

Minutes of the 17th CFU AGM held on 20th March 2017 in the CFUC Premier Travel Lounge, Newmarket Road, Cambridge

The 'top' table consisted of the following:

Part 1

Robert Osbourn (Chairman, CFU)

Jez George

Shaun Derry

Dave Doggett

Part 2

Dave Matthew Jones (Fans Elected Director)

Robert Osbourn (Chairman, CFU)

Martin Page (CFU Treasurer)

Frank Pearson (CFU Secretary)

There were approximately 40 CFU members in the audience.

CFU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Part 1

1. Robert Osbourn opened the 17th CFU AGM at 7.30pm by welcoming members to the meeting.

2. Q & A with Shaun Derry, Jez George and Dave Doggett, compered by Steve Jackson

Q1. The team has been inundated with hamstring problems. Why?

SD You've isolated one particular injury. We need to look deeper to get to the bottom of it. I have a certain style of training which has brought success. I will check if it needs adapting, but we are not the only club with this problem.

JG Sometimes it's a secondary injury on returning from a long lay-off. We cannot rotate as much as those higher up the leagues. We also have heavier pitches at this level.

Q2. Recruitment at this level: tell me about it.

JG Ben Strang has come back. Managers don't see enough matches to decide alone. We lost Greg Abbott. It's human nature to focus on what we've got wrong but we have made some good signings this year. SD decides at the very end. You can only examine a player's past.

RO Have loan changes altered things?

SD Yes. 28 day loans were wanted but we had to sign players for 4/5 months. Character is very important, more so than technical ability which can be coached. I always meet every player.

DD I often sit with younger player's parents to assure them that their son would cope with a move to Cambridge and be supported and welcomed.

SD We have to recruit parents and each case needs to be treated differently.

JG It's hard to sign at Level 4: we don't get first pick. Any improvement loan players make ultimately benefits their parent club.

Q3. What was the thinking in January in not signing a striker?

SD I had 3 fit strikers: Ben, Uche and Joe. Also Barry seemed to be coming to fitness and similarly Adam McGurk.

DD Who's available? People are not going to give you their best strikers.

JG We didn't not look. We would have had to pay over the odds. Loans would have demanded that we guaranteed playing time. Gerry came because he was young and so no such demand was made. If Barry and Uche were fit we wouldn't be having this question.

- Q4. Anyone coming back in the next 9 matches?
SD We are looking to get Uche back. Before then Adam should be back. We're monitoring Barry.
- Q5. Do you tinker with the team at home after a good away performance?
SD We look at the away team's strengths and weaknesses. Certain players could not play on Tuesday after Saturday's 3-0 win at Carlisle. I do not agree that I tinker.
JG (Recognising the disappointment of losing at home to Hartlepool after winning 3-0 away to Carlisle) confirmed that the season has been frustrating. We went through a great spell but when we lost a centre forward and a right back we could not keep the spell going.
DD This was a disappointment but please take it in your stride! It's the nature of football.
- Q6. What is the logic of the players' house in Landbeach?
JG It's a good deal. Loan players can live there and younger players.
SD I'd rather have players there than in the middle of town.
JG We get them to work in the community. They also need rest and it's a hard skill to be able to do nothing. Some do degrees and some get their handicap at golf down. Rejoice that they're not at the bookies.
- Q7. Having met Leon Davies's Dad, I ask how do you take such a young player into the first team environment?
SD Instil values from a very early age. Definitive guidelines exist. We get them ready for life.
JG Young players integrate well as they train at the same venue as the first team. We have 14 year olds training with the first team. Leon Davies has been here since he was 8 years old.
SD Highlights of my season have included the likes of Matty Foy, Harry Darling as well as Leon doing well.
DD With such coming through let's see some positivity.
- Q8. Are you disappointed with home support? What about away following?
DD Away support is great from hours before a game and throughout. Home support must not boo people off and especially our young great prospects.
JG The world has become an impatient place. Mid-table and financially stable is a marked improvement over where we were five years ago.

PART 2

CFU AGM

1. WELCOME- ROBERT OSBOURN

Robert asked Dave Matthew Jones , Frank Pearson and Martin Page to join him on the top table.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Bilbao	Derek Agar
Nick Pomery	Patricia Williams
Matt Ramsay	

3. REVIEW OF THE YEAR – DAVE MATTHEW JONES

Dave Matthew Jones thanked Colin Proctor for the assistance given during Dave's first year as FED in which he has also taken over from Dave Doggett as Supporters' Liaison Officer . Tonight he could have been at a meeting in London where EFL are keen to listen to supporters. There are Family Awards to be won: web sites, catering, retail, parking, how we treat everyone, signage etc are all taken into account. Last year CUFC didn't meet the standards. Dave wants, at the end of his time as FED, for us to be good enough to win. Notts County have three people doing this work so Dave is looking for helpers.

