

Meeting of the Steering Committee of the BRIS Trust held at Giles' Flat 30/09/03

Minutes

Present; Nigel, Debs, Ian, Jake, Andy, Mark, Giles, Andy

Apologies; Oly, Gillian

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting.

None available.

2. Treasurer's Report

- In current account £13k. Donated income by means of direct debit is £677 monthly, with an additional £80 being received quarterly and another £230 annually.

3 Secretary's Report

- We currently have 521 members.

4. Matters Arising

- Ian reported back from the meeting with the owners on behalf of the contact group. Whilst the positive tone of the jointly agreed statement was welcomed, it was felt that a broader range of options for BRIST involvement in the future development of the club was desirable. Ian to get back to the owners on this.
- HL's proposals for the enhancement of the Trust profile on match-days were considered. Expenditure on the acquisition of a BRIST banner/table cloth and improvements to 'Mitsu' were voted on and carried unanimously. Other requested expenditures will remain on file.
- Ian reported on the progress of the publicity leaflets. The final design was with the printers and was awaiting a suitably large job to 'piggy back' on. Ian was hopeful that this would happen sometime soon. It was resolved not to wait to coordinate a publicity drive with the club, as originally intended, because the opportunity presented by the World Cup might be lost by any delay in getting the leaflets out. Oly to coordinate distribution of the leaflets.

5. Discussion Items

- The establishment of a quarterly newsletter that would be distributed to all trust members by mail was proposed and accepted. This newsletter is intended to fill a gap in the BRIST communication strategy with its membership the has, to date, neglected those members who could not be contacted by electronic means. It is aimed to have the first issue out by late October/early November. This would lead into a meeting sometime in mid to late November at which it was hoped to present a talk by Messrs Fox and Hoskins on the 'History of Bristol Rugby'.
- The question of at which point a proposed item of expenditure must be put to the membership for approval was next considered. It was suggested that any outlay, which was greater than the monthly income of BRIST, so that capital reserves were being tapped into, should be put to the membership. This figure currently stands at £700. The proposal was accepted.
- Andy presented a paper in which a number of Community Initiatives that might benefit from BRIST involvement were outlined for consideration. The development of a schools tournament that would link up with the work of the club's community team in this area attracted particular approval. Andy to develop the idea further so that it could be put to the Club.
- The owners have expressed concern about the corporate members strategy of BRIST. They fear that large businesses, which their corporate strategy is targeting for considerable sums, may choose the BRIST option as a cheaper way of supporting rugby in Bristol. Considerable sympathy was expressed for the clubs position. But there was an equal concern felt for the right of BRIST to develop an independent

strategy in this area in furtherance of its own constitutionally mandated aims. It was resolved to continue with the development of a BRIST corporate strategy, in the belief that is possible for our plans to co-exist without conflicting with that of the Club if sufficient care was exercised in its development.

- It was resolved to extend an invitation to a representative of the Supporter's Club to attend future meetings of the BRIST steering committee. Deb to approach Sue to discuss.

5. Any Other Business

- Andy advised that he had access to discounted balloon flights for possible use as prizes in a future draw.
- Jake reported a positive day at the UWE fresher's Fair. Lots of interest shown in attending future matches.
- Giles reported back on the Supporter's Club AGM.
- Ian to follow up a recent meeting by writing to the chairmen of the Combination Clubs.
- We are now registered for data protection purposes.
- The Bishop of Bristol has agreed to be 'patron' of BRIST.
- The BRIST logo is well on the way to becoming a registered trademark.
- The Parliamentary rugby group are interested in meeting representatives of BRIST.

6. Time, Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

- Monday 13th October, The Executive Lounge, Memorial Stadium, 7.30pm.