

Spreading the BLUES

The official newsletter of



Summer 2008 Edition 5

CITY FANS UNITED

Your
Trust
promotes
closer
links with
other
City
fans
groups



Trust, ISA, Exiles and Official Supporters Club representatives joined by Trust President Grenville Millington at the Chester City v Wrexham game in March. (Picture : Rick Matthews)

CHESTER CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST joined representatives from the Independent Supporters Association (the ISA), the Exiles and the Official Supporters Club (Trueblue) in a joint sponsorship venture at the last derby game against Wrexham on March 9th last.

The event raised funds for the club's Centre of Excellence programme and Trust board members personal generosity went towards the final sum raised.

Another important achievement out of the event saw all fans groups pulling in the same direction.

In the coming months, the Trust board will be pressing ahead with an agenda to encourage greater partnership working with the other groups to encourage the goal of a stronger unified voice from the support base.

See inside for our 2008 AGM report, Trust news and a look towards the 2008/09 season



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

Held at Home Guard Social Club on 22nd May 2008

The meeting commenced at 20.10, once the requisite number (14) of members were present. The meeting opened with the Chair, Paul Reid, outlining the short agenda:

1. Chairman's Annual Report
2. Ratification of new Board members in the absence of challenging candidates
3. Trust Accounts for the Financial Year ending 30th November 2007 and Accountant's Independent Examination Report
4. Appointment of Accountant for Financial Year ending 30th November 2008
5. Any Other Business

1. Our Chair, Paul Reid presented his Report, a copy of which is enclosed.

2. Adrian Williamson, as Secretary, explained that there were two members who had put themselves forward to stand for election to the Trust Board and there were currently five vacancies. The Society rules allow for a maximum of 12 elected members with 4 further vacancies for co-opted members during the year. Following the last AGM there were 9 elected members and two further members were co-opted to the Board. During the year, 2 of the elected members chose to step down from the Board. None of the elected members are required to stand down this year, however, both co-opted members stood down as required before the AGM. Both members co-opted to the Board during the year are standing for election. Campbell Smith and Graham Page were unanimously ratified to join the Trust Board.

3. Campbell Smith, as Treasurer, gave an explanation of the Independent Examination Report that had been distributed. These Accounts had been prepared by Hargreaves & Woods, who the Board appointed following last year's AGM, at which members voted in favour of a change to the Society rules to allow an Independent Examination to be carried out in accordance with the Supporters Direct membership, rather than a full audit which had been carried out previously.

It was highlighted that the Independent Examination Report actually contained more information than previous audited accounts for less than half of the cost!

A copy of the Report is available to any Trust member on written request.

A number of questions from members were answered during the course of this item:

- *a breakdown of the "Events & Fanzine" income was confirmed as being £800 for the Race Night held in July 2007 and £1200 being the sales of two issues of the fanzine.*
- *a question was asked about the lottery and it was confirmed that this was run by the football club and was nothing to do with the Trust.*
- *a comment was made about the Trust shareholding not being reflected in the accounts yet the loan notes are. Campbell confirmed that there is no value to the shares owned by the Trust and as such were not shown in the accounts. The Trust shareholding remains unchanged at 426,361 representing 2.11% stake in the club and for which the Trust had paid £8600. The accounts were accepted by members present as being accurate and fit for submission to the Financial Services Authority.*

4. Due to the excellent quality and value provided by Messrs Hargreaves & Woods of Chester it was the Board's recommendation to re-appoint them. All members voted in favour of the Board's recommendation.

There was no further business but a number of topics were then discussed in an open question and answer session at the end of the meeting.



DevaTXT terminates End of line for text service

The Trust has operated the service for a number of years. Our member, Campbell Smith, has been the backbone of this service.

He has sacrificed his match day experience in order to keep fans not able to attend the game up to date

However, the advent of real-time coverage via outlets such as Sky Sports News and BBC's Score, has seen a progressive downturn in the number of people subscribed to DevaTXT.

It has reached such a point that the minimum payment threshold set by the platform provider is not reached on a regular basis, rendering the service as not viable.

The Trust would like to thank Campbell for all his work on DevaTXT over the years and, of course, all of the users of the service in the past



We meet City Owner

On 9 February, 2008, Stephen Vaughan met with Trust Chair, Paul Reid, and Board member, Tom Jones.

