

Crawley Town Supporters Alliance Board Meeting

Wednesday 12th December 2012

1. Attendees:

Paul Prendergast
Colin Bowman
Ian Townsend
Gill Courtnell
Matt Putland
James Laraman
Owen Pickering

Apologies from Ken Blackmore, Chris Cheshire, Barb Robinson, Simon Smith

2. Minutes of last meeting: Approved

3. Matters Arising: Proposed Board Changes (Item 5 on the original meeting agenda)

Action

As requested by Barb, PP read out a statement she had prepared for the meeting. The Board debated at some length the issues raised therein, and the contents of various emails between Ian, Barb and Chris which had been circulated over the past 24 hours. It was agreed that the current situation could not continue, as it was having a divisive effect on the organisation and creating obvious factions in the board. In her statement, Barb had offered to resign from the board if the majority felt that they could no longer work with her.

After discussion, the board members present voted regretfully but unanimously to accept the resignation offered for the long term benefit of the organisation, whilst offering a vote of thanks to Barb for the service which she has provided.

4. Paul's meeting with Alan Williams

The proposed golf day has been given the go-ahead by AW, but it must take place on a Wednesday in early March to avoid conflicting with any playing commitments by the CTFC squad. OP suggested that we open up the invitation to the Corporate sponsors to raise more money. Signed giveaways will also be available as prizes. (also see AOB) The CTSA has been also been given the OK to use the Broadfield Stadium pitch at the end of April to hold a charity football match in aid of Chestnut Tree House. The teams will be managed by PP and Rob Lowndes and CTFC legends and possibly celebrities will be asked to take part.

5. Travel

The sum of £1,400 has been paid today to cover the cost of the travel insurance required. 67 people are booked on the coaches to Stevenage this coming Saturday, and 128 people had booked and paid for the Portsmouth trip. 32 more people are booked to travel, but as yet haven't paid. 64 people have already paid for the Bournemouth trip.

6. Membership

At the date of the meeting, the Alliance has 286 members.

7. Community Liaison

MP told the meeting he was rather frustrated that although he had agreed letter content and co-signed along with CC, he had not been given the opportunity to go on the school visits with CC, who had instead gone on her own without reference to him. The two schools taking part in the January coaching sessions told a board member they are very pleased with their allocation. They will contact DF directly and he will send the CTSA the invoices.

8. 50/50 Draw

The board discussed ways in which the monies paid to the football club could be 'ring-fenced' to make sure that it funded only projects designed to benefit our young supporters, in keeping with the aims of the CTSA. Those present unanimously agreed that this should be done. It was agreed that Matt and Paul would discuss such projects with AW. There was some discussion about BR's email to AW following the last meeting, with tacitly accepted responsibility to pay for a ladder at the clubs request. Those present were surprised at this email as they had felt, with only a couple of exceptions, that the ladder idea had been dismissed at the meeting- hence why it hadn't been minuted.

9. A.O.B.

JL asked who had signed and agreed what with regard to the Portakabin. Is the contract for a year or is it longer than that? Can we find out for the next board meeting please...? Simon should have the paperwork. The board was in broad agreement that the spending commitments needed to be lessened.

SS

CB mentioned that he'd spoken with the boys who usually travel at the back of the bus with us and relayed their questions back to the board. They had asked if the coaches could stop at somewhere other than service stations and for less time. The board agreed that service stations catered to the majority of our travellers and that the length of the stop was a legal requirement for the drivers. Stopping at pubs would be a logistical nightmare as someone would have to make all the arrangements plus make sure that young children were allowed in. A subsidy for under-16s was suggested, but again this would cause difficulty as other sections of the community would want concessions say for over 65s, DLA recipients etc.

SS asked for a list of proposed meeting dates for all of 2013. See table below. It was agreed that we would look to meet on Wednesdays going forward, as this day was most acceptable to the highest number of board members.

GC

Some concern had been raised by the club that the Alliance would launch a membership drive should CTFC draw a big club in the FA Cup or another major trophy. The board confirmed that we would not.

OP went on to further discuss the proposed golf day at Hassocks next March. He suggested that groups of four play consisting of one player and three paying golfers. There would also be an opportunity to make donations towards CHT and Cancer UK. He also told the meeting that his children had been thrilled with the Junior Reds Party.

10. Date of Next Meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday, 16th January 2013, at the Wingspan Club.

Proposed 2013 Meeting Dates:
16 th January
13 th February
13 th March
17 th April
15 th May
12 th June
17 th July
14 th August
18 th September
16 th October
13 th November
11 th December