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The Silkmen Supporters Society Ltd

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Silkmen Supporters Society Ltd
held at 8.00 pm on Monday 10 August 2009 at the Durham Ox,
Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield.

Present:

Mr J Rayner (Chairman)
Mr J Smart (Treasurer)
Mr M Beresford (Board)
Mr J Goodwin (Board)
Mr A Mellor (Board)
Mr A Waller (Board)
Mr G Williams (Board)
Mr R Wilson (Board)
Mrs M Clarke (Board)
Mr P Slattery
Mr D Tipper
Mrs C Stewart
Mrs H Woolliscroft
Mr R Trafford
Mr D Woolliscroft (Secretary)

Apologies were reported from Mr Pattrick (Board), Mr J Teasdale, Mr P de Courcy, and Mr M Riley.

1. To hear the notice convening the meeting

The formal notice calling the meeting was read by the Secretary. The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM. In doing so, he paid tribute to the dedication and hard work of his predecessor, Andy Worth, who was understood to be away on holiday.

2. To receive and adopt the 2008/09 Financial Statements (including Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related Report).

The Chairman proposed the following resolution and Mr Smart seconded it.

The Members of the Silkmen Supporters Society Ltd present at the General Meeting held on 7 September 2009 receive and adopt the financial statements prepared by the Society's Independent Examiner.

The substantial loss due to the provision of coaches during the year was noted. The Resolution was accepted unanimously.

3. To consider a change in the Election Rules Policy to allow more efficient Board elections by permitting the use of electronic communications.

The Secretary proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mrs Clarke. Introducing the item, the Secretary drew attention to the high cost imposed on the Society by the current rules but stressed that the rule change did not affect the constitution as the election policy was a stand-alone document.

It is hereby resolved to amend the society's Election Rules Policy rules by deleting clause 10 (see below) and inserting a new clauses 10 as follows:

Old clause 10: Polling for this election will be by postal ballot only in a prepaid envelope provided by the EWG

New clause 10: Polling for the election of board members may be by postal ballot or by such electronic means deemed appropriate at the time. Any method used must be capable of identifying the source of a vote without disclosing the nature of the vote.

The resolution was agreed unanimously.

4. Any other business.

- a) The Chair reminded members that all board meetings were open to any member.
- b) Coaches. There was an extensive discussion relating to the provision of coaches to away games. The year 2008/09 had shown a considerable loss; the current year was also showing a major loss. The board did not believe that the current losses were sustainable and had recently cancelled the service (to Morecambe). Members pressed the desirability of the coaches, suggested ways of improving usage, but recognised that it would not be possible to continue with the service if usage did not improve at least to break-even.
- c) In connection with the recent coach to Crewe (which had been partially sponsored), the welcome by the Crewe Alexandra Senior Steward was noted and the Secretary was asked to convey the appreciation of members for the friendly approach.
- d) The town Family Fun Day had again seen an SST stall but the difficulties of staffing, which had been fully understood at the time of booking, had put pressure on two members. The merchandise available represented the remains of a very profitable initiative to launch more products but it had been agreed that further stock would not be purchased until the Club's position was clear. It seemed that the Club were now happy to take on merchandising especially considering the success of the SST project.
- e) Calendar sales would begin at the Barnet game. Volunteers were sought.
- f) There was a short discussion concerning a weekly draw – it was agreed to consider this in more detail in a board meeting.
- g) The Chair reminded members of the heavy burden on Board members. With 12 places available (and only 11 currently filled, Mr Edge having resigned), each Board member was hard pressed to deliver the level of service expected by members. One of the major challenges for the coming year would be to involve more members in activities such as sales, coaches etc.
- h) It was suggested that the Board should follow up a plan to re-recruit lapsed members; all members were encouraged to recruit additional members. The target of 500 would give the SST more influence with the Club,
- i) The excellent work done by Mr Williams in providing briefing to the Club on Trust matters was reported; examples such as the lack of early warning about the Club stall at the Fun Day and the opening of the Blues Bar suggested that this openness was not reciprocal.
- j) The voucher pack with Season Tickets was welcomed by all members.

- k) The occasional poor quality of the pa system was noted; guests in the McIlroy Suite heard no announcements at all.
- l) It was suggested that the Trust should seek a short spell on the pa each home game to promote SST activities (such as away coach travel)
- m) The Chair reminded members that the Board had decided to support the Gold Bond Lottery which gave an excellent return to both the Club and Trust.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and closed the meeting, reminding members that Board meetings were open to all.