

CFU AGM Chairman's Report

Before describing our year, I would like to pause for a moment to remember members who have died since last year. Their loss is our loss too. Without fans like these and us there would be no game, whatever the TV companies think. Let us remember:

Robert Osbourn - May 2023

Jonathan Perraton - May 2023

Vernon (Perry) Childs – 2023

Dorothy Gilbert

Brian Mansfield - February 2024

And, Verity Grainger, daughter of Margaret and Frank Pearson, just this month.

This will be my last AGM as Chairman. I believe that it has been an eventful year. It began with us making a very significant donation to the NRE Fanzone, a facility which has benefitted many of our most vocal fans.

The walk in memory of Robert Osbourn from the Training ground to the Abbey raised money for the British Heart Foundation and raised awareness. We hope to make this an annual event. Robert would have been pleased. I know that his family were.

We collected £1,200 in a bucket collection for MNGIE during the home game against Orient. We need to continue raising funds and awareness in the hope of making a cure available to those who suffer from this tragic disease. The recent death of Verity has shocked and saddened us all and made us more determined than ever to raise awareness and help fundraising initiatives to try to find a cure.

CFU helped to find collectors for the poppy appeal held at the ground.

CFU raised money for the Cambridge United Foundation by using Ben Payne's design and Terry Wilby's marketing skills to make a profit on some very desirable merchandise.

CFU's range has widened and some of it has been very popular. We were even able to respond to a request from one of our American owners.

We paid for flags requested by the Cambridge Aces to improve the atmosphere at a very significant home game. It obviously worked because later we produced some commemorative mugs.

We presented a signed shirt to Colin Proctor for all his years of devoted service to the club and to CFU.

We released a statement congratulating Dave Matthew Jones on his appointment as President for life. We released other statements, about the badge for instance.

We conducted surveys about the badge and about the Fanzone.

We have had some excellent press and radio coverage.

We have participated in the Shadow Board.

We have created and run a new Facebook group and a new website, aiding communication with members and with all fans' groups.

Our focus has been on supporting the community and working to improve diversity and equality. Football fans are coming from many new sources now. All should be safe, catered for and welcome.

The thing I hear about most is Away Travel, a service which enables many fans to attend away games who would otherwise not be able to attend. I don't normally single anyone out but it would be remiss of me not to mention Gina. What a difference she makes!

I am grateful to my fellow committee members who have made my job much easier. In fact it has been made a pleasure. Thank you.