The meeting was convened following Mr Vaughan's declaration in the local media that he would be pleased to meet with any of the fans' groups to discuss Chester City Football Club.

Paul and Tom spoke with Mr Vaughan for about 1½ hours prior to kick off. Many varied topics were discussed and Mr Vaughan was very open in talks with the Trust.

The minutes of this meeting were finally agreed by Mr Vaughan as being a fair and accurate representation of the discussion and a copy can be sent to you by post on written request. The Trust would like to thank Mr Vaughan for his hospitality and time.



Kick 2 Win

In association with the club, we held a crossbar challenge to win a new car. The event was sponsored by Saunders Honda at the game against Grimsby Town on New Year's Day.

Tickets had been sold at home games up until the day of the event and the draw to find the lucky winner was made just before the game.

The winner was Kevin Hodge of Newton, Sadly, he didn't find the bar but went home with a signed Chester City shirt as a consolation prize.



None of your business Or is it

Trust Board members, Paul Reid and Tom Jones, recently attended the Chester City FC AGM held at the Deva Stadium.

As shareholders in the business, a number of pertinent questions were listed for asking of the CCFC Board of Directors, on behalf of the Trust members.

Unfortunately, the first question by Paul Reid, Trust Chair, was also the last as it was met with a straight-forward reply of "It's none of your business!" by the club owner.

The question was, quite simply, who are the debtors and creditors of the club? Unfortunately, we still do not have the answer.

As this was the first AGM held by the club since 1991, the Trust believed it could have opened up avenues for communication and transparency – unfortunately it was not to be. The Board hope that any future AGMs will prove more positive than this last one.



Official Website

Support for www.chestercityfc.net ends

The Supporters' Trust has developed and maintained the Chester City Football Club's official website for over five years.

This has been carried out at no expense whatsoever to the football club and often at personal financial and timely costs to the individuals who maintained and edited the site.

The editorial team were very passionate about the website and took a personal pride in keeping it up-to-date and it was with regret that they stood down.

Quite inaccurate press coverage followed our withdrawal. However, our reason for standing down was quite simply that if something isn't broken then why fix it, something missed by the club.

For the record, no one ever refused the club access to the site as was reported at the time, indeed we gave 4 weeks notice to allow them to prepare themselves.

On reflection, our decision was correct and is now vindicated by the standard of the site which has now reached an all-time low.

If you would prefer to download an electronic version of this newsletter at www.supportchester.co.uk and not receive a printed copy via the postal service, then contact us by e-mail on admin@supportchester.co.uk



Looking ahead



After a difficult few seasons, Chester City fans are overdue some good fortune as we enter the 2008/9 season.

The Supporters' Trust sincerely hopes that we will witness a trouble-free new term and we again issue the clarion call to support the boys in the blue and white shirts come August.

We hope that Simon Davies (pictured left) can push ahead and deliver the success that the supporters desire so much.

Davies will have his work cut out for him and we wish him the best.

The Trust will again seek to engage with the club and we hope that they will take a lead in asking for our help where they see fit.

Over the past two seasons, we have offered assistance on a number of fronts but the club seem to deny themselves the assistance that at times they so obviously need.

However, our main *raison d'être* for 2008/9 will be to encourage good governance and logical thinking at Chester City FC.

We will continue to be courageous and professional in how we conduct our business.

This Trust was founded in November 2000; we are one of many now in existence the United Kingdom.

Several Trusts own their clubs outright. As the Trust operates under the principles of an Industrial and Provident Society we are not for profit.

We hold shares in the Football Club and have around 150 members and of course we welcome new members all the time.

More information and an application form can be downloaded at www.supportchester.co.uk

Supporters Trust Player of Season 07/08 Central Defender: 19 . PAUL LINWOOD

Our members selected Paul Linwood as their Player of the Season 2007/8. In a testing season, Paul has provided consistently good performances this term in central defence.

Runner-up was the youngster, Kevin Roberts. The award, sponsored by GPS Decorators Limited of Chester, was presented to Paul prior to City's final game against Macclesfield Town.

It is certain that both players named have great futures in the game and will continue to make regular and key contributions to Chester City's campaign in the new season.

