



DATE: 24th November 2025

VENUE: 1908 Lounge, The Prestige Group Stadium

TIME: 6:00pm

ATTENDEES: John Pearson (Board Member), Rose Stoker (HUFC) Neil Nottingham (Independent Season Ticket Holder/HUCSF Trustee), Ben Forbes (South East Poolies), Jill Simmonds (Her Game Too) Dawn Buckley (HUSA/Corner Flag) Neil Appleyard (HUDSA), Andy Stuart (HUWFC) Paul Barnfather (HOOC) JP Garvin (NWC) Alex Cross (HUFC Academy Manager)

Dawn Buckley was welcomed as the future representative of HUSA/Corner Flag.

### 1. **Approval of minutes of meeting.**

**JP** Asked if all were happy to approve minutes of previous meeting.

ALL Agreed.

- **Review of actions from previous meetings**

- CK stand signage – Now replaced and complete.
- Brunel Stand (Town End) Shelter has been provided by HOOC1908 and has received favourable feedback from supporters.
- NWC toilets previously damaged by own supporters during the Tamworth game forcing closure on safety grounds during game. Toilets to be regularly checked on matchdays,
- Drainage issue ongoing – Club responsibility not council
- Staffing levels and speed of service from catering/bars – Depends on availability of casual staff on matchdays, service levels appear to have improved but will continue to be monitored.
- Car park barrier behind Acland Homes stand still being left up and unmanned on matchdays – club to ensure it is staffed – **RS to follow up**
- SLO account on X – now active. This ensures genuine issues are responded to and relevant information posted. It was reminded that official enquiries or complaints should follow the Club protocol, this can be found under the Customer Charter on the Clubs website. The Clubs commitment is to acknowledge the enquiry / complaint within 48 hours and to respond within 10 working days where possible.
- Voluntary matchday SLO – appointed person couldn't take up role. Approach to be made to the college to be considered.
- Think Fan Engagement - The Club have held an initial meeting with Think Fan Engagement, this will continue.
- Increased Media output - Ongoing and continues to improve, fans are also encouraged to send in any ideas or content. Club APP although not currently fully utilised is also improving. Breaking Club News should be posted on the Club App. First.



- Corner flag car park access – DB to get registrations of the vehicles that will use the car park.
- Ticket incentives – Monitored throughout the season.
- Club staff to attend HUSP meetings when required.
- Radio Tees/Hartlepool Mail – no change, now in hands of legal teams
- Brunel Stand side panels – 6K quote to clean
- Recently damaged advertising boards to be replaced when weather/conditions allow
- Sanitary Products - Her Game Too partnership will provide free sanitary product dispensers and products.
- Code of Conduct - A reminder that all parties will be held accountable to the Code of Conduct they have signed regarding behavior in meetings and on social media.
- **New Points Raised.**
- Dawn Buckley taking over from Noel Brown as representative of HUSA – **Action: DB to sign and return Code of Conduct**
- Communications issues – A couple of requests sent directly to club staff had not been acted on. **Reiterated the importance to use the SLO email address as supporters first point of contact to the club.**
- It had been observed that a supporter having to change their baby on the floor of the Brunel Stand toilet during a game - **Fold down changing tables to be fitted ASAP so all stands have baby changing facilities. And appropriate signage will also be evident.**
- Quality of media posts – **The Club recognises the importance of the quality of the media output and the Club are determined in its efforts for continuous improvement.**
- Hot water issues – **as previously documented, ongoing.**
- Location of half-time school penalty competition currently takes place in the opposite corner from where the parents and family stand is located – **Location of the goals or Location of the family tickets to be reviewed by RS/SR**
- Quality of Mixlr match commentary - **To be reviewed by RS**
- Some supporters couldn't find interviews on the website - **All interviews are on the website at the bottom of the main news page.**
- **AOB - JP Asked Alex Cross if he would attend the meeting to give an overview of the Academy working structure and plans.**
- **Overview.....**



- The partnership with the 6th Form College is financially viable especially following the end of EFL funding. The education offer from the HCFE was no longer suitable and following numerous meetings it was decided to move across to the 6th Form whose education package offered more security.
- Four more teams: Shadow Youth team, U16, U17 and U19
- Looking to have closer links with the towns grassroots clubs who are important for recruitment.
- Had 6 academy players make debuts in the first team, especially pleasing to see Kian Foreman's inclusion being a home-grown player.
- Current U19's has numerous players from the town.
- Looking to develop a similar pathway for females in the future.
- Huge frustration around the loss of Academy developed players leaving for higher ranked clubs.
- There is work ongoing to help protect National League clubs in this situation.
- Government and education providers to develop legislation and offer player protection.
- J Constantine Identifies players and watches local matches.
- There are approx. 100-110 U19 players at present, however players drop out due to apprenticeships offering paid employment.
- The 6th Form now offers a wider range of subjects to help encourage more players to stay within the academy system. This helps HUFC and improves the care of the students.
- 2-3 trial dates are now set in place the next being 22nd December. Invites gone out to potential players and a public advert will be published shortly.
- There were 200 trialists in 2024 and there was a large appetite by trialists to play for HUFC, however the current infrastructure makes it difficult to cope with that level of numbers.
- Academy has a good relationship with the other clubs, but the players offered to HUFC are often not better than those at local grassroots level.
- Need to find a way to keep the players at HUFC and be competitive with the higher ranked clubs.
- Having a clear pathway to the first team is important but needs a holistic approach and is a long-term strategy.
- Target of 164 U19's next year but needs more investment of staff of the calibre of Gary Little etc to fulfil the long-term structure.
- Also looking to start U11's but no academy protection or sufficient facilities in the town at present.

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- The town is 2.25 3G pitches short of what is required, and all current facilities are fully booked up.
- Recent academy player loans have been decided by Joe Monks and the manager at the time.
- Fundraising towards the academy would still be gratefully received and fully welcome any donations.
- MFC foundation staff are regularly seen at Dyke House school.
- HUCSF currently go into junior schools but working in senior schools could be beneficial to the academy picking up more players – something to investigate in a similar way to the academy working with the grassroots teams within the current Youth Alliance.

Special Thanks to Alex for providing such a very informative overview of the Academy and it's extensive infrastructure which usually goes unnoticed.

Date of Next Meeting :- Prov. Monday February 16th 18:00hrs