

Meeting of the Steering Committee of the BRISTrust held in The Executive Lounge, The Memorial Ground, on 13.10.2003

Minutes

Present; Nigel, Debs, Ian, Jake, Andy H, Andy P, Gillian, Mark, Oly, & representing the Supporters Club Sue L & Mike W.

Apologies; Giles

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting.

- Minutes of the meeting held on 30.09.2003 were read, approved and entered into the record.

2. Treasurer's Report

- In current account £15,050. Donated income by means of direct debit is £677 monthly, with an additional £80 being received quarterly. Income from direct debit being received annually has increased by £20 to £250.

3 Secretary's Report

- We currently have 529 shareholding members.

4. Matters Arising

- Ian reported that his attempts to talk to the owners in order to generate a broader range of objectives for BRIST have met with little success. Contact is hard to establish. It is not unusual for telephone calls go unreturned for many days, if they are returned at all, and where it has been possible to establish contact decisions are hard to come by. It appears that behind the scenes the club is still very unsettled and that, rightly or wrongly, BRIST is not a priority for the owners as they continue to struggle to come to terms with what they have taken on.
- Oly met with Mike Turner and discussed match day activity and the potential for other BRIST activity in support of the club. MT is keen to get some form of lottery off the ground but had no proposals for BRIST to consider as to how this idea might be developed.
- Oly to convene a 'Welly' meeting for 23.10.03 to launch distribution of BRIST leaflets.
- Debs presented a draft of the Autumn 2003 newsletter. A few minor amendments were suggested but nothing that should cause any delay to the late October/early November mailing.

5. Discussion Items

- It was noted that a perception is growing amongst the membership that BRIST is losing momentum. Whilst the committee could understand how this impression could come to be formed, and had some sympathy with it, it was felt to be a little harsh. No allowance was being made for the difficulties BRIST has encountered in dealing with the Club's new owners, and no credit given for the considerable effort that has gone into getting BRIST thus far in the relatively short period of time that had passed since its inception. Improved communications with the membership, so that a more accurate idea of what BRIST has been doing can be conveyed, was felt to be part of the answer. But it was also acknowledged that perhaps the time had come to be a little more proactive in advancing the BRIST agenda, even at the risk of inconveniencing the owners at a time when they might feel that they had more pressing matters that required their attention. Ian agreed to write to the owners to

restate BRIST's primary objectives and to invite their suggestions as to how they might be realised.

- Sue and Mike were welcomed as representatives of the Supporters Club. A standing invitation was offered for a representative of the Supporters Club to attend all future meetings of the BRIST steering committee. As a gesture of support it was agreed that the Supporters Club should retain control, for the time being, of those funds that they kindly banked on behalf of BRIST at a time when BRIST did not have a bank account of its own. Continuing control of this money will assist the Supporter's Club in funding coach runs to away games until such time as money from membership renewals begins to enter their account. An offer was also made to include a membership renewal mailing on behalf of the Supporters Club in the BRIST mailing scheduled for early November.
- It was agreed to post a link between the unofficial site and the latest minutes on the BRIST site in an attempt to better inform members of BRIST activity. But it was felt that the committee should avoid using the unofficial site too heavily when seeking to publicise BRIST and its activities for fear that in doing so BRIST might be perceived as 'taking over' the forum.
- Item "Entries in Year Planner" held over to the next committee meeting.

6. Any Other Business

- None

7. Time, Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

- Monday 27th October @ 7.30pm, Executive Lounge, Memorial Ground.