

Minutes for Society Board meeting held Wednesday 12 August 2008

Venue Via the internet

Present Gavin Butler (Chair)
Martin Bishop
Andrew Heaton
Johnny Meynell
Jonathan Monaghan
Roger Taylor

1. Apologies

Received from Alan Alderson, Mark Butterick, Nick Fletcher, and Paul Holroyd.

2. Contact with the club

GB explained how the clubs reluctance to engage with the Trust should not distract the Society Board from carrying on with its work.

RT raised concern that people still think the Trust is working against the consortium when all we want to do is work with them.

It was suggested that the Trust sends another letter to the Club stressing how we want to work with them, not against, but it was felt that nothing would be achieved as we have already explained our position.

MB raised a previously discussed idea of 'Free Membership' to the Trust and proposed it was introduced but the general feeling was that it was the wrong time.

It was agreed that the Club's Board would be given another two weeks. If nothing had been heard within this timescale the membership would be advised of the situation.

In the interim period the Trust will continue to assess all decisions made by the Club, playing the critical friend, whilst continuing to plan community projects.

3. Internet Meetings

It had been decided at short notice that this meeting would be held via the Internet to ensure it was quorate.

Should the meeting go smoothly and be deemed a success, Society Board meetings would continue to be held in this manner, although a face-to-face meeting should be held once every two month.

4. Associa Membership Survey

They will be asking individuals 30 questions about the Trust – why they joined, what they think the trust does well, what they consider to be the key objectives etc.

If we participate, a link would be sent, by us, to all our members past and present who we hold an email address for.

It doesn't cost anything unless we want a tailored report, and the results will be used for a UK wide report.

So far 25 trusts have signed up.

GB explained that a tailored report would cost HTST £500 and subsequently agreed that we would not go for that option.

It was agreed that the Trust would take part in the survey.

5. Membership Management

GB proposed that the Trust introduced the InTouch with Members software as soon as practically possible.

It provides a top class database system and membership communications platform.

Chairman of Scarborough, Simon Cope, had highly recommended it to HTST.

The initial 12-month period is FOC with subscription expected to be around £200pa following the first year's free trial.

Sponsorship / advertising should cover subscription costs.

It was agreed that the Trust would sign up for the software.

6. Let's Not Forget

GB raised the idea of launching a commemorable, limited edition framed item celebrating the 97-year history of Halifax Town AFC.

If it was a quality collectable item a quantity of 100 selling at £35 each would be feasible.

Johnny Meynell agreed to take on the project and would speak to PH about the design.

7. Supporters Direct Annual Conference

GB mentioned the SD Annual Conference to be held in London on 16 October and asked if anyone wanted to attend.

GB has return ticket vouchers for the train but they must be used at off-peak which would require an overnight stop of which he would ask to be recompensed in full.

MB asked if expenses would be paid for those wanting to attend and it was agreed that once further details were announced, a decision would be made on whom, if anyone should attend.

8. Centre of Excellence

Nick Fletcher had asked GB to ask the Soc Board whether they could provide some finance to the Centre of Excellence in the way of sponsorship.

It was agreed that an objective of ours is to invest in the future of FC Halifax Town.

Ways of helping and supporting the CoE are to be explored to ensure they continue to function efficiently.

MB is to take the lead and will ask MButterick to be part of a Working Party to move things forward.

9. Charity Partner

GB proposed that HTST adopts a charity as part of our community work.

Ways in the Trust can help the charity is to be explored, but sharing proceeds of our raffles is an example.

JMonaghan suggested that we change charity each year.

Following discussions it was agreed that Overgate Hospice in Elland would be the chosen charity.

10. Newsletter

JMonaghan said that a newsletter should be sent out to members no later than 22 August and he would email everyone about content.

GB suggested that everyone should write a profile about themselves for inclusion.

11. Next meeting

To be held over the internet 27 Aug, commencing at 7.30pm. GB to email link to everyone.

The Chair thanked everyone for his attendance. The meeting ended at 21:30.

Signature of Chair

Date