

BRISA / Fans' Forum Meeting - Minutes

14th December 2006

Present:

Neil Duckworth (FF)
Guy Wignall (FF & BRDSC)
Duncan Gardiner (FF & BRDSC)
Mushtaq Patel (FF & BRDSC)
John Billouin (FF)
Bill Toland (FF)
Ian Filbin (FF)
John Wareing (BRISA)
Dennis Gasgarth (BRISA)
Andy Neil (BRISA)
Steve Birtwell FF & BRISA)
Paul Brooking (BRISA)

Paul Brooking outlined the reason BRISA had invited Fans Forum members to a joint meeting. BRISA had had a tough first 12 months, as initial enthusiasm from the launch had dissipated and it was clear that the amount of work needed to keep a high profile was beyond the small number of people still actively involved.

The Fans Forum had also not met for 12 months. Whilst it was understood that there were particular circumstances that had contributed to this, there did also seem to be a lack of structure in the organisation that was not helping. The club had indicated to BRISA it was keen to have regular talks with fans through a Forum, but it was generally recognised by all the current situation was a lack of communication to fans as a whole.

BRISA's proposal was therefore to offer to formalise the structure of the Fans Forum and provide administrative support to the meetings, in return for representation on the Forum as another fans' organisation. What was not proposed was a merger of BRISA and the Fans Forum - the two organisations would remain distinct.

Paul was asked what the club's expectation was for the meeting. He replied they shared BRISA's concern the Fans Forum needed to be energised, but they were very clear that they did not want BRISA and the Forum to be merged into one organisation. They were happy for BRISA to become another represented organisation on the Forum.

There was some detailed discussion on the proposal. In particular there was consideration of the difficulty of confidential information, i.e. commercially sensitive matters such as season ticket prices, which would not be minuted in discussions with the club. The meeting agreed there was need for maturity and understanding by the

Fans Forum on such sensitive subjects and an appreciation of the trust placed by the club in the individual members of the Fans Forum. The meeting agreed all other topics would be minuted and distributed as widely as possible.

In summing up the discussion the following was agreed: -

- It was agreed that the Fans Forum would continue in its current representation of a mixture of individual members and member organisations, but that BRISA be added
- BRISA would provide administrative support to the Forum - call meetings, take and publish minutes etc.
- Meetings to be chaired by a Chair independent of any represented organisations - Martin to continue if he wishes to
- Meeting dates to be set annually, every 6 weeks in season and every 8 weeks in the summer
- Agendas to be created one week in advance of the Forum at a pre-meeting
- First meeting of reconstituted Forum to be on 25th January, with a pre-meeting on 18th January.
- All meetings to be held at Ewood Park

Every effort should be made to contact other existing fans groups offering them the opportunity to join the Fans Forum

Minutes of this meeting to be distributed in draft form to all concerned. Once agreed, BRISA would write to all supporters associations inviting them to be involved in the new structure.

Important Dates:

18th January 2007 – planning meeting for formal meeting with club

25th January 2007 – Fans Forum meeting with club

Both meetings will be held in the Bob Crompton Suite at 7.30pm

John Wareing

18/12/06