

Calling all supporters and fans of Whitehaven Rugby League

As you may be aware a handful of members have been involved in a lot of negative activity during the last 2-3 months which has not only created some bad publicity for Trust In Haven, it has also over-shadowed a lot of positive work that has been going on behind the scenes. It is therefore necessary to put a number of proposals before you so that as an entire membership you can have a voice in the Trust's future. Below is a **Postal Ballot** listing the items on which your opinions are requested. Both Trust members and non-members can reply – members votes will count in the ballot and others will be included for the purposes of an opinion poll. You can answer online by deleting either 'Agree' or 'Disagree' and sending your reply as an e-mail. Or print and send via post. Please state your name and if a member, your membership number. All responses via mail should be sent to: Trust In Haven, 125 Queen Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7QF; postage will be refunded. Each reply, whether by mail or online will have been entered into a prize draw.

Postal Ballot

BOARD POSITIONS

In March of this year the first Full Board was appointed:

Ian Stephenson/Chairman, Jonathan Chappell/Vice Chairman/Key Areas & Membership Manager, Vikki Chappell/Treasurer, Paul Blacklock/IT Manager, Andrew Ross/Communications Co-ordinator, Lee Scott/Events Co-ordinator, David Elthorpe/Revenues Manager, Stephen McGrady/Community Co-ordinator.

The Chairman's first task was to write-up job profiles for the agreed areas of responsibility and issue these to each of the eight Board Members, with the request for costed action plans to be returned to feed into the Business & Development Plan. After a number of specific requests and informal meetings with various Members, no plans were received for Communications, Events, Revenues and Community.

During this period, the Chairman had received approaches from other Trust members expressing concerns about some Board Members allegedly carrying out activities in the name of the Trust but without the knowledge of the Full Board.

On and after 31 May 2011 four Board Members resigned, putting the Trust in limbo. There is now a situation where those four Board Members and two other Trust members are seeking to railroad themselves back onto the Board by calling a Special General Meeting on 8 September. The Meeting has no formal Agenda and only two resolutions: To appoint themselves as Board Members; to remove the current Chairman. The 'instrument' being used to call the Special Meeting is called a Requisition and this is being challenged because it has not been properly constructed. Trust In Haven has a very comprehensive set of Rules in the name of the Whitehaven Supporters Co-operative Limited that contain a very rigorous process for making Board appointments. There is the view that if members can ignore a proper constitution (and four of the group signed up to those Rules) and make up their own rules, then the Rules are worthless.

The Special General Meeting called for 8 September therefore has no validity.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

ELECTION SUPERVISORY PROCESS

There is a well documented procedure in the Rules for appointing Trust members to the Board and this process has been implemented with a closing date of 15 September 2011. By that date applications are to be sent in writing to the Trust's Registered Office at 125 Queen Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7QF and supported by two separate nominations (a proposer and a seconder). All Trust members are invited to apply and/or make nominations. The process is due to be completed by the end of next month * when the new Board will be announced.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A date for the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Trust has been set for * Monday 31 October 2011 when the new Board will be announced. The start time is set for 7.30pm and more details on the venue will be circulated. All Trust members are invited to send in requests for any items they would like included on the Agenda and information must be received at the Registered Office by the 17th October 2011. This will also provide a forum for an open discussion on all issues relevant to the Trust.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

WRLFC SHARES

Throughout the emergence of the Trust representations were made to the Board of the Club to arrive at a formula for working in partnership, with a transfer of shares to reflect the Trust's participation over a period of time. However, whilst there is some publicly available information on the allocation of some shares, it has not been possible to establish the full allocation, the true ownership of shares and their current market value. Until the Club files its first year trading accounts and annual returns, that should also highlight the extent of its assets and liabilities, it is suggested that any negotiations should be delayed until Trust members have all the facts.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

TRUST FUNDS

Much has been written about the new Stadium and the £millions required to build a new facility. Bearing mind that it is unlikely to be a club asset, it nevertheless will require upkeep and nothing has been mentioned about the substantial sums of money that will be required for equipment, operation and maintenance. In all of these respects they are regarded as outside the remit of the Trust.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

In that context there is another aspect to consider. The Trust currently has in the region of £3,000 in a bank account after a £1,000 sponsorship payment towards the U23's Reserve Grade team, which in itself reinforced a generally agreed principle that the majority of proceeds from fund raising should go towards developing players for the future.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

It would be prudent to lock-in the account until such time as there is a Full Board, properly formed through the ESG process and all members have had the opportunity to vote on the allocating of funds.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Contrary to any rumours that the Trust is not making any progress, there are a number of projects that have been developed and one, in particular, has exciting potential. One of the primary objectives of the Trust has been to generate support for a squad builder programme. An outline scheme that links up with our amateur clubs with the aim of identifying talented players is receiving positive commitments from local sponsors. There are still details to finalise, including drawing in expertise from coaches and managers, together with the installation of a professional and experienced Trust Board, but the indications are that funding offers will be firmed up to enable the scheme to start before the start of the next season 2011/2012. It is hoped that this will strengthen the selection options for Whitehaven RLFC, as well as stemming the drain of talent from West Cumbria.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

MINUTES

It was always the intention to include our members in any significant decision making and to operate with transparency. For this reason Minutes of all Steering Group Meetings and the several Full Board Meetings are to be made available by publishing to the Trust In Haven website: www.trustinhaven.co.uk

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout its existence, from the early Steering Group stages through to the Full Trust Board there was a continuous stream of e-mail communications between the Trust and the club's representatives. There is a view that it would be relevant to also make these available on the website.

Do you: Agree
 Disagree

Name

Trust in Haven Member: Yes / No. Membership Number