

## **MINUTES OF THE CFU TRUST BOARD MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2019**

The CFU Trust Board (TB) met on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Present were: Robert Osbourn (Chair), Margaret Pearson, Frank Pearson (Secretary), Colin Proctor, Carol Looker, Dave Matthew-Jones, James Taylor, Nigel Pearce, Terry Wilby, Joy Childs, Nigel Browne, Pat Morgan, Martin Chapman and John Bilboa.

Apologies were received from: Brian Thorby and Andrew Stephen.

The following is an abbreviated version of the minutes of the meeting.

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Margaret reminded the meeting of the decisions taken at the special TB meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, to discuss CFU TB actions on behalf of CFU members and our shareholding in the event of a bid to take over the football club. A written version has been sent to DMJ, the decisions otherwise are to remain confidential.

On membership, Terry said that CFU currently had 279 members.

On finance, James reported that CFU has £22.5k across its three bank accounts.

On the lottery, Brian had reported that it had 146 members.

In his SLO report DMJ covered the following:

- He had looked after a group from Brazil at the Northampton game;
- An 85 year old man had gone missing at the same game, the Common was searched by the police. Fortunately he arrived home safely by taxi, evidently having missed the supporters' coach;
- Work at the ground has gone well despite a key member of the ground staff being off sick since before Christmas.

DMJ's FED report included the following (other information is treated in confidence and not minuted):

- There will be a Fans Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> February, to focus on footballing matters;

- The audit is still on-going. It will cover much of what CFU had asked for. We need to discuss with the club the release of information – Robert to go back to Shaun to make sure this happens;
- The Elite Player Performance Programme (EPPP) (aka “Triple P”) academy funding levels make it a struggle for clubs at our level. Colin commented that money is killing the game.

Nigel P reported on the work to research a Fans’ Parliament. The working group met the previous week. Godric is happy with the draft constitution and will take it to the next board meeting. The draft constitution will be shown to the prospective candidates at a meeting in February, with elections to follow to select the 11 fans that will form the parliament. The election process is not yet decided (online or a matchday ballot). We need to ensure that only CUFC fans vote. Nigel P listed a few of the salient points from the proposed constitution:

- No constituencies;
- Once elected the parliament will appoint a chair and vice-chair
- First past the post voting system;
- Each parliament will last two years;
- At least four meetings a year with the club;
- A fans parliament AGM will be held once a year, open to all fans;
- An annual report will be produced;
- An EGM can be called if supported by 250 fans;
- Funding still needs to be sorted – but this should be minimal.

John asked where CFU fitted into this. We don’t, CFU and the fans parliament will be separate. Terry confirmed, however, that several potential parliament candidates are CFU members. At the CFU AGM we will have the chance to re-invent ourselves. DMJ thought that because we will be two separate entities this must be made clear at our AGM and we must spell this out in a structured way.

The TB discussed the upcoming CFU AGM. Frank read out a list of the TB members needing re-election: Brian will not be standing, but James, Martin, Pat, Nigel B and Terry will. James will prepare the CFU accounts as soon as the date of the AGM is known. The date will be a Tuesday, venue the Supporters’ Club. The CUFC shareholders meeting has to be held by the end of March. If the CFU AGM comes first we can agree what questions we should ask on behalf of members. If the CFU AGM follows the shareholders meeting we can

discuss the outcome. CFU needs to give 2 weeks notice of its AGM and another 2 weeks for TB and FED nominations. With this in mind we need to speak to the SC to see availability during the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March. DMJ to action. Do we need a Q&A with the Head Coach given the AGM will follow the Fans Forum?

Under AoB:

- DMJ will contact iFollow to see whether United home games can be screened live in Simon Dobbin's house;
- Joy asked how we can make decisions between TB meeting, that need urgent action. We agreed that a clear proposal can be sent to Robert, initially. If it's thought to be urgent, TB members would be asked to confirm their support or otherwise by email vote. Votes to be sent to Secretary.
- Should CFU subsidise CFU members on Away coach? We agreed in principle, yes. Which game? Macclesfield. Offer £5 off for CFU members. Robert will talk to Lorraine about logistics of the plan.
- There is a Big Match on 12<sup>th</sup> May in Ely to raise money for Simon Dobbin. Is there anyone else we should support?
- Nigel P asked re £2 tickets at Notts County, should we press club to do the same? DMJ will speak to Henry.
- Nigel B highlighted problems with allocated seating at recent away matches. Fans need to be able to choose seats if stewards will enforce allocation. Margaret will alter pre-match letter to find out the away club policy. DMJ will talk to Gareth / Henry to remove any problems this end.
- Martin suggested that dates of future Trust Board meetings should be fixed in advance. Agreed – after AGM.