Hibernian Supporters Panel

Meeting Minutes Wednesday 17th December 2025

Present:

From the Club: Ian Gordon, Chairman; Dan Barnett, Chief Executive Officer; Adam Tomlinson, Communications Director; Steve Hazlett, Venue and Operations Director and Kieran Power, Supporter Liaison Officer.

Representatives from the following supporters' organisations: Peter McDermott and Scott Millar - Hibernian Supporters Ltd; Chris Barrie - Hibernian Supporters Association; John Robertson - Hibs.net; Bella Combe - Hibs Facebook Supporters Group; Gibby Greechan - Block 7; Liam Fogarty, David Sibbald and Steven Brockie.

Agenda

Welcome; Black Knight Football Club; Retail Operations; HTC Development Plan and Any Other Business

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Welcome – Kieran warmly welcomed all and confirmed that during the meeting the Club would like to cover the above points and, as usual, will accept all questions and comments from the attendees.

Black Knight Football Club

Ian explained that the reason behind the parting of ways between the Club and BKFC was essentially that there had been a divergence from the initial shared vision.

Hibernian FC's focus is on producing the best possible on-field performances and consolidating the Club as a major player both at home and in Europe. To do so it was essential to attract and retain quality players who were ready to compete at the highest level.

The parting of ways was mutually agreed as the respective visions were no longer aligned. Ian confirmed that the time to part was right; the Club was in a good position organisationally and financially and was achieving success on the playing side. Ian confirmed that much benefit had been gained during the early period of the partnership and wished BKFC every success for the future.

Ian also confirmed that it was Gordon Family funds that had been used to acquire the BKFC holding, that there was no current plan to expand the family shareholding percentage but would be open to exploring future club partnerships if this was the right opportunity that would deliver tangible improvements on the pitch.

Retail Operations

Dan referred to the discussions during the previous Supporters' Panel. He advised that the points raised during that meeting had been carefully considered and that the Club had worked hard to address these.

He could not provide any further detail as such information was currently commercially sensitive but he hoped that some clarity could be provided going forward.

Dan could confirm that one of his tasks is to review all of the Club's commercial partnerships and contracts to ensure that they continued to meet the Club's needs and that they all provided maximum value. The group acknowledged the depth of Dan's knowledge and experience in such matters.

HTC Development

Ian confirmed that detailed discussions had taken place between all partners in this project and, especially, with the SFA who may provide certain grants in addition to the investment.

He confirmed that Steve Hazlett had been appointed project lead. Steve has also had comprehensive discussions with a number of interested parties to guarantee that there would be a significant focus on community based activities. Local architects, agents and contractors will be appointed to ensure that the project remains highly cost effective and delivers high quality outcomes.

The development will be completed in stages. Funding parcels would coincide with completion date requirements set out by the SFA should approval be given to grant applications.

It therefore made sense to plan the overall project over, perhaps, three stages that could be completed by the end of 2028. Ian stressed that it is important to fully engage with the SFA and local community at all stages.

The project will deliver significant improvements providing UEFA standard facilities.

Ian confirmed that Stage 1 is intended to include a dome containing the fully UEFA compliant full sized pitch with spectator facilities.

Any Other Business

(1) Ticketing – Loyalty Points

This discussion was carried on from previous meetings.

The Club has proposal a rule change to be debated at the forthcoming SPFL AGM whereby each member club would sell both home and away tickets to their own fans.

This would overcome issues when the host club for away games sell tickets directly to our supporters. Keeping these sales in-house would provide a better opportunity to introduce a meaningful loyalty point system. It would also mean that the Club would have a better control over to whom tickets are sold for away matches.

The Club confirmed that full consultation would occur prior to the introduction of any new loyalty point system. Kieran also asked that Hibs First members, and those entitled to early access for away tickets, keep within the rules when applying for tickets to keep this a fair and proper process.

(2) Old Firm ticket allocations at Easter Road

Ian asked for thoughts on maintaining the reduced number of tickets for away fans at these games. He pointed out that our home support at the recent Celtic game had not reached the numbers anticipated and the club was essentially losing out on some revenue.

The consensus that the meeting was that perhaps ticket allocation decisions should be made on an case by case basis. Some games will attract a higher ticket demand than others and this could be a deciding factor when considering away fan ticket numbers.

(3) Unused season ticket re-sales

Steve confirmed that the Club was looking at making this a much more attractive initiative to persuade season ticket holders to offer their tickets up for re-sale if they were unable to attend any specific game.

The Club can identify season tickets that are seldom used and will consider contacting the holders directly to see how best to ensure that the seat is filled on a regular basis. This to maximise revenue and generate the best possible atmosphere at Easter Road.

Ian also confirmed that some matches prior to the season split may be considered as appropriate occasions to re-run the, “Football for a Fiver”, initiative.

(4) Issues at away grounds

Various problems during the recent match at Ibrox were discussed. This included lack of disabled parking, general coach and car parking issues, mixing with Rangers fans when approaching the ground and the fact that our fans were ushered out of the ground by Police directly into a stream of home fans, some of whom we are told directed verbal and physical abuse towards our support.

Kieran and Steve are well aware of these issues and will liaise with their counterparts at Ibrox to attempt to address the problems. Given that here is an ongoing Police investigation into one incident it was not possible to fully discuss some aspects of this issue.

The pyrotechnic incident at Motherwell was briefly discussed. The Club is currently investigating this matter with the help of MFC officials.

(5) Access to Albion Road after home games

Steve confirmed that for the safety of our fans it had been necessary to restrict access to Albion Road after the recent Falkirk match. This was due to some unruly behaviours by the away support. Our Safety Certificate provisions required us to take these steps.

(6) New Strategic Plan

Ian confirmed that the Club was currently building this, the high level discussions are complete and the various Club business teams are preparing their contributions. The new plan will be shared during the Club AGM that is provisionally planned to be held in early March 2026.

(7) Woman's World Cup

Easter Road had been proposed as one of the venues for this competition and received some very positive feedback however our stadium capacity was just a little short on the capacity requirements. The Club has no immediate plans to increase the ground capacity.

Our training facility at East Mains may well be used during this competition.

Closing remarks

Kieran thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone all the very best for the Festive period and confirmed that the next meeting would be held around May 2026.

Minutes prepared by Hibernian Supporters Ltd