Minutes of Cambridge Fans United Second AGM

Held on 18th February 2002 at the Cambridge Joint Ex Services Club

Our second AGM was held, in accordance with our legal constitution, within 6 months of our our first year-end, 31st August 2001.
The majority of existing CFU Committee members were present, together with a good turnout of fan members, 39 in all and well in excess of the 20 needed for a quorum.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Nick Pomery welcomed all present to the meeting and proposed that when the formal business had been concluded, we should hold an open session a) to give members opportunity to put their questions to the Committee, who are of course elected to represent them and b) for the Committee to seek members' views on their ideas and concerns.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Martin Jordan, Alan Clarke, Barry Eley, Jane Dyer, Dave Baker, Jackie Matthews-Jones, Les Weston, Carole Scullion, Terence Sweeney and, last but not least, Anne Campbell, MP for Cambridge.
Carole Scullion, Anne Campbell and Terence Sweeney had all written nice letters wishing CFU further success.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting(15.02.01)

Acceptance of the minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Brian Attmore and seconded by Dave Matthews-Jones.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were none, all actions had been completed.

5. Chairman's Report

Nick reported that there are a number of well-subscribed-to Supporters Trusts at clubs who are suffering severe difficulties but, leaving aside the top clubs in the Premiership, we are the largest of the Supporters Trusts.

We've done really well in our first 18 months of existence and we now have a significant shareholding in the Club. Our 53,500 shares puts CFU 7th in the list of largest shareholders. In addition to the £25,000 benefit which the Club received for our share purchase, they received an additional £25,000 from Cambridge City Council, who matched our efforts. CFU is well on the way to meeting its £75,000 fundraising target.

We have arranged some excellent events including the Kit-Off Calendar and associated player-signings (Dec00), two January Burns Night Dinners, a fun 'They Think Its All Over' quiz (March), Steve Greenall's long-distance Pathfinders Walk (June), a Golf Day (Aug), the Club Open Day (Aug), and a Youth Football Tournament (Sep), involving more that 400 youngsters.

Our caravan at the ground is a well-established feature and is well-visited by fans to see the team news, which we get first, to make contributions to the 'Every Penny Counts' campaign and to buy videos, which the CFU makes available to fans for all home games.

We help the Club in a number of other ways such as helping with envelope-stuffing for season-ticket mailings, moving allotment sheds to assist the redevelopment, helping with the 'Keep the Habbin Amber' campaign and handing out forms for the Membership Scheme.

We have done a lot of good things but must build on them, with members' help – see later.

CU has a new manager, a new Chairman and CFU has a good organisation through whom we can build new structures to help the Club and help build the relationship with the community.

6. Secretary's Report

Contacts are maintained with Cambridge City Council to try and get their help wherever and whenever possible. As well as the start-up grant, we were successful in getting a mid-term grant of £150 to help with the costs of the Youth tournament and we have applied for further contributions as part of their annual Leisure Grants scheme.

It is hoped that share-purchase matching, which the Club negotiated, might be forthcoming again, if not in this financial year, then the next.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Jamie Dyer was pleased to report that the membership of 186 at the time of the last AGM, had grown to 329, good progress indeed. He has compiled a 'lapsed membership' list for the Committee to follow up, giving gentle nudges to those whom we believe would wish to renew but haven't got round to it.

8. Treasurer's Report

Derek Wick had arranged for the CFU accounts, to end August 2001, which he had prepared, to be independently audited by Monty Lynds, who has done similar work for other Supporters Trusts.

Everything is in good order, thanks to Derek's meticulous work, and he provided copies to all present and gave an explanation of the major points.

Income from members' pledges and sponsors' contributions totalled £26,000 and net income from events was over £7,000, notably coming from the calendar sales, Burns Night, the Sponsored Walk and Every Penny Counts campaign.

Sundry income was £8,000, with £1,200 each from video sales and 'One Wonky Antler' sales, plus £1,000 of donations. The most remarkable result was compensation from the Post Office for the errors with our post-code, leading to mail arriving via curious routes, if it arrived at all! After great persistence from Nick, the PO sent us a cheque for £4,400 pounds!

