

**CHARLTON SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED (known as CHARLTON ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS TRUST)**

**SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1st June 2016**

The Society Board Members submit their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 1st June 2016.

1. Guiding principles

The Society is run on the following fundamental principles

- Accountability – through annual elections to the Society Board in line with Supporters-Direct recommended practice.
- Democracy – by fully involving members in key decisions of the Society and operating in an engaging manner
- Inclusive – by setting a membership fee which is affordable to all and open to all.
- Open – by being transparent in all our activities.

2. Principal Aims:

The Society was set up with the following aim:

The Society's purpose is to be the vehicle through which a healthy, balanced and constructive relationship between the Club and its supporters and the communities it serves is encouraged and developed. The business of the Society is to be conducted for the benefit of the community served by the Club and not for the profit of its members.

The Society's objects are to benefit the community by:

- 1.1 being the democratic and representative voice of the supporters of CAFC and strengthening the bonds between CAFC and the communities which it serves;
- 1.2 achieving the greatest possible supporter and community influence in the running and ownership of CAFC;
- 1.3 promoting responsible and constructive community engagement by present and future members of the communities served by CAFC and encouraging CAFC to do the same;
- 1.4 operating democratically, fairly, sustainably, transparently and with financial responsibility and encouraging CAFC to do the same;
- 1.5 being a positive, inclusive and representative organisation, open and accessible to all supporters of CAFC regardless of their age, income, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality or religious or moral belief.

### 3. Responsibilities of the Board

The Society Board is required to prepare financial statements, for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Board is required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 and the Friendly and Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1968. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### 4. Business Review and Future Developments

- At June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 CAS Trust had 1013 members plus 62 junior members. At June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 membership had grown to 1050 members plus 61 junior members
- The board continued throughout the year to attempt to carry out the mandate given it at the February 2015 Woolwich meeting to seek meaningful dialogue with Roland Duchatelet and Katrien Meire. We were unsuccessful in engaging Roland Duchatelet who did not reply to any of our e mails requesting meetings. We did meet Katrien Meire and Richard Murray in November 2015 and there seemed to be a willingness to work with us on building attendances and strategy development but promised meetings failed to materialize.  
In April 2016 we conducted a survey of members to find out whether we still had a mandate to seek dialogue. In contrast to February 2015 there was little support for this (25%) and we subsequently attended a brief meeting with Richard Murray and Katrien Meire to inform them that the majority of our members felt that the situation was irretrievable and recommended that Roland Duchatelet seek a buyer for the club.
- The board undertook six surveys (of members and non members) throughout the year to ensure that it remained well informed of supporter opinion. These surveys covered season ticket renewal intentions; opinions on the protests; general views on the club's performance; the usefulness of dialogue and the performance of the CASTrust board. We received a total of 5538 responses.

- In February 2016 CAS Trust joined with other supporters and supporter groups in forming the Coalition Against Roland Duchatelet (CARD). We have continued to be represented within CARD and to play a role in staging peaceful protests to draw attention to the dismay of Charlton supporters at the mismanagement of the club under Duchatelet's ownership.
- CAS Trust board members were interviewed during the year by a number of media outlets (BBC television; BBC radio; TalkSport; The Guardian; The Sun and others).
- Throughout the year CAS Trust has maintained a presence at almost every Charlton home game through our stall on Harvey Gardens. The stall enables regular contact with supporters; the opportunity to canvass opinion on relevant matters; the chance to publicise matters of interest about football generally.
- The Board maintains a website (CASTRUST.ORG) which provides up to the minute news on the club plus articles about the club and football generally. We have sent regular news updates to Roland Duchatelet in order to ensure that he is fully aware of events at the club.
- The Board has published three editions of Trust News during the year. The magazine provides information about CAFC plus discussion of crucial matters of more general interest. In May 2016 we sent for the first time an edition to every member though the post rather than hand them out to all supporters at a match.
- The Board continued to work together with thirteen other supporters trusts in the Olympic Stadium Coalition which achieved notable success in April 2016 when the Information Tribunal ruled in favour of full publication of the financial terms of the contract agreed between the London Legacy Development Corporation and West Ham United. This is a victory for the power of football supporters who were organised, focused and willing to work together to achieve a collective goal.
- Representatives of CAS Trust attended the Supporters Direct / Football Supporters Federation Summit and gave presentations at two workshops

The Board are planning the following developments for the year ahead:

- To continue to campaign for supporter representation through CAS Trust at board room level at Charlton Athletic.
- To continue to strive to achieve an ownership regime for CAFC that demonstrates ambition, values and respect for our history, reflecting the wishes of the majority of Trust members and supporters
- The EFL have mandated all its member clubs to arrange at least twice yearly "structured dialogue" meetings with their supporters to discuss strategic

issues. Our aim is to ensure that these meetings are held; that supporter representatives are elected, selected or invited in line with democratic principles; that relevant strategic issues are discussed.

- To ensure that the opinions of Charlton supporters about the “Whole Game Solution” (The EFL’s plans to reorganize the league into four divisions of twenty clubs and other changes) are canvassed, publicised and heard.
- To continue to work within C.A.R.D. to ensure that the concerns of our members about the running of the club are given maximum publicity.
- To develop links with Supporters Trusts and supporters of other football clubs who have lost faith in their owners’ ability or willingness to ensure the healthy future of their club.
- To continue to undertake surveys to ensure that we are always in touch with supporter opinion.
- To continue to produce regular publications on matters of interest to Charlton supporters.
- To continue to work with the Olympic Stadium Coalition in the campaign to ensure appropriate and fair use of public money in the matter of West Ham’s occupation of the Olympic Stadium
- To operate a coach service to away games which provides a value for money service to Charlton supporters.
- To liaise closely with Supporters Direct and The Football Supporters Federation to support and provide publicity for their campaign work. In particular on the strengthening of the Directors & Officers Test (formerly known as The Fit & Proper Person Test)