What has happened this year?

- Support for Simon Dobbin, Shaun Whiter and Joey Abbs.
- Fans and Customer Charters
- The CFU van on matchdays.
- Managing the CUFC lottery
- Matchday Programme distribution
- Volunteers

It is important that younger members play their part. Look at Orient. Look at Charlton. Trusts still have a vital role to play.

In order to enhance the matchday experience Dave has been:

- developing the Fanzone on the CFU website
- responding to EFL monitoring
- scrutinising matchday catering and programmes – they are both getting better
- introducing Team Sheets round the ground
- supporting those with disabilities eg Autism
- meeting with Fans for Diversity

There's more to do. More action on equality issues will produce a more diverse fan base and a better feeling around the ground.

Dave has regular meetings with Robert and Jez. He attends all Board Meetings.

A question regarding toilets in the NRE :

DD: Lack of space. Replace the Tea Bar? Extend the existing toilets?

RO: It's a balancing act. Planning permission for the new stadium is key.

Facilities are under strain because gates have doubled.

4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT (TERRY WILBY)

Membership currently stands at 392 and is kept on a different system. Whereas the new system allows many ways of paying automatically and on-line, you can still pay at the caravan.

350 members is our average over 10 years. Crises help put membership up as did the Leeds United match this year. DMJ thought 10% of the average home gate was the norm. Discussion took place as to whether the membership was aging. We are unsure as to the membership but Dave Doggett assured the meeting that the average age of the crowd was dramatically lower than 4 years ago. Tim confirmed that this was his experience when selling programmes.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (Martin Page)

- Copies of the CFU annual financial statement at 31st August 2016 were available for members .
- The Independent Examining Accountants had agreed the accounts are true and fair'.
- Notes to the financial statement: Margaret Pearson's name appears twice. The second occurrence should read "Carol Looker".
- Martin asked for approval of the accounts, this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands.
- Martin asked that Clifford Towers be re-appointed as Independent Examining Accountant, this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands.
- Martin put the following Full Audit Exemption resolution to the meeting: 'It is hereby resolved that subject to the provision of section 4A of the 1968 Friendly and Industrial Accounts covering the current financial year ending on 31st August 2016 when they are presented to the next AGM. The members of the Society agree that the Accounts for 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'.
- The resolution was passed unanimously by a show of hands.
- James Taylor has assumed the position of Treasurer

6. ELECTION OF CFU TRUST BOARD

Nigel Browne, Martin Chapman, Dave Doggett, Carol Looker, Pat Morgan, Robert Osbourn, Colin Proctor, James Taylor, Brian Thorby, Terry Wilby continue in membership.

Joy Childs and Martin Page resigned during the year.

John Bilboa, Tim Christopher, Dave Matthew Jones and Margaret Pearson stood down by rotation and were re-elected.

Also elected was Dom Baldock.

7. 100 YEARS OF COCONUTS REPORT

Pat Morgan said a lot has happened in a busy year.

Lottery Funding runs out in June 2017. We will have achieved all we set out to do.

- Story of the U's set up in Supporters' Club ,Feb 2016. Feedback entirely positive
- Former Players Association now has 130 members, a website and newsletters
- Hall of Fame, Summer 2016. <http://www.cuhalloffame.org.uk>
- Community events: including Abbey Seniors Fair, Big Lunch, Abbey Meadows Primary School

Outside the Lottery project:

- Publication section Lovely Bunch; Andrew Bennett's book Celery and Coconuts. Over 200 copies sold. Volume 2 scheduled for October.
- Continuing research at Cambridge Collection, University Library, Interviews
- <http://www.100yearsofcoconuts.co.uk/>
- Coconuts TV and Radio, Andrew's Match reports

We also answer questions, welcome former players and families to Home games and contribute to the programme. We are looking for funding for 2 projects:

1. To examine residents' lives in World War I in this area, linking with CUFC before and after
2. Working with people with dementia and social isolation using objects from museum as triggers.

Finally Pat ended with an appeal for younger helpers on matchdays or community events.

8. NEXT 12 MONTHS

- Continue to improve Matchday experience
- Work to achieve equality
- hope for planning consent for developments, but we have to be patient
- enjoy success on the field
- work together for all-round success

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.