# Information for New Members

Welcome to The Heart of Midlothian Shareholders Association.

## Aims and Ambitions

The Heart of Midlothian Shareholders' Associationwas formed in 1979 in order to:

* Advance the interests of Heart of Midlothian Football Club
* To represent to the Football Club the views of shareholders
* To provide a social forum for members of the Association, and their guests, to celebrate their support for the Football Club.

## Annual Subscription

* The annual subscription is due for renewal annually after the AGM.
* Members are requested to pay their annual subscription by setting up a standing order with their bank.
	+ If you have not already done so a membership form incorporating the required mandate can be obtained by contacting the Secretary or from the website.

## Web Site

* You can find more details of Association activities on our [website](http://www.hmsa.org.uk./).

## Constitution

* Please refer to the website to view the formal Constitution of The Association.

## Committee

* Details of the current Committee members can be found on the website.

## Association Representatives

The Association maintains regular contact with Heart of Midlothian plc, and members of the committee meet throughout the year with other groups that share our ambitions for Hearts.

We have representatives on:

* the ‘G10’ Supporters' Group where representatives of Heart of Midlothian plc meet with the four supporters' groups (The Shareholders' Association, the Foundation, Disabled Hearts Supporters Club and the Federation of Hearts Supporters' Clubs).

## Fund Raising

* The Association sponsors players in all of the Club’s playing teams.
* The membership vote for our Player of the Year, with the winner being presented with their award at one of our dinner meetings.

## Monthly Business Meetings

By far the Association’s most popular activity is our monthly dinner.

* Dinners are held on the last Thursday of each month in the Gorgie Suite during the football season, from August through to April, except December.
	+ (NB dates may often have to move if the Club is participating in European ties played on Thursday nights)
* The Annual General Meeting is held at the January dinner.
* The meetings feature guest speakers, usually connected to Hearts or the world of football, including the media.

## Calling Notice

* Members will receive a calling notice every month for the next meeting, a few weeks in advance of the date.
	+ **It is of immense help to the Committee if members opt to receive their communications by email. If you have not already notified an email address please advise our Secretary.**
* Members pay a reduced fee for attendance. Guests will pay full price.
* Members may bring as many guests as wished, except to the AGM, which is for members only.
* Persons under the age of sixteen may attend meetings but must be accompanied by an adult.

## Booking Places

* The Calling Notice includes a booking form, which you should complete and return - ideally by email - as quickly as possible to the address shown.
	+ **Please note: applications received after the closing date cannot be accepted (as meal numbers will already have been intimated to the kitchen).**
	+ We ask that fees are paid using on-line banking to make a direct payment to our bank account. If absolutely necessary cheques or cash can also be accepted.
	+ No acknowledgement or confirmation of your booking will be sent and no admission tickets are issued. No refunds can be made for any cancellation after the Saturday before the meeting.
* If you have any particular requirements and/or dietary requirement please mention this on your booking form.

## The Gorgie Suite

* The Gorgie Suite is located underneath the Gorgie Stand at Tynecastle Stadium and is accessible via McLeod Street.
* Please note: on-street parking in the locality of Tynecastle is extremely limited.
* Screens displaying your seating location will be at the door to the Gorgie Suite.
* Event timings are stated in the calling Notice - please ensure you arrive in good time.
* The Gorgie Suite has wheelchair access.

## Schedule

* Normally, dinners commence at 7:00pm with the usual format of a 2-course meal followed by tea/coffee.
* The bar will be open from 6:15 pm.
* Any formal business is discussed before we welcome our guest speakers.

## Dress Code

* The dress code for attending the meeting is smart casual, including dress jeans, but, please, no work jeans or trainers.

## No Smoking

* Smoking / vaping is not permitted in the Gorgie Suite or within the perimeter of the stadium.

## Raffle

To raise funds for the Association a raffle for a range of prizes is held at each meeting.

Tickets cost £1 and there will be opportunities to purchase these from the sales desk in the Gorgie Suite. The draw will be made that night during a break in proceedings.

Members are also invited to offer donations of prizes for the raffle, which will be most welcome and will help us increase donations to the Football Club, as all proceeds go towards good causes associated with Hearts.

## Questions for Speakers

* Most questions for guest speakers are asked from the floor on the night, but we are happy to have questions submitted in writing via email (please indicate if you would prefer your question to be asked anonymously).
* Members are requested to extend every courtesy to our guests and are expected to ensure that all questions are respectful.
* As a courtesy to our guest speakers members should avoid indulging in local conversations at their tables while guests are speaking.

## Mobile Phones

* Members and guests are requested to keep their mobile phones switched off, or on silent, throughout the evening.

## Conclusion

* The meetings usually finish by 10 pm.

If you have any questions about these notes or any other issue related to the Association you should contact our Secretary, Alison Ross, via email heartofmidlothianshareholders@gmail.com

We hope that you will enjoy your membership of The Association and will continue to be a member for many years to come.

**The Committee**

**Heart of Midlothian Shareholders Association.**