Derek explained that CFU has matching sponsorship for all our efforts, up to £50,000, and, with the matching money now due, he estimates our current net assets are around £53,000.

The Accounts were signed off by officers present and will be forwarded to the Registry of Friendly Societies, in accordance with their procedures.

9. Election of New Committee Members

Committee members are entitled to stand for 3 years and a survey showed that all wished to continue with the exception of Will Jones, understandable in view of all the other ways in which Will helps the Club. Our thanks go to Will for all the help he has given to CFU, particularly in the early days. Will's departure created one vacancy but the Secretary had reported, having re-read the constitutional rules of CFU, that his position does not sit on the board of CFU. We have, therefore, an additional vacancy for general committee. In the event, we had two nominations – for Graham Whiting, nominated by Barry Eley, seconded by Mark Symonds, and Martin Jordan, proposed by Jamie Dyer and seconded by Nick Pomery. Both Graham and Martin were elected unanimously, they have been welcomed to the group and we are sure that they will do a good job for CFU and the fans.

10. Raffle

There was a break in the proceedings while raffle tickets were sold, proceeds to the Club to help meet the costs of halving the coach fare to Bristol. We did not wish to use CFU funds for something that members had no knowledge of and Heather Wilkanowski suggested we raise money via a raffle. It was very successful and raised £75 for the Club. It would be announced on the coaches, where CFU brochures would be distributed.

11. Open Forum

Nick opened the discussion by saying that activities/events tend to be done by Committee members themselves, which clearly limits the number of things we can do and he put the question "how can we enlist the help of our large membership base to take on activities so that CFU can achieve yet more?"
We expect to be asked to do more things by the Club, which is fine, but we need to mobilise resources. Jamie announced that from completed application

forms, 180 members have said they want to help, so we need to get back to them.

Jamie has subsequently taken this up and has proposed the setting up of sub-committees who would work with members, independent of the main committee but feeding back to them at their regular meetings. This will be progressed at the next CFU meeting on 6th March.
Regarding forthcoming events, Nick reported that we have applied for a stall at Strawberry Fair, late in June. From the floor were a number of suggestions, as follows:-

- Arrange something to link in with the Queen's Jubilee
- When the South Stand steelwork goes up, put banners up
- Organise a game with a high-profile club
- Tranmere is likely to be a 'family day', could CFU members take a friend along, maybe CFU could help market the event
- Could we do an AGM write-up for the CEN?
- CFU needs a higher profile with membership providing some benefit eg £1 off admission, half-price programme
- It was strongly felt that we could achieve a lot more if we were more active inside the ground. There was astonishment when we explained that were not allowed. This needs to be sorted urgently
- We must use the press to better effect, make CFU's plight better known
- It is understood that if there is too much bad publicity about the Club's financial position, it could have a very harmful effect on the transfer price offered for our players. It was agreed we should wait 5 weeks for the transfer deadline to pass, then launch a concerted campaign
- The South Stand should <u>not</u> just be for away fans and no-one should refer to the Away End or the Away Stand. It would be a bad waste of capacity when we can accommodate away fans in the Habbin for all but a few games.
- A regular, brief newsletter for members would be welcomed (following the meeting, Richard Lumley volunteered to take this on, great news)
- We could do a CFU lapel badge and a CFU car sticker
- Why haven't we got someone on the CU Board? Wouldn't that make us more influential? There is a high threshold for CFU to gain a directorship, 15% of shareswhich equals 160,000 shares, to get an automatic right. It is good that the Club did vote this into their constitution at the recent AGM, to give CFU this right, but it will take time to reach the qualification level

Nick's view is that the club are now keen to change, which is the important thing, but with limited resources, they are unsure how best to change and that's where we can help.

Both Nick and Steve are to meet the Board early in March and will feed back all of these excellent ideas and comments to help build a future strategy

12. Other Business

Heather reported that she had met Q103 to discuss their proposed charity game at the Abbey Stadium between TV stars from Brookside and Holyoakes. It is expected to attract 4,000 youngsters, so could be good for recruitment. The problem is that the only date it can be is on 24th March, the date of the LDV Final!

13. Next Meeting

The next CFU Committee meeting will be on the evening of 6th March, at a venue to be arranged