

Minutes of the 15th CFU AGM held on 23rd March 2015 at the Cambridge United Supporters Club, Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

The “top table” consisted of the following:

Dave Matthew-Jones (CFU Chair)
Colin Proctor (Fans Elected Director)
Martin Page (CFU Treasurer)
James Taylor (CFU Secretary)

There were approximately 60 CFU members in the audience. There were also members of the local media present.

To allow Jez George and Josh Coulson to leave early parts one and two of the AGM were switched on the night.

CFU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dave Matthew-Jones opened the 15th CFU AGM at 7:30pm.

Part 1

1. Chairman’s welcome and report. (Dave Matthew-Jones)
 - a. Dave thanked the Supporters Club for hosting the CFU AGM.
 - b. This was the 15th CFU AGM and that time could be split into two distinct periods
 - i. 2000-2005: Ground sale, administration, relegation from the league, Bridge the Gap and the raising of £100,000 in a short amount of time. DMJ remembered being told that the club wouldn’t survive one year in non-league.
 - ii. 2005-2014: Volunteers carried the club through that period and CFU filled in many gaps with personnel, money and equipment. CFU supported CRC and the Youth Development programme when few others would and questioned the worth of those schemes. Dave Doggett was thanked for helping bring the club together and publicly recognising the work of CFU.
 - c. With the club back in the league and volunteers being replaced by paid staff it may be time for CFU to return to pushing the fan agenda and being a more vocal critical friend.
 - d. CFU had been involved in many things to benefit CUFC and the supporters:
 - i. The Abbey Helpers scheme was set up by CFU and is a vital part of the match day experience.
 - ii. Programme sales and the CFU caravan provides a meeting point for fans and a place to air opinions and provide feedback.
 - iii. Match day and weekday volunteers.
 - iv. 100 Years of Coconuts has grown and is continuing to preserve and promote the club’s history.
 - v. CFU will play a vital role in discussions regarding stadium development and working with Grosvenor.
 - vi. Social Media presence has grown and is used to promote both the club and CFU; Facebook site has 1,800 followers
 - vii. CFU Play2win lottery brings money into the club.
 - viii. Sponsoring players, including youth players.
 - ix. Audio Descriptive commentary service for blind and visually impaired supporters has grown.
 - x. Paid for chip fryers in the Habbin.
 - xi. Paid for equipment for Ian Darler.
 - xii. Over 500 members bring money into the club and ensure the fans are heard.

- xiii. Fans Elected Director is written into the Articles of Association and guarantee supporter involvement at boardroom level.
 - xiv. Dave Doggett is Supporter Liaison Officer.
 - xv. CFU have assisted the Supporters Trusts at Hartlepool and Carlisle, and attended the Supporters Summit at Wembley.
 - xvi. Wrote to the FA to oppose plans for League 3.
- e. Dave expressed his gratitude to the fan base for sticking with the club and CFU through difficult times
2. Presentation and Q&A with Dave Doggett, Jez George, Andy Beattie, Dave Matthew-Jones and Josh Coulson, hosted by Steve Jackson of Radio Cambridgeshire
- a. Dave Doggett:
 - i. The club is now more respected in the community
 - ii. 2001-2013 losses around £500,000 a year, average of £300,000 after bonus income
 - iii. In December 2012 CUFC Directors agreed to continue to underwrite losses and allow Richard Money/Jez George prepare for 2013-14 season.
 - iv. 2013-14 budgeted loss was £200,000, including an 'ambitious commercial target'. Player budget was set with a view to being in a position to push for play-offs.
 - v. Actual loss was around £125,000
 - vi. Hard work, integrity and team work was rewarded with two trips to Wembley.
 - b. Jez George
 - i. 'It's always humbling to be in front of lots of supporters'
 - ii. Had to fight hard when he first came to the club, some were not supportive of his plans
 - iii. The support from fans means a lot to the players and the staff
 - iv. The room was shown a short video presentation made by the CUFC Academy and shown to the EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) audit panel.
 - c. Q&A

Q: What are the biggest differences between the Conference and League Two?
 JC: The players are better, quicker and more physical.

Q: What are your personal highlights?
 JC: The Play-Off final and next season!

Q: What are your hopes for the future?
 JC: Want to grow as a club and be a part of the club's future for years to come.

Q: How much more difficult is it being outside the League?
 JG: A lot. It shouldn't matter if a club is outside of the league. Funding should be dependent on the quality of provision not league position.

Q: Should Premier League B-teams be allowed in Johnstone's Paint Trophy?
 DMJ: CFU opposed allowing B-teams to enter the football pyramid and would oppose any plans to allow them in to the JPT.
 JG: Was asked to consider the matter at a recent Football League meeting, no decisions had been made and no offer had been made to Premier League clubs.

Q: How has your role changed since becoming CEO?
 JG: Not so much on match days at the request of Richard Money but significantly different during the week.

Q: Who's the next Luke Berry?

JG: Players of that quality don't come around very often. There are two Under 14s playing for the Under 16s and 1 Under 15 playing above his age group. Matt Foy and Danny Burns are good prospects and Bobby-Joe Taylor has a good chance next season. The last few years have been disappointing.

