



DATE: 1st June 2026

VENUE: 1908 Lounge, The Prestige Group Stadium

TIME: 6:00pm

ATTENDEES: John Pearson (Chair of Supporters Panel), Sarah Rowntree (HUFC SLO), Ben Forbes (South East Poolies), Jill Simmonds (Her Game Too) Donna Buckley (Hartlepool United Supporters Association) Neil Appleyard (HUDSA), Darren Hutchinson (HUDSA) Paul Shears (HOOC) Ed Parkinson (HUST), Alistair Shepherd (HUST)

APOLOGIES: Neil Nottingham (HUFC Season ticket holder/HUCSF), Andy Stuart (HUWFC), Liam Wright (NWC)

1. Approval of minutes of meeting.

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

ALL Agreed.

2. Use of space behind Neale Cooper Stand (more catering facilities) – SE Poolies

BF raised the space behind NC stand and whether this could be better utilised with either seating or additional facilities.

Discussion around use of space, SR highlighted safety issue of too much seating for emergency exits – ledges may be more suitable.

Fans asked if extra bar and catering facilities will be available if crowds anticipated to increase. Is there a strategy to cope with this?

SR ongoing discussion – various issues including staffing, space and electrical capacity. Ideal would be a self sufficient third party similar to the pizza van we had previously. Pop up bars also useful but again need to have staff.

Actions:

- **HUFC to consider options for additional seating and catering and bar facilities behind the Neale Cooper Stand**

3. Player Recruitment – SE Poolies

BF asked if there was an update on player recruitment that could be shared? Do we have a strategy for players?

JP advised that Bromby, CB and LC all working hard behind the scenes. Will look to arrange for CB to attend next meeting.

Actions:

- **HUFC to arrange for CB to attend next meeting**



4. HOOC 1908 Projects/Improvements

PS advised HOOC will look to support with extra benches. Will also be replacing TVs in the Centenary Lounge to encourage fans to use the space before and after the game.

Discussion about TVs in bars around grounds including NC bar. This could also help encourage fans into ground earlier.

PS advised HOOC will also be looking to create the memorial garden which was put on hold several seasons ago.

PS spoke about the state of the capping in the Town End and the cost for scaffolding and jet washing. PS advised the plan is to put images up over the inner cappings – maybe photographs of key moments etc.

Actions –

- **HOOC to continue to liaise with HUFC regarding projects**

5. HUCSF Update – NN

Unfortunately, NN sends his apologies and will provide a full update at next meeting. However, SR advised that HUCSF will be going through a rebrand and will be launched at preseason friendly on 25th July.

Actions –

- **NN to provide update on HUCSF at next meeting**

6. Stadium upgrades – timescales, priorities etc – HGT

JS asked if there is a list of priorities or any timescales for improvements?

SR advised that there will be the usual ongoing work – painting, weeding and general maintenance. There will also be some ‘quick fixes’ as well as longer term projects.

We will also look at feedback from fans survey.

PS mentioned the Rink End seats. Looks awful and decreased attendance.

SR the cost to replace seats v amount of time we are at full capacity has to be looked at. Also the cost for increased stewarding and police when at capacity in away end.

PS discussed the mural behind the 1908.

SR provided update on pitch works – primary drainage has been flushed out and secondary drainage installed, been top dressed with sand and vertidrain.



EP suggested we post some up-to-date photographs so fans can see work that has happened.

Asked if shelter could be put up behind Cyril Knowles Stand?

Actions:-

- **HUFC to look at replacing seats in Rink End**
- **HOOC to look at mural behind 1908**
- **HUFC to post updated pitch photographs on socials**
- **HUFC to look at shelter behind Cyril Knowles Stand**

7. Toilets – HGT

JS mentioned issue with ladies toilet and toilet roll being stuffed down them during matches.

Unfortunately, this is a behavioural/anti social behaviour issue. Shouldn't have to worry about this!

JS suggested toilet roll dispensers to prevent this.

Actions:

- **HUFC to look at installing toilet roll dispensers in all outside toilets**

8. Stewarding - HGT

JS raised the issue of stewarding.

As discussed in previous meetings, there is no easy solution for this. No matter which stewarding provider we use, they will likely recruit the same stewards.

RS does want to go out to tender but we are currently without an Operations Manager who would usually complete this process.

The issue remains a priority.

Club are looking at a matchday reporting app for issues as well as usual social media, email etc for other problems and concerns.

JS asked if Safety Officer could come to a meeting?

