



### MESSAGE FROM NEW CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE RAFHAA

The last issue of the Haltonian carried a resignation letter from your then Chairman Denis O'Brien. I am pleased to announce that your remaining Council, on advice from the Charities Commission (CC), co-opted 3 new trustees following the instructions contained in CC Leaflet 30. Of course, these appointments are subject to ratification at the next AGM. For the record, the CC has written to our General Secretary confirming that the new Council is legitimate.

I volunteered to take up the role as Chairman and the existing Council supported my nomination. The other new co-options are Phil Sprinks and Clive Brooks. Min Larkin will support the Council on Heritage matters and Chas Challinger is providing invaluable support on a variety of matters while he recuperates from a serious illness. Your Council has already begun to conduct business in accordance with our Constitution and Charity Law. We are all dedicated to revitalising our Association, communicating with and listening to our members, following the legal requirements enshrined in Charity law and overcoming this dreadful virus that is affecting all of us in some way.

You will all know that deep rooted disagreements between the previous Chair and many members concerning the closure of your Association have existed for almost 3 years. Your new Council decided at a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April [2020](#) that closure plans had never been authorised by the membership through the aegis of an AGM motion or an EGM called expressly to debate the matter, and thus there was no legal basis on which to proceed with closure plans. We have, therefore, returned to the status quo: your Association will continue for the foreseeable future, certainly while RAF Halton remains open. The new Council plan to move forward with a programme of work to hold a virtual AGM in September in which members worldwide should be able to participate, an expansion of our membership, improved communication with members through a more active website and a revised Constitution to give more power to the grass roots. We

hope to continue with the production of a quality hard copy of the Haltonian, the next issue should become available in August and of course, contributions are very welcome. Serious matters concerning our finances must be addressed and it is too soon to say what actions your Council will take. In the longer term, I would like to see a monthly 500 club lottery developed to raise regular income for the Association.

We are about to hold our second Council meeting and have co-opted Colin Ferrier to join the Council as a Trustee. We are looking for more members to join our new and progressive committee and I should be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested.

I shall be happy to communicate with any of you by email and look forward to hearing your views on what should be done to reinvigorate our illustrious Association.

Stay safe.

Best wishes,

Frank Denton-Powell 90<sup>th</sup>

RAFHAA Chairman Designate

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