

Blackburn Rovers Independent Supporters Association

Meeting No: 1

The Fernhurst

28th January 2005

Present:	Paul Brooking (Paul) Den (den) Claire Lloyd (Kiwiwannabe) Tris Stock (Tris) Scott Thornton (Scotty) Stuart Wilkinson (stuwilky)	Apologies:	Ste Birtwell (Ste) Claire Nolan (cn174) Glenn Pegden (Glenn)
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- | Item | Discussion and Notes | Action |
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| 1.0 | Introductions
Tris opened the meeting by welcoming all present and offering apologies on behalf of others. Individual introductions were made, contact details collected for circulation after the meeting.

It was mutually agreed Tris should lead the meeting. Paul would take minutes. | Paul |
| 2.0 | Opening Statement
Tris re-stated the objectives of the meeting, namely to develop and take forward an Independent Supporters Association for the benefit of Blackburn Rovers fans. Tris requested the Agenda be followed to ensure all topics were covered. | |
| 3.0 | The Next Stage
The meeting agreed it is essential BRISA be open to all Rovers fans. In particular it was recognised that while the initial drive will come bfrcs.com members BRISA must be a separate entity from the website. | |
| 3.1 | How to involve existing fans organisations?
The meeting identified the following "official" groups who should be informed of ISA's existence: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fans Forum (FF)2. Official Supporters Association (OSA)3. Disabled Supporters Association (DSA)4. North Lancashire OSA5. London OSA6. Swedish OSA7. Norwegian OSA8. Fanzine Editors (Four Thousand Holes)9. Ewood Blues10. Mailing List11. ADDED after the meeting by Paul:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- South Lancashire OSA, Somerset OSA | |

The meeting discussed, but did not answer, the issue of how or should officially affiliated groups have official representation within ISA? Views were expressed indicating the difficulty this could present for certain individuals and ISA. Opposing this view it was suggested ISA should be open to all and individuals make their own judgements on the level to which they could be or wished to be involved.

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3.2	<p>How to approach and organise the first public meeting?</p> <p>The meeting agreed the first public meeting and existence of BRISA should be widely publicised. This would best be achieved through the following outlets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Leafleting at Everton (05/03/05) and Man Utd away2. Club programme – subject to club approval3. Radio Rovers/Rovervision – subject to club approval4. www.brfs.com5. Local press – LET (approach LD Rover/Jason??), EP, Free papers6. Local media – Radio Lancashire, other local stations, Granada	
3.2 cont'd	<p>Design and quality of the leaflet would be crucial and should incorporate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reasons for founding BRISA2. Reasons for joining BRISA3. Contact details <p>Claire Nolan is understood to be keen to be involved in this area Stuart undertook to investigate likely costs</p>	<u>Clare N</u> <u>Stuart</u>
3.3	<p>When and how to inform Rovers about the ISA?</p> <p>The meeting agreed the club, via John Williams (JW), should be informed of ISA's existence and intentions ASAP. BRISA should write to JW outlining the broad intentions behind ISA and the desire to work in partnership to move BRFC forwards in all areas. Initial draft to be circulated to all. All present at this meeting would sign the letter. No other public statement to take place until the club has been informed.</p> <p>The meeting agreed this letter required careful consideration to "sell" ISA to the club. The meeting agreed it was essential the club recognised the positive intentions of ISA, in general those present felt the response to ISA would at worst be "wait and see" and at best would be welcomed by JW.</p>	<u>Tris</u>
3.4	<p>Makeup of Stage 1 Steering Group 3.1</p> <p>The meeting acknowledged, <u>and formally recorded</u>, those involved initially were not prepared to nominate individual roles or titles/offices to any person or themselves. The election of officers should wait until a formal committee can be elected at a public meeting. The meeting agreed, in the interim, individuals would volunteer to undertake certain tasks to ensure BRISA moved forward.</p> <p>A clear statement to all others who have expressed interest in BRISA to be made in the brfcs.com Forum indicating BRISA welcomes and needs input from as many fans as possible. No individual is excluded or included by virtue of attending or not attending a meeting.</p> <p>The meeting recognised the final committee would need to be of a manageable size, ideally an odd number.</p>	<u>Scott</u>
4.0	<p>The Nitty Gritty</p>	
4.1	<p>Circulate contact details of those present / stage 1 group</p> <p>Brief personal details of all present were collected for later circulation</p>	<u>Paul</u>
4.2	<p>Possible name for the ISA / BRISA?</p> <p>The meeting agreed on Blackburn Rovers Independent Supporters Association (BRISA). The web address would be: www.roversisa.co.uk. This domain to be registered ASAP The meeting thanked Claire Nolan for her work in this and other IT areas together with her offer to design the web site.</p>	<u>Paul</u>
4.3	<p>Bank account / initial signatories</p> <p>It was agreed BRISA would require a bank account. Multiple signatories would be essential; ideally signatories would live local to each other. Two signatures would be required on all cheques. Stuart offered investigate and open an account.</p>	<u>Stuart</u>

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4.4	<p>IT support required to start up? Clare Nolan had offered to design and run the BRISA website, gratefully accepted by all.</p> <p>Web hosting would be required. Two possibilities emerged; in conjunction, but clearly separate from, brfcs.com (Paul) or an independent host (Stuart). Initial costs were indicated at £100 pa</p>	<p><u>Claire N</u></p> <p><u>Paul/Stuart</u></p>
4.5	<p>Methods of communication Two areas of communication were of concern;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A) To widely publicise the existence of BRISAB) To provide methods for fans to communicate with BRISA. <p>A) Publicity avenues would be: <u>Local press</u>: LET, EP, Free paper <u>Websites</u>: BRISA, brfcs.com, Rovers.co.uk <u>Leafletting</u>: Everton and Man Utd away <u>The Club</u>: Programme; Open letter to existing groups</p> <p>B) Communication with BRISA should be made as simple as possible using: Telephone – through a mobile number with voicemail collected regularly E-mail – website PO Box – possibly use the brfcs.com address</p> <p>A regular page or half page in the club programme was felt to be an essential target for the widest possible communication to fellow supporters</p>	<p><u>ClaireL/Stuart</u> <u>Claire N</u> <u>Paul</u></p>
4.5.1	<p>Importance of easy access for ALL Rovers fans to the ISA excluding internet - how? BRISA sees the club programme as the simplest means to communicate with all fans and would hope to convince the club of this.</p>	
4.5.2	<p>Possible website and required initial content Clare Nolan will be approached to design the initial site</p>	<p><u>Tris/Paul</u></p>
4.6	<p>Initial discussion about moving from Stage1 to Stage 2</p>	
5.0	<p>Constitution The meeting agreed the need for a constitution. To avoid re-inventing the wheel IMUSA (Man Utd) would be approached to ask if we could copy the basics within their constitution.</p>	<p><u>Den</u></p>
6.0	<p>Issues The meeting felt it premature to discuss specific issues at this point</p>	
7.0	<p>Other Business Budget Considering the sums of money previously discussed it was agreed BRISA would need an initial budget to ensure funds were available to meet anticipated expenses and to account for all monies expended from the outset.</p> <p>While all present were prepared to help fund BRISA it was hoped other members posting in the brfcs Forum would also contribute. All present made an initial contribution of £5. These funds to be held and banked by Stuart</p> <p>The meeting discussed the possibility of approaching local business for sponsorship</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm</p>	<p><u>Stuart</u></p>