Actions:-

- **Stewarding remains a priority of the Club and it is being reviewed**
- **HUFC to look at matchday reporting app**
- **HUFC to arrange for Safety Officer to attend supporters panel**



9. Update on Stadium Name – HGT

JP advised that rights for Prestige Group Stadium have now expired. Branding won't be replaced until a replacement is found as this will incur double the expenditure.

10. Smoking/vaping in stands – HGT

Needs to be a clear policy on smoking and vaping and stewards need to be aware of and enforce rules. A reminder also needs to be put out before start of season and in terms and conditions etc.

Actions:

- **HUFC to confirm policy on smoking/vaping and ensure stewards are aware of and enforce**

11. Format of the Panel – HUST

AS spoke about the format of the panel and how there should be representatives of the Club available to answer specific sections regarding football/accounts/commercial as other trusts do.

Matchday should be split from Club business.

A fan advisory board should be set up now to fall in line with engagement policies required in EFL.

JS pointed out that the Club have always said we could have other staff members here to discuss specifics – AC (academy), RS (commercial & ops) LL (football) have all attended in the past.

SR clarified that all questions are put to the relevant departments to provide updates on prior to meeting – these responses aren't just from SR/JP.

AS said that the fans panel should be involved in all aspects such as season ticket pricing, the plan for the life span to the stadium, long term plans etc.

JP advised that LS had said at the previous meeting that TOR can and will be discussed in the future and had also explained at this meeting there is a 1, 3, 5 year plan as well as a 10 year plan for the infrastructure.

12. Questions from Fans – HUST

AS asked about how questions from the fans should be put to the Club.

JP confirmed any questions for the meetings can be put to the Club through the relevant representative.

Questions don't have to wait until panel if they are important. Can be put into WhatsApp group or contact SR directly.

It was asked if a Q&A session could be held with key Club staff.

Actions:

- **Club to consider a Q&A session**



13. Current Club Board – HUST

AS asked about the current structure.

JP confirmed

Commercial & Operations Rose Stoker

Football Bromby & Co (Chris Maxwell)

It was asked if Lee Rust is still involved.

JP confirmed yes.

Discussion around management structure. JP advised that a full structure will be presented when confirmed.

14. Badge & Branding – is this changing and what role might fans have going forward?

SR confirmed that the badge has not officially changed, only enhanced. We are aware that the Club crest is not allowed to be changed without approval from the IFR. Fans would be encouraged to have a say in any changes and the Club will always respect the heritage.

AS confirmed he had not seen any negative comments regarding badge.

It was commented that the club needed new branding guidelines and identity.

SR advised this was underway.

Actions:

- **Club to ensure fan consultation on any permanent changes to the Club crest and approval from IFR.**

15. Any Other Business

SR raised matter of Remembrance Day shirt and the issues with the poppy. Advised she had been approached by an alternative armed forces charity but wanted views of panel. Various suggestions and discussions.

Overall, the panel understood the reasoning behind not having the Poppy on the shirt and weren't against an alternative local charity being supported.

16. Date of next meeting including scheduling ahead

Next meetings scheduled for w/c 8th August and w/c 2nd November.

17. Review of actions from previous meetings and matters arising

- Car park barrier behind Acland Homes stand still being left up and unmanned on matchdays – club to ensure it is staffed **Action: - ongoing**



- Donna Buckley taking over from Noel Brown as representative of HUSA, needs to sign Code of Conduct (to be sent by club) – **This was sent after last meeting. SR gave DB a paper copy to sign. Done.**
- Hot water issues – **Action: - as previously documented, it is all linked to the water pressure – club continue to look at ways to resolve.**
- Flooding and roadway – Photographs were provided showing recent flooding behind the Neale Cooper Acland stand – **Action: - The club are committed to solving this issue, hopefully with the help of HBC.**
- SEND provision - Several fans have asked about SEND provision whilst planning for the HGT day. **Action: - It's an important issue in itself, so could have an awareness day next season. This is something the club are very passionate about. The Club have a few ongoing events, activities, awareness days, and will continue to expand on these going forward.**
- Do we still have an Audio Loop for blind fans – **Action: - The Club used to offer this service and will investigate it.**
- It was suggested we need to talk in more detail about the scope of the panel to anticipate the football regulators. It doesn't cover as much remit as the football regular says it should. Should be able to discuss finances etc. - **This is a new chapter; Action: - the TOR will be constantly reviewed as the panel progresses.**

Date of Next Meeting: - w/c 8th August 2026.