Q: Would Elliot Thorpe have left if we were a League club?

JG: Tottenham made a very good offer and treated CUFC with respect and behaved impeccably. Sometimes you have to let young players go when an offer comes in.

Q: Why is there so much squad rotation/ so many loan players?

JG: It is tough playing Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday and players need to be rested sometimes, but we need a more settled team. When bringing players in on loan there is less time to make decisions and mistakes are more likely to be made. Lessons have been learned, including the need for more patience.

Q: Why was Ryan Bird loaned to Hartlepool?

JG: He wasn't in the team or close to it at that time. Hartlepool paid all his wages for the period and were 18 points behind at the time. The situation has changed so he's been brought back.

Q: What plans do you have for the shop?

AB: An improved range of stock at a variety of prices, including pocket money items. The façade has changed for the better and the new building is a significant improvement. Other parts of the stadium need bringing up to date but we are restricted by future redevelopment.

Q: What do you do?

AB: Oversee the day to day running of the office as well as the usual secretarial duties such as player contracts.

Q: What three things are on your wish list?

AB: The systems are a challenge. Tea bars need improving as well.

JG: It and infrastructure need improving.

CP: Club are aware of vendors operating in the area around the stadium but are limited in what can be done to stop them trading.

Q: Is there any news on the ground?

DD: Recent success has demonstrated the need for a Sporting Village and Abbey Stadium redevelopment. The club will need to keep the fans up to date with any developments.

Q: Where do you hope to be in five years time?

DD: Sat in a new building as part of a stadium with a 12,000-14,000 capacity. Everyone at the club needs to stay united in endeavour.

- d. Dave Matthew-Jones thanked Jez, Andy and Josh for attending and Steve Jackson for compering.

Part 2

3. Secretary's Report. (James Taylor)

- a. Apologies for absence received from William Arnold, Andrew Stephen, Deb Swann and Janet Williams
- b. Minutes/Matters arising from the 14th AGM on 31st March 2013
 - i. There were no matters arising.
 - ii. A show of hands agreed that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.

- c. Membership stood at 507, a significant increase on last year's 350. Part of this is thanks to the club giving CFU members parity with Season Ticket holders for Manchester United tickets, and also because of CFU's role in the club's success over the past year.
 - d. A request was made for members to inform the secretary of changes of address or emails and to forward emails received from CFU to fellow supporters and non-members.
4. Treasurer's Report (Martin Page)
- a. Copies of the CFU annual financial statement at August 2014 were available for members at the door.
 - b. The Independent Examining Accountants had agreed the accounts are true and fair.
 - c. Notes to the financial statement:
 - i. Skril Charge and insurance totalling £3,002 relates to £160,000~ of ticket sales on behalf of the club
 - ii. Accountancy fee was £864 not £1,078. This will be adjusted for next year.
 - iii. Debtors figure includes £5,000 loan to the club in November 2013 that hasn't yet been converted to shares
 - iv. Cash at the bank in August was £19,779.
 - v. Surplus was £16,949, cumulative income £157,746
 - d. Martin asked for approval of the accounts: this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands.
 - e. Martin asked that Clifford Towers be re-appointed as Independent Examining Accountants, this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands.
 - f. Martin put the following Full Audit Exemption resolution to the meeting: "It is hereby resolved that subject to the provisions of section 4A of the 1968 Friendly and Industrial and Provident Societies Act, the members of the Society shall not require an audit for the Accounts covering the current financial year ending on 31st August 2015 when they are presented to the next AGM. The members of the Society agree that the Accounts for the financial year ending on 31st August 2015 and for which reports will be laid before the following AGM do not require a full Audit provided that an Independent Examination is carried out in place of the full audit, the Independent Examination is carried out in line with best practice and a report from the Independent Examiner is included within the Accounts and circulated to members".
 - g. The resolution was passed unanimously by a show of hands.
5. Election of Trust Board members
- a. There had been no resignations from the Society Board during the previous year.
 - b. Five Society Board members were standing down by rotation and were available for re-election:
 - i. Dave Doggett
 - ii. Robert Osbourn
 - iii. Carol Looker
 - iv. Colin Proctor
 - v. Matt Ramsay
 - c. All five were elected unanimously by a show of hands
6. Fans Elected Director Report (Colin Proctor)
- a. Colin was honoured to have been FED for the previous five years, and that the club was more united than at any time previously.
 - b. Some things are confidential but the club are more open than in previous years, and more approachable with both him and Dave Doggett at the club every day and before and after matches.
 - c. Colin thanked Dave Doggett for all his work and gave credit to Terry Baker for funding Youth Development when that needed money.
 - d. The move to 500 members was positive and CFU and the wider fan base need to encourage the new supporters to join CFU.

- e. Colin finished by assuring the room that the team would not be relegated.
- 7. Election of Fans Director
 - a. The Fans Elected Director stands for 2 years and can then be re-elected on an annual basis for a maximum of six years in total. Colin Proctor had been re-elected at last year's AGM for a further year.
 - b. Nominations had been invited, there was only one nomination, that of Colin Proctor.
 - c. Colin Proctor was elected unanimously for a further year by a show of hands.

The meeting ended at 21.51