website say where?

A. RS - Please come to the bus in the car park behind the Fratton End between 12 and 3 and help.

Q. Barry Leonard - Would the News print where we can sign up?

A. Yes, if the details are sent to them in time.

Q. PST has influence with the Club, how do the other supporters' clubs view PST?

A. Jake Payne - Some of them is wary of the Trust and thinks it is taking over, including the Advisory Panel. Jake pointed out that this is wrong and that if we all pull together we will be stronger.

Q. Chichester Supporters' Club has a lot of PST members, and is happy with the Trust, is this because it is outside the city?

A. KM - Central branch has been sceptical about PST but their Chair, Nigel Tressider, has agreed that we can do trust sign ups in his Newcome pub before matches and have a road show at a Supporters' Club open meeting.

AB- Has been in discussion with Johnny Moore with the idea of a supporter's conference involving representatives of all supporters groups, probably two or three times a year to discuss different topics. PST has offered to chair the first meeting. One Pompey, One Voice! We need to get all the groups working together.

BD - PISA was instrumental in setting up PST. We all have different skills to offer. It is also possible to join the Football Supporters' Federation free helping to make supporters a stronger group nationally, also Supporters Direct, who deal with trusts from the size of Newport on the IOW, to Man Utd. He urged members to get involved.

Q. Paul Dunne - Regarding the aforementioned negativity, he encouraged the Board to have confidence as they have the mandate of PST members.

A, TF - Pointed out that until six weeks ago there was no elected board, so that it was only after the elections that this Board got a real mandate from the members.

There being no further questions Chair Jo Collins thanked all for attending, stated that we need members to volunteer to help and closed the formal part of the meeting at